

mtbman

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ISSUE 026-JUL/2016

REBUILDING

SPARK

700 PREMIUM BIKE



Frame : Spark Carbon / IMP technology / HMX / Bb92
Carbon swingarm with 160PM / U-Mono Link / Tapered Headtube
IDS SL DM dropouts for 142x12mm / BB height adj.

Fork : FOX 32 Float Factory Air / Kashima / FIT4 3-Modes with low speed adj.
15mm QR axle / Tapered Steerer / Lockout / reb. Adj.

Group Set : Shimano XTR RD-M9000 SGS / DM / Shadow Plus Type / 22 Speed
Shimano XTR FD-M9025-E / DM

Frame Weight: 10.35kg
MRP : ₹ 7,69,900/-*

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DAMPING**

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EDITORIAL



Mesum Verma – Editor in Chief

ride on
keep it real!!

Mesum
Verma

Rebuilding

The Hattiban Trail in Nepal, has been used now for many years, for training, for just fun riding, but also for downhill races. Rajesh Magar went early this year to Thailand for the Asian Downhill Championship, placed 19th, and realised, the trails back home are not really technical. Max, our mtbmagasia team rider, who is only 7 years old, can ride it too. The 3 boys, Rajesh, Nishant and Suman moved some dirt! Rebuilding the Hattiban trail is a must so that they can get better on the bike.

Better also should be the trail in Enping China. The trail is technical, but for a race, it should be a lot faster. Read about top riders who raced there, and what they would rebuild.

Wearing gloves while biking is better than rebuilding the skin after a crash on the hands. Yes, some riders just don't like wearing gloves, because they feel they are not in touch with the bike. We review about the Scott Endurance SF gloves.

Just happening now, the world master championship in the disciplines XCE, XCR and XCO, which will be the only biking event at the Olympics this summer! We show you some pictures from the best riders in the world!

ISSUE 26

REBUILDING

Hattiban Trail in Nepal



CONTENT

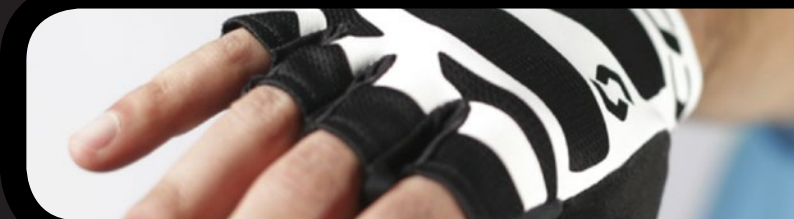
RIDERS VOICE

What top riders have to say about the Enping trail and race.



REVIEW

Scott Endurance SF gloves



XCO

Why cross country biking matters.





Nishant Shan, Arnab "Max" Sherchan

Rajesh Magar, Suman Tamang



Gaurav Man Sherchan



REBUILDING THE HATTIBAN TRAIL

Rajesh Magar, Nishant Shah and Suman Tamang have come a long way in pursuing their dream for what started off simply as a love for riding a mountain bike.



Their journey started long before they got on a real mountain bike. The desire to be on the saddle was so immense they got together and headed to the scrap yard and bought an old frame for Nepali five hundred (USD5). With almost no money in hand, they managed to find scooter shocks in the scrap yard, and welded them onto the old frame. This is where their journey of living their dream as mountain bikers began.

Today, four years later, they have certainly come a long way. Rajesh Magar is the Nepal's national downhill champion (2016) and rides a Yeti SB6C, team rider with Himalayan Rides and associated with some of the best names in the industry – Yeti Cycles, Fox, Met Helmets, Fiveten, Sockguyluv, Raceface. Nishant rides a Banshee Rune and works as a part-time mountain bike guide and trainer for young aspiring mountain

bikers. Suman made it to the podium finishing third at the nationals and finishing 1st at Himalayan Outdoor festival 2016 in Manali, India. Suman at present is saving to get a bike of his own.

These three boys are mountain bikers from the heart and believe in pushing the limits, their limits. With some financial assistance, very basic tools and very little helping hands,

they have set a challenge to now rebuild the Hattiban downhill track. When asked why, all three say, 'We have been racing the same trail for the last few years at the nationals and honestly, there is no challenge now. If we hope to improve, we need more gnarly trails, something that we cannot do today that will drive us to practice more, something that the juniors cannot do but dream to do it someday. That is the future,



that is why we are working hard to build this new trail.'

Rajesh did not only secure 19th position in the Asian Downhill Championships in Thailand but came back home with a better understanding of what standards are in the international arena. He says, 'The trails there were of a much higher standard and it took me 2-3 days just to get going. I know I can

nail that trail but just didn't have the practice. So this is where I will start, at home.'

Nishant, who keeps himself busy training young aspiring mountain bikers says, 'Even young boys aged 7 like Max who has been training with me since the last 6 months is already doing the old trail that we use for our downhill racing. We surely cannot accept that as a standard.'

