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ISSUE 023 - APR / 2016

COLORFUL

SCOTT SCALE 750



Frame : Scale Alloy 6011 SL / Custom Butted Superlight Tubing / Tapered HT BB92 / Bridgeless Seatstays / Internal Cable Routing / Replaceable Hanger

Fork : FOX 32 Float Performance Air / FIT4 3-Modes / 15mm QR axle Tapered Steerer Lockout / reb. Adj. / 100mm Travel

Group Set : Shimano XT RD-M781 SGS / Shadow Type / 20 Speed Shimano Deore FD-M618-L / 34.9

Frame Weight: 11.70kg

MRP : ₹ 1,27,600/-*

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EDITORIAL



Mesum Verma – Editor in Chief

ride on
keep it real!!

Mesum
Verma

Colorful

How would a magazine exist if there were no pictures? It would be pretty boring, there would be only text. And it would be sad not to follow some guys, and see where they ride their bikes. One fine top guy who follows the Pros is Christoph Laue. A very talented photographer from Germany. He will take us with him, to show us his collection of the best pictures, and let us know what photography is for him.

The Polygon Collosus N9 is not shy in front of the camera! But the bike is not only good in front of the camera, read about how it performs in the test.

Only a year after the horrible Earthquake in Nepal, they held the XC Nationals, and gave everything to be on the podium! Who it will be??

A colorful biking life is what our young gun from Imphal India has. Riding in the Scott Future Stars team! It's getting warmer and warmer, spring makes nature colorful, enjoy reading and riding!

ISSUE 23

CHRISTOPH LAUE

Interview



CONTENT

POLYGON COLLOSUS N9

Review of the Enduro MTB from Indonesia



YOUNG GUN

Scott Future Star,
Nameirakpam Chingkheinganba



RACE REPORT

14th Trek Nepal National MTB
Championship XCO - 2016



A self portrait of me testing strobes with muddy water in my backyard. It was a pretty cold evening, but my friends and I had an awesome time. The strobe is so fast that we could "freeze" the water in special moments. The tricky thing in this shooting was to keep your eyes open when the water comes splashing in your face.

PHOTOGRAPHER

CHRISTOPH LAUE

Christoph Laue is a professional freelance photographer from Stuttgart, Germany. It was his passion for action sports that made him want to go out and catch the moments that define sports. His pictures capture the speed and skillfulness of the athletes within the beauty of the different landscapes. This combination creates the unique atmosphere in his pictures – the illustration of the one moment that explains it all. His photos have been published in magazines all around the world and he has been working with various national and international clients.



Mesum Verma



Christoph Laue

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PAGE



Hi Christoph, we met once short at the White Style in Austria, some years ago. Let us please know more about you? How did photography get started in your life?

Well, mountainbiking has always been my big passion. During my training to become a graphic designer, I could afford a decent camera because of some money I inherited from my grandmother. So I started to make pictures of the sport we all love so much. My friends and their bikes were my first models and our local forest was my first spot.

This shot of Ramon Hunziker, Bartek Krzysztof aka Jaws and Patrick Rasche aka Bengel was done in Chatel, France. The riders rode for a film competition and I took photos during the shootings and got this nice group shot out of it.



Tell us a „normal“ day when you go out shooting, how you approach riders, how you search for locations?

When I have a big shooting, many things have to be organized beforehand. Location scouting is a big part of the preparation. Of course I've seen many good spots during my journeys so scouting actually never stops. Local guides, athletes and google help me to find more locations and lead me to unique spots. On a shooting day it's important to have the right equipment with you. Especially when I shoot in special locations which cannot be reached by car, it's important to have exactly what you need with you.

My buddy Nico Scholze with his signature Cordova Flip. He was the first guy who managed to land that FMX trick on dirt. The spot "Windowcreek" in Germany is one of the rare spots you can ride no matter how messy the weather is.

This shot was created by playing around at Nine Knights contest 2015. The water splash comes from a stone and the splash leads to Peter Henke up in the air.



How difficult do you think it is to get the perfect sports picture? And what does a perfect picture mean for you?

Timing plays a big role in creating the perfect picture. When you can find a harmony between a unique location, the light and exactly the right moment of an action you can get pretty close to a perfect picture. For me, the perfect picture depicts the feeling of the sport and the atmosphere of a special moment.

