

mtbmag



# mtbmag

asia.com

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## HIMALAYAN SUMMER





# RIDE IN GOOD COMPANY

## Duster P MTN

285mm x 140mm

C/F: 190g

Ti-Alloy: 240g

Cro-Mo: 255g



**D2 EDGE FLEX**  
Dual injected, nylon-glass  
base with rubberized  
edges for optimal pedaling  
efficiency

**COVER MATERIALS**  
Soft microfiber top with  
embossed graphics and  
durable Kevlar sides



**NOSE PLATFORM**  
Wider surface area  
for increase control  
and power transfers  
on inclines

**PERI-CANAL**  
Continuous relief  
channel from tip to  
tail with light-weight  
EVA foam

**FLAT-FORWARD DESIGN**  
Allows ease of movement  
and enhanced pressure  
distribution in multiple  
riding positions



## EDITORIAL



Mesum Verma – Editor in Chief

ride on  
keep it real!!  
mesum  
verma

## HIMALAYAN SUMMER

after the big monsoon, in September, the Himalayas are ready for their „summer“. During our summer, it's raining too much, and so it doesn't happen much there then. In Manali, there were just two races, the Himalayan Mountain Bike Festival, and the Junior Downhill Championship. Both happened between just two weekends. Our team riders went there, and will tell you about it.

Yakru, the world's highest Enduro race was also held in Nepal, in the Manang district of the Annapurna Ranges. We take you there, so you can enjoy the landscape without losing a drop of sweat. There will be a lot of races now during the „winter“ in India and Nepal, and we will keep you informed.

Not quite Himalayan or Indian Summer was the RedBull Foxhunt in Machynlleth, where the girls attacked the muddy trail. The boys in Rostrevor, Northern Ireland, had a bit better conditions, but with 500 riders it was also very slippery. Gill and Marshy, two riders in the Foxhunt, give you an impression of how it feels to get hunted.

Chinese Summer is hot, specially in middle China, but at the Qinghai plateau, which is over 2000 meter above sea level, the weather is perfect for riding a bike. Bella Chen was there in August for a race, the TDRY International Downhill Race. She tells you how she did at her first time riding in China.

## ISSUE 42

### MANALI

Himalayan Bike Festival 2017  
Junior Downhill Championship



### CHINA RACE

Bella Chen racing in Qinghai /  
China



### YAKRU - NEPAL

World's highest Enduro Race



### REDBULL FOXHUNT

Gill and Marshy riding RB  
Foxhunt



## CONTENT





**ICS** THINK SMART. **RIDE FREE.**

***XACT***  
**CROSS OVER FULL FACE**



**get out and play**

#ixsplayground



# मन्त्रि

## rides

Gitesh Gupta

Ruturaj Bhopatkar



Manali which is located in Himachal Pradesh, is one of the most beautiful places in India and it's also famous for Mountain Biking. My trip to Manali was one of the most amazing experience I ever had. I went to Manali for the 4th Edition of the Himalayan Mountain Bike Festival 2017 and for the Juniors Downhill Championship. Both were Downhill races on two of the most sketchiest tracks I ever rode in my life.







The track for the HMF was located in the hills of Solang Valley. The best part about this track is that there's a cable car shuttle which we are very fascinated by, as nowhere in India other than Solang is there cable car shuttle to the top of the trail.





The HMF track is a great track, it features lots of rock gardens and steep chutes, it is a great track to get used to arm pump as after riding 70% or the track the arm pump that you get is very intense. My practice was going good, the bike felt good, so I started to push.





During practice one day before the race on the last rock section I got two bad dents on the rear rim and I didn't have enough time to fix it before the race, so the next day I took the decision of riding another bike which was completely different, brand wise and suspension wise, so during the race day I only had two runs, one seeding and one final run, so I had to setup the bike in the seeding run. I did a setup which felt comfortable and rode with that setup during the race run but unfortunately I pushed a little and I crashed in the race run, ended up coming 12th.





The Juniors Championship was 6 days after the HMF and I had to get my rim fixed before the race. My rim got fixed and then we had 4 days of practice before the race. The track was intense, I love to ride rocky sections and this track was all about rock sections, so the 4 days of practice were good and I was feeling good on the track.