Work is going on full speed with the little manpower they have, 3 people with occasional helpers. Nirakar Yakthumba with some other mountain bikers have provided them some financial support which has helped them a lot. Last Saturday, a lot of mountain bikers gathered to test the two new sections that have been partially completed and Nirakar was also there to see how far the boys had gone. While examining the





development, he remembered the time when he first built the present trail, 'people thought I was crazy and some even said if my intention was merely to break people's bones by putting them up on such a dangerous trail.' Three young 7 to 11 aged mountain bikers whiz past as he says this and he continues, 'Today, it is so nice to see boys so young are riding these trails and we are now building something more challenging'.

These three boys are indeed working very hard in the monsoon season. Food is only available at the bottom of the hill so they need to eat before they head up to work and the rain, carry drinking water for the day. Testing the newly built ramps as the younger riders are left in awe, they feel a sense of pride in what they have built. What they have built today, they know will not be enough tomorrow and have promised themselves they will keep on building, and rebuilding, for the future has no limits.





RIDE ON !!

GREENLAND DOWNHILL RACE CHINA 2016



RIDERS VOICE

Read about what the Riders have to say about the downhill race in Enping, which happened end of May.



Lee Chang Yong

Xue Wei Hao



Mesum Verma

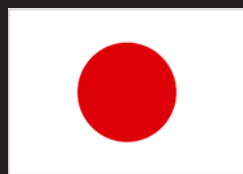


Mesum Verma





HARJINE
IMOTO



The trail is good, and I can tell that they definitely worked hard for this trail, but honestly it's not perfect. They really want to improve the trail, so they need to build it 100% better than this one next time.

MTB is really new to China, but they are doing a big race. It's not a huge market yet, but you know it's China, so they have a big budget. It's going to be a big





market in 10 years, I guess.

I haven't been to China before. It is close to Japan but a bit of a big deal to go to China for me. Of course, people in China are more different to what I'm used to than anyone else I've met. But I spent an epic time in China. Food, people, track, city are all crazy, but I love it.

I'm coming back as soon as possible!!



DOUG SHARPE



Emping was so crazy, just hectic. We got everything: sun, rain, torrential thunder storms. It was so gnarly, every time you dropped into the course you were never sure how the dirt was going to react under your tires or if the line you were scoping earlier in the day was even still there. Overall I liked the course, it totally suited my riding style so I felt pretty comfortable after my first few runs down the track.





I had an amazing time, it was great meeting new riders from all over the world that were just stoked to be out riding their bikes no matter what. The moment that sticks out most in my mind was the "Chinese Downhill" we did. It was crazy to be riding in a train where national champions outnumber everyone else, it was special. The other thing that stands out for me was the organization, the resort we were staying at was all time, the food was great and the shuttles were sweet! I was also really impressed with the local riders, everyone showed up with their A game and sent it hard, it was good to see all the boys out pushing themselves.



ANDREW NEETHLING



You never been to China. Did you ever thought come for racing to China? What was your first thought, you heard about this adventure?

Nope I did not think I would ever race in China. Exactly that, I knew it would be an adventure and an experience I would not forget.

Finally you arrived in Enping, the Greenland Resort, probably not much to see about China, then just the Hotel. First day was Track Walk (or in Chinese, Walk Track). You will find a lot of wooden features, what you where thinking then, and how was it, when you first rode it then in the afternoon?

I could see a ton of work went into building the track. Some off the bridges did look a little sketchy but after riding it they seemed to work OK. The track had some fun sections for sure. I liked the open section with the fast jumps.

We here in China, only starting to do big races like this one, what tips would you give us, to make the trail more interesting for the racers?





The trail needs some more flow and less tight awkward bits to compare to the tracks we race on around the world. Needs to be faster and bit more technical. The bridges could have longer safer landings. There is a lot of potential in that area.

How you found the scene in China? The Chinese riders? There where riders from Taiwan, Japan and Korea in Enping, which had also pretty good timings. What is the need, to be successfully in the world cup for those riders?

The scene is way bigger than I thought! I was super impressed with the riders and their level. The riders have to get as much international experience as possible. There clearly is talent and they are super good on the local tracks where they are comfortable. They need to race and ride different tracks all over the world.

Tell us about the experience you had here at the Greenland downhill Race? You want to come back to China, and do more racing here? Last words for the riders here in Asia.

All in all it was great. We got treated so well by the organisers so really want to thank them ! The fan and crowds were insane. Always up for new experiences so could well be back in the future. Last words for the riders in Asia, thanks for a great time and hope to see you following your dreams around the world.



CHIANG "DAN" SHENG SHANG



Compared to the trail scene in the rest of Asia, this one is really good. I did like the middle section of the trail, there were many line choices in the forest, and the protective measures were perfect! Like a race in the World Cup!!

The race had both Downhill, as well as 2 Cross. It's so fun for sure. But unfortunately I was eliminated in the first round. I felt so sad!





I could not forget the practice day on the Downhill course. It was so slippery on the whole trail, but actually I enjoyed it!

Thanks to all the organizers, I'm so happy to race in Enping.

We hope to have more events like this!



IMRAN KHOKAR



The trail was scary. Very fast and flowy with some technical parts. I was nervous at first because I've never ridden anything like this before - so many wooden ramps and berms. But the more I rode it, the more I liked it.