You must travel light, so if you could take only one camera and one lens, what you would pick for this trip?

This really is a hypothetical question, as I never travel light :) I'm used to carry around a heavy backpack and try to see it as some kind of workout. But if I really had to decide, I would probably take my Nikon D5 and the 70-200mm lens with me.

Patrick Rasche is known for the steep lines he rides in Germany and all over the world. He loves to go out and build new lines and features. He also loves to ride the old school freeride style.





This image was taken in southern Australia for the German TV series Wild Ones - Junge Helden in 2014. We managed to strap a tripod on a tree and trigger the camera from the bottom. The tree was so rotten that there wasn't any chance to climb on it.

Taking pictures at an event is not easy to do, lots of people, not much space to move, other photographers. But there is the White Style, an event which is held in the night, and in the winter, so on snow. Not an easy target, but you still come up with some creative ideas. How did the idea come, at White Style, to light up some fireworks or send some balloons in the air while shooting?

White Style is a special event, so the organizers and I wanted to create new picture ideas to promote the event and the location. In 2013 we started with a long-time exposure and

blacklight shot and in 2014 we did the fireworks shooting. In 2015, **White Style** celebrated its 10th birthday, so Nico Scholze and I had the idea to give the shooting a special birthday look: lots of colourful balloons a 10-year old birthday kid could only dream of. To be honest, we all ended up feeling like 10-year old kids at the shooting, preparing the balloons and enjoying the day.



If you could choose a location to do a shoot, where would it be? And who would you take with you? A freerider, a downhiller, a dirt jumper? Which style you would like to shoot there?

Peter Henke and I found a stunning location in China. Ever since we had the idea, I can't get the spot out of my head. As this is a freeride location, we will have to make it a freeride picture of course. I really hope we will have the chance to take this picture one day.

Pierre Eduardo Ferry on a sick way down at Red Bull Rampage 2015. The triple drop was one of the gnarliest lines at Rampage.

We organized this balloon shooting because White Style celebrated its 10th birthday in 2016. It was fun to fill up the big balloons (up to 1,5 meters) and to create this colorful setting. Max Mey enjoyed the birthday party feeling and shows us a nice superman seatgrab.





Torquato Testa on his new Rose Slopestyle bike. The 6th place at Crankworx Rotorua was his best result at a Diamond Series Event. He's starting off his run with a flip one-foot can can down the stepdown.

Photographer seems to be a dream job, but what would you tell us, what is the downside of being a photographer? Why should somebody keep pushing, to do the job? What is the sunny side?

Well, the downside of the job is definitely being at the world's most spectacular bike spots and not being able to just take a ride there yourself. Of course I often have my bike with me but it's pretty hard to enjoy the ride when you have a 15-20kilogram backback with photo equipment on your back. On the other hand it's the best job in the world for me as I can do what I love. You see so many different countries and sceneries and you meet so many great people in this job.



Brendan Fairclough, Nico Vink and Vincent Tupin aka Vinny T in Chatel for the Scott catalog shooting. Nico had just finished the new shark fin at the old Mountain Style Course in Chatel. This picture won Pinkbike's Photo of the Year contest in 2014.



You ride a bike yourself, do you feel sometimes, the trail, the landscape is so nice, I want to ride myself, rather than taking pictures instead? How you handle this feeling with yourself?

As a photographer, I have to keep my priority in mind, no matter how tempting the spot is: Making the shot first. Sometimes I can give myself a treat after a shooting and ride a little bit, but these moments are really rare. Actually it's the scouting days when I get to ride most.

Vincent Tupin riding down the King Kong trail in Virgin, Utah. The sky was really cloudy so we had to wait for the sun to go down behind the clouds to get this light atmosphere. In the end, we were lucky to get this special sky situation for about three minutes.



At White Style 2013, we did a long term exposure shooting with blacklight. The riders were painted in special colors that reflect blacklight. Xavier Pasamonte aka Shervy from Barcelona manages to perform this nice superman in the snow although he's used to much warmer conditions

In the magazine, in the poster, in the internet, we just see the picture, but we all know there is always a story behind. Can you tell us a funny, or an intense story about a picture/shoot you had?