So on race day I had 2 runs, one seeding and one final run, and during the seeding run I was in the tree section and unfortunately my front tyre popped and the front wheel got locked up and I smacked my head against the tree, so I busted my front tyre and after that the tyre just kept coming off as the beading got damaged.



So again in this race I suffered bike problems, and I had to wait at the finish line until another rider came and I could borrow his wheel and tyre. By the time everyone was done with their run I had to go up to do mine.





I am very grateful to the organisers who showed patience, so I rushed up within 15 mins to the top of the trail and hoof I was tired so I waited some time and then I was ready to drop in for my final run, so I started and my run was good until my handlebar got stuck in the tree section and I crashed, well that was it I must have lost precious 30 seconds in that.





Both the races taught me a lot and I surely had lots of fun on both of them, and I look forward to such cool races and performing good in them.







## RESULTS

### Expert Category (DH)

- 1st Harith Noah Veettil
- 2nd Piyush Chavan
- 3rd Gautam Taode

### Novice Category

- 1st Rinku Thakur
- 2nd Abhishek Thakur
- 3rd Aryan Patil

## RESULTS

### Trails n Dust MTB Challenge (XCO)

- 1st Rohit Thakur
- 2nd Shiven
- 3rd Rahul Thakur





Himalayan Wild Riders is the group of passionate mountain bike downhill riders & initiators. Who specially dedicated to Downhill Mountain biking sport & focused on specially juniors & beginners who want to become downhill mountain biker. We work for them, specially their growth in Downhill Mountain Biking. Junior Downhill championship was our first initiative, which was held on 19th - 20th Oct 2017 at Kaniyal Village, Manali, Himachal Pradesh, India







We organized the Memorial Ride of Ajay Padval, who was one of the good Riders of India (from Pune, Maharashtra). He died in Khardungla while riding on 12th July 2017.

He will be forever in our heart, we never forget you Ajay....  
We never forget you...





Rinku Thakur to got the first position. We are happy to telling you all that Rinku Thakur is the rising mountain biker from Manali, who's taking podiums again & again, recently he takes second position in Brunie, then first position in Himalayan Mountain Bike Festival & now Junior Downhill Champ, we hope his future will be very great.





Tusshar Sonam got the first position in the Sub Junior category. He was the youngest rider. He is only 12yrs old child from Manali. We amazed to saw his performance in the race, which was the first race of his life. He beat the many elder riders. We wish his future be bright. Keep riding & always focused on your aim Tusshar Sonam.





Junior Downhill Championship was amazing experiences. We saw the new faces in this championship from Manali, Himachal Pradesh. All riders got new experience of this fresh race Downhill Track, which is situated at Kaniyal village, Manali. Junior Downhill Championship making change in manali & increase the growth level of Downhill mtb Community. We got not only fresh Downhill Biker, we their family support, local support and all.

## RESULTS

### Winners (Junior Category)

- 1st Rinku Thakur
- 2nd Rishabh Gowda
- 3rd Gary Beelan

### Winners (Sub-Junior Category)

- 1st Tusshar Sonam
- 2nd Aneesh Singh
- 3rd Fatz Kaludi



# FIFTY-FIFTY



## Guidering 104 PCD

AL-7075 T651, Black Blue Red Green

Range: 30T 32T 34T 36T

Compatibility: 9/10/11 speed

Size/PCD: 104PCD

Weight: 36g(30T) 36g(32T) 48g(34T) 60g(36T)



## Chainguide DHR Series

AL-6061 T6, Black Blue Red Purple Green Orange

Plastic Parts: High molecular nylon, black or white

Range: 32-36T or 38-40T

Mounting Standards: ISCG03/OLD or ISCG05

Weight: 150g (ISCG05 32-36T)



When I woke up on Wednesday, May 31st 2017 and checked my cellphone, I was surprised by this WhatsApp message from Mesum Verma, founder and team manager of mtbmagasia: „Dear Bella, Can you take some days off in August? I could invite you to a DH race in a national park right in the middle of China.“ Wow- what a message! My racing experience so far was anything but glorious. Out of the 3 races that I had taken part in, I only managed to finish one of them with a crash. The other two left me or my bike damaged and I didn't even cross the finish lines. Hence I was resigned to the fact that I was just not made for racing. But being able to take part in a race located in the beautiful surroundings of a national park and in the country of my distant ancestry, is a once in a lifetime opportunity. It didn't take much time until I typed my decision : „Mesum ...LET'S DO THIS!“



# 中国比赛







The TDRY International DH Race is hosted by the Guide National Geopark located in the Qinghai-Tibet-Plateau in the mid-west of China. Although this event was held for the first time in 2016 with the attendance of high-profile international riders, I couldn't find much information about it. And having no idea of the Asian MTB scene, I had to wait and see what would await me there.