One of our riders, Doug Sharpe, had to translate Chinese to me about what type of food was on the table every time we went for lunch or dinner.





China has a huge mountain biking scene. The downhill mountain biking community is big in China. They have a lot of pro riders. The level of riding skill is quite high compared to India .

It was such an amazing experience for me to travel to China and race with top riders from around the world. People in China were so humble and welcoming. The food was great. It was a great learning experience for me.



TRACEY HANNAH



You were last year already in China at the bike show in Nanjing. What were you thinking, when we asked you to come back to China for a Race. What was your first thought?

I was really excited to come back to China, I really enjoyed the time I spent at the bike show and I was excited to bring my bike this time.

Finally you arrived in Enping, the Greenland Resort, probably not much to see about China, other than just the Hotel. First day was Track Walk (or in Chinese, Walk Track). You found a lot of wooden features, what were you thinking then, and how was it, when you first rode it then in the afternoon? We didn't see much of the cities in China this trip, but Greenland Resort was really beautiful. The track walk was interesting, it is very different to other tracks and there was a vast arrangement of wooden features. To ride the track was good and I found it really fun.

We here in China are only starting to do big races like this one. What tips would you give us to make the trail more interesting for the racers?

I think that the race ran really well. There needs to be a better shuttle system and maybe better organisation on race day. The track was really good and I think as the track builders gain more experience, the tracks will get better and better. Some of the wooden features were a bit dangerous to ride at full speed. This is a problem as you want to race as fast as you can.





How you found the scene in China? The Chinese riders? There were riders from Taiwan, Japan and Korea in Enping, which had also pretty good timings. What is needed to be successful in the world cup for those riders?

There was a big variety of riders at this race. My advice for riders wanting to race is to ride their bikes as much as they can, the more bike time the better, once you get your skills up to the level then you should think about fitness.

3 female riders were there attending the race. Tell the girls here in Asia, why they should pick up downhill mountain bike riding?

I believe downhill is such a great outdoor activity, it's a fun way to exercise and meet new people. Mostly I love going fast, so if you like going fast you should definitely ride.

Tell us about the experience you had here at the Greenland downhill Race? You want to come back to China, and do more racing here? Last words for the riders here in Asia.

I had an amazing time and we met so many people, everyone was super nice to us and I would love to come back and race in China again.

Ride hard and never give up on your dream.



SCOTT ENDURANCE SF GLOVE

The SCOTT Endurance SF glove is built for the all day epic rides. The soft padding of the glove helps reduce shock and vibration for a smoother ride. Unique SCOTT Bonded Technology (SBT) framework on back of hand gives rider a seamless fit and the span mesh chassis provides excellent ventilation. Palmside features

SCOTT Foam Technology (SFT) at the highest level for maximum performance.



Scott Sports



Mesum Verma

mtbmag

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PAGE



SBT creates a second framework to the back of hand without the traditional method of cut and sew. The reduction of seams allows for smoother feel on the rider's hand as well as improved glove durability.



BONDED TECHNOLOGY





With a thin foam padding on strategic contact points, the Light palm construction emphasizes comfort and offers extra protection for your hands, without giving up anything on performance or tactile feedback.



LIGHT PADDING



SPECS

Construction

Top Hand: 75% Polyamide, 20% Polyurethane, 5% Polyester

Palm: 65% Polyamide, 35% Polyurethane

Features

TPX taped frame construction

Span mesh chassis for a better ventilation

Soft padding

Silicone print palm frame to prevent padding migration

Two fingers pull-off system for easy removal

Padding
Light





Bartek Wolinski /
Red Bull



Mesum Verma

mtbmag

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AGE

WHY CROSS-COUNTRY CYCLING MATTERS

XCO is the only mountain biking discipline practiced at the Games – and one of the three events present at the UCI MTB World Championships started last Wednesday in Czech Republic.



Jolanda Neff





Bartek Wolinski //
Red Bull



Nino Schurter

Titles will be awarded in three events in Nove Mesto: cross-country Eliminator (XCE), team relay (XCR) and cross-country Olympic (XCO).



Annika Langvad

Bartek Wolinski /
Red Bull



The most common discipline of mountain biking, XCO consists of a lap racing around a short circuit. It appeared at the Games for the first time in 1996 and will be the only form of mountain biking represented this summer.

We are looking forward who will be at the top in the end? Such as the current UCI World Cup leader Annika Langvad (Denmark), two-time UCI World Champion Catharine Pendrel (Canada) and newly crowned UCI World Mar. Champion Jolanda Neff (Switzerland), as well as men contenders like the defending UCI World Champion Nino Schurter (Switzerland), five-time UCI World Champion Julien Absalon (France), and Czech superstar Jaroslav Kulhavy.



Bartek Wolinski //
Red Bull

Nino Schurter
Julien Absalon



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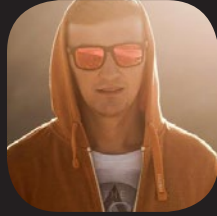
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