As you say, every picture has its story. It can be extreme heat or cold, wild animals or just physical exhaustion and of course the amount of luck you have to have when it comes to the weather. I really like shootings when something unexpected happens. I remember one shooting around my hometown. We wanted to make a watersplash picture when suddenly a little frog

jumped in front of my lens and wanted to be the model. So it jumped and posed several times and made the rider become the background action for his show. All in all we can say rider and frog were a good team and we had a nice picture after the shooting.

Thank you Christoph Laue for the Interview and the nice pictures! We wish you all the best in future and more "sick" pics!!



Mesum Verma



Tobias Off / Mesum Verma

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AGE

POLYGON

COLLOSUS N9





The company from Indonesia, Polygon, is getting more and more notice in the biking world. They have a good line up of Pro-Riders such as Mike „Sick“ Hannah and his sister Tracey Hannah, Andrew Neethling shredding in the DH worldcups and, not to forget, Kurt Sorge, who just won in 2015 the RedBull Rampage. Jamie Nicoll is doing his best in the enduro world series, with the Collosus N9. It was exactly this bike we got under our belt. The Collosus N9 (XTR, the drivetrain is from Shimano, though there is another option, with a drivetrain from SRAM, XX1) is coming fully in Carbon. With 160mm in the front, the FOX 36 TALAS FACTORY with KASHIMA COAT and in the back the floating rear suspension, the FOX X FLOAT FACTORY with KASHIMA COAT, the N9 is ready for some serious all-mountain trails. The Collosus N9, with the unique shape of the frame, stands out compared to other bikes.

THE BIKE

ON THE TRAIL



I went to the Purple Mountain here in Nanjing, which has some good uphill trails as well as decent downhill trails! Despite the head angle of 66.3 degree, which tends towards to a gravity bike, i was very impressed with how good the bike climbs! Before climbing, i lowered the front fork to 130mm and switched to trail mode, which means the fork will not work too much on every stone that comes under the wheel. This i did while riding, same for the rear shock, but fiddling

around while riding is not so easy to do. On technical uphill with roots in the way, the N9 was going over like a goat, enough traction to not feel like you're getting kicked out of the saddle. We also never felt the pedal back-kick while pedaling, even going over rough trails. Once you arrive on the top, with the seat dropper you are ready fast for the downhill part, but again, you need to setup the fork and shock for the fun part which is ahead of you - quickly done with the fork, not so quick for the shock. With the short chain stay, the bike is very flexible, and you can steer it well to different technical passages, the 27,5 wheels of course helping you to absorb the small rough terrain. For an all-mountain bike, only available in 160mm, the bike feels very comfortable down the hill. If you have some really rough terrain the bike gets to its limits, i rode some technical rock garden, and it was feeling i had a hard-tail bike, it was pretty rough. You could sure change the setup of the suspensions to have a smoother run down, but it would mean that on the uphill you would suffer through those setups.





For an all-mountain bike, the bike is simply good to go, whatever you want to do. It is going sure better down the hill than any normal all-mountain bike. With some other specification it would make sure a pure race enduro bike, which can also take big rough downhill trails. But then on the other hand, we find, it's a pure fun all-mountain bike, and it belongs there 100%. For that reason, we would wish that the shock was mounted with the remote control, to set the trail modes per click on the handlebar, it would be perfect, rather than fiddling around, or getting off the bike, to set the bike for uphill or downhill. Not a downgrade, but we found also the grips are very thin in diameter, and we would prefer bigger grips on the bike, to get a better hold when it's getting rough. In total, it's a very good all-mountain bike, which will give you lots of fun, despite having little travel on the bike.

OVERALL



Frame: ACX ADVANCE CARBON ENDURO, NEW FLOATING SUSPENSION SYSTEM, 6.3" TRAVEL, 12X142MM

Front Fork: FOX 36 TALAS FACTORY WITH KASHIMA COAT, TRAVEL 160MM, TAPERED STEERER

Rear Suspension: FOX X FLOAT FACTORY WITH KASHIMA COAT, 7.875"X2.25" (200X57MM), M8X22.2MM

Shift Lever: SHIMANO XTR SL-M9000

Derailleur Rear: SHIMANO XTR RD-M9000GS

Brakes Front & Rear: SHIMANO XTR BR-M9020

Brake Levers: SHIMANO XTR BL-M9020

Crankset: SHIMANO XTR FC-M9020 32T, 170MM(S-M), 175MM(L-XL)

Bottom Bracket: SHIMANO PRESS-FIT BB

Chain: SHIMANO CN-HG900

Cassette: SHIMANO DEORE XT CS-M8000, 11-42T

Wheelset: E13 TRS RACE

Tires: SCHWALBE HANS DAMPF, 27.5"X2.35"(F) & 27.5"X2.25"(R)

Saddle: FIZIK GOBI M7, MANGANESE RAIL

Seatpost: ROCKSHOX REVERB STEALTH, 30.9MM, 380MM

Stem: KORE CUBIX, ALLOY, 50MM

Handlebar: KORE MEGA, ALLOY, 760MM

Headset: FSA NO.57E, TAPERED 44/56MM

Weight (with pedals): 13,4KG



ENDURO

COLLOSUS N9

SPECIFICATION

- Full ACX carbon with optimized floating suspension system technology
- Fox 36 Talas fork & Fox X Float CTD factory rear shock w/Kashima Coat
- Shimano XTR 11sp group, 27.5" e13 TRS Race wheelset with Schwalbe Hans DAMPF tyres
- Available also in SRAM XX1 11 speed for N9 XX1



GRAVITY

COLLOSUS DH9

SPECIFICATION

- ALX Hydroformed Downhill Frame with carbon rear triangle with the latest Floating suspension system technology
- Fox 40 Float Factory w/ Kashima Coat 203mm front fork & Fox DHX2 Factory rear shock
- Full Shimano Saint 1X10sp group, e13 LG1R 27.5" wheelset with Schwalbe Magic Mary tyres
- Available also in Shimano Zee groupset, Rockshox shock on DH8

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How long have you been biking?

I have been riding as a kid for fun since I was 6 years old but I started riding professionally December 2014. Currently I am riding under the wing of SCOTT Sports India as a SCOTT Athlete.

What made you interested in the sport? Was it for adventure or to seek a new hobby?

Well cycling has been my line of interest since I was a kid. My father even had the BMXers from Thailand agreed to train me. Fate took me to different direction and I left home at age of 11 years to professional training for mountain climbing. After summiting The Mount Everest at the age of 16, when I came back home I wanted to keep myself fit by doing different kind of sport activity including gym but none of





them was interesting me enough. One fine day I saw one of my friend riding a bike to beautiful places in my State. After consulting him I bought a bike from a local shop and started riding with a group of riders who had previous Professional racing experience. From there I developed interest towards competitive riding.

Are you currently pursuing any education? How are you managing both side by side?

I currently Pursuing B.A of (H) Geography from Imphal College Manipur. I have taken special permission form my institute. I make sure I keep proper balance between both my training schedule and studies.

What form of mountain biking are you interested in? For example downhill, Enduro, etc.

I am currently training & competing in Cross Country. My first competition was Kohima Downhill where I came 1st in junior category. I also enjoy Enduro. And am an active follower of major cycling events held internationally and in India.

Have you competed in any events?

The Last race I participated at was The Impossible Race, which is a 3day stage race held in at the polo forest. I stood 4th in

the Mountain bike Category. Apart from which the other races that I have competed in, in the past few years are Kohima Downhill, National MTB, Kerala MTB national, Kerala MTB International, ATH Gurgaon, Uttharakhand MTB, MVS Coimbatore Criterium '16 – Enduro and Road, The impossible race.

How do you train for cross country?

Usually I do more of endurance training, eat right, core strength training, and follow a rigorous schedule of road and MTB training.

What motivates you to train harder?

Besides the love and support that I receive from my family, friends & SCOTT Sports India, to dream of seeing myself representing my country in world of MTB Cross country keeps me pushing ahead and challenge myself every day every hour every minute.

Do you have any future plans for mountain biking?

I would like to see myself representing Scott team and compete with world's finest MTB riders.

Who is your idol?





World Champion Nino Schurter.

Where do you see yourself in the next two to three years.

My current focus gaining maximum experience and shaping my talent by competing in Mountain Bike Races held in India & Abroad as a SCOTT Athlete.

What kind of bike do you ride? Have you made any modifications?

Currently I am riding SCOTT Spark 730, the only modification that I have made is making it tubeless.

As a mountain biker from the regions of North East India, what do you think will be the future of mountain biking in North East India? For example will it be one of the places to hold most big events or will it be a place where it will be known for mountain biking.

I see the potential in the young riders especially from my state; I can say confidently that with right amount of discipline and correct training, there is no stopping to these young fellows. I hope to inspire them and bring them to the top of their game where they are in top position. I would like to thank SCOTT Sports India who believed in person from northeast and gave me the

opportunity.

In the future, where do you think your dream trail will be? One which you imagined you would love to ride. For example Whistler B.C, Europe, Etc.

As of now any European or Spanish trail is my dream. Maybe if I had seen them personally, I might be able to be more precise. LOL

What is the most important part of biking to you? The passion? The feeling? Or the health benefits or any other things.

There are so many that it's hard to point out one reason. As per me cycling is an amazing sport and Apart from keeping me fit it also makes me push my limits to perform better each day. My interest for cycling has grown and the interest has grown into a passion and is one of the most important aspects of my life. The only thing I care about in my life.

Apart from mountain biking do you pursue any other sport?

I enjoy Mountain Climbing and Hiking. It is an important part of my life and I make sure I am a part of it during my free time.

RIDE ON!!





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14TH TREK NEPAL NATIONAL MTB CHAMPIONSHIPS (XC) 2016

The national's for 2015 was only a week away when the devastating earthquake of 25th April 2015 claimed about 10,000 lives while millions lost their lives. Finally, after almost a year, it was time again to see who would make it to the podium.

The 2016 nationals morning was bright and sunny, the buzz in Chobar, the 5 kilometer circuit for the national's with so many mountain bikers, mountain biker lovers and the general public was certainly what you can call festive. Without much delay, the official's flag off the category for the opens, junior and women was on its way, all within a few minutes time difference. The leaders set the pace right from the beginning as they headed up the small climb and down into the valley amidst the cheering of the crowd.

The officials are busy pulling out the slow riders who are slower than 80 percent of the first rider's timings,





leaving the final laps to only the early first few. In the junior's category, Prachi Thapa Magar was leading the pack with Suraj Rana Magar trailing not far behind. In a turn of events, it was quite something to eventually see Suraj Rana Magar from Kathmandu Bike Station Trek team to pick up speed in the final laps to finish first (1:18:45), only ten seconds ahead of Prachi (1:18:55).

In the women's professional category, Laxmi Magar riding her brand new Scott, Nepal's reigning champion set her pace from the first lap with the spectators in awe. Over the laps, it was quite a sight to see Laxmi move forward at a steady

pace with such vigor and determination over the riders from the open and junior category and certainly leaving the second rider Pushpa Kumari Bhandari, from the Nepal Army team far behind. Without doubt, Laxmi Magar finished a strong and much deserved first (1:34:04), a complete 5 minutes 26 seconds ahead of Pushpa (1:40:38).

The Elite Men was certainly the highlight of the event, as is always the case. The Elite Men had thirty-five contestants taking to the starting line. Ajay Pandit, Narayan Gopal, Roan Tamang, Aayaman and Rajendra, the race favorites to the podium, are all lined up at the



starting line wishing each other luck like true sportsmen. The race was soon underway and Ajay, as always, lead the pack. Roan Tamang, a young upcoming mountain biker was soon in the lead with Ajay Pandit on his tail. Aayaman was a few minutes behind with Narayan Gopal on his tail.

The first four were so fast that the other the officials were forced to pull out the other thirty one participants one by one as they failed to make up for the 80 percent timeline. By the sixth lap, only the top four men were on the trail with Ajay Pandit strong as ever, in the lead. Almost everyone at the track agreed that it was quite something to watch Ajay

Pandit in race mode.

Cruzing at an average speed of 16.9 km per hour with a total elevation gain of 869m, Ajay Pandit Chettri finished first defending his championship title for the fifth year in 1 hour 36 minutes, a full 5 minutes before Roan (Buddhi Bahadur) Tamang (1:41:59) and 6 minutes before Narayan Gopal (1:42:52). All in all, a good day of racing.



Gaurav Man Sherchan



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