A few weeks later and after a 24-hours trip of three flights, I was standing next to my mtbmagasia team mates in a touristy park area which was run by the provincial government. Around us nothing but a most beautiful variety of all shapes of mountains. Next to a Museum, you could also find facilities like a restaurant, little shops and a hotel, which was a suitable accommodation for the invited riders. This is where I met the other international riders who came all the way from France, the Czech Republik, Canada, India, Iraq, Japan,



New Zealand and Australia. The chemistry between the riders was great, right from the start.

After checking into our rooms, we took the park-owned tourist-caddies to explore the terrain as the race track was in the back of it. With every step deeper into the park, we were presented with breathtaking scenery, with no mountain resembling the other. With a little lake being the centerpiece of the park, you could find anything from compact loam mountains, sandy dust hills, to crumbling limestone and rocky fold mountains.

Although we couldn't take our eyes off of the landscape, we were much more interested in checking out the 2X and DH race tracks that were located at the far end of the round tour. We were not permitted to access the tracks yet but they looked superfun from what we had seen at first glance.

However, I was a little







irritated as I couldn't make out a wider route or road leading up onto the start of the track, so I asked Mesum where the shuttles would drive along. All I got in return was a big grin and the reply: „No shuttling- pushing!“ In the middle of the desert at 2300 m above sea level, thin air and exposed to a merciless sun my jaws dropped to the floor. I should mention that I only ride park with lift-assisted bike transportation. Fortunately, the track was not too long and you could see the start gate from the bottom. Besides, the organisers have arranged volunteers who would help to bring the bikes on top of the hill on race day.

The next day all national riders had arrived at the scene and we could finally get on the track for some practice. Although the shapers had shoveled a hiking route, it was not easy to push the bikes up in the partially rough and steep terrain. The first run was superfun! The shapers had made the best out of the mountain and created



a flowy and varied DH track in the desert-like and rugged landscape, which was worth every meter of climb.

While the track didn't demand too much technical skill, it should not be underestimated, as it offered plenty of quick changes of directions and blind spots. The difficulty was to memorize the track and carry enough speed through the flatter sections to clear the jumps at the bottom part. At the end of practise day I didn't remember most of the track but had a great day of riding! I also enjoyed getting to know many Chinese riders, as you hardly learn anything of the Asian MTB scene in the Western media. I was not only surprised by the impressive skills and speed of the top riders but also by the kindness, open-mindedness and craziness of all riders. We ended the day with an event that had been announced as a riders' meeting, but ended in a singing party. This was where eastern and western







mentality clashed in a funny way: while the national riders were fighting to get on stage and perform, the international riders kept shrinking on their seats while hoping to not be seen and summoned on stage. The party didn't take too long, so we could get some rest as the DH qualies and 2X race were scheduled right after the opening ceremony the next day.

When we went to have breakfast, the park was filled with crowds of tourists and locals, who didn't want to miss out this event. After all, officials of the government, press, and media representatives had been invited to attend this long-awaited event. During the day, I got to see many of the locals who fascinated me by their diversity of cultures, ethnicities and religions. They all live together in this region despite their origin and belief. Next to Han Chinese, you could also find Mongols, Tibetans and Nomads, who were among others of Muslim, Buddhist, Christian



or atheistic religion.

For this spectacle, they had dressed up and many of the locals came in their best traditional wardrobe.

The tight schedule didn't allow much time for training, so I only got to ride the track once before my qualification run. Although I still hadn't memorized the track, I felt confident on the bike so I went to the start gate with a good feeling. When it was finally my turn to enter the track as the last woman on the hill, I could keep my nervousness under control and had a safe run. It was not free of mistakes though- close to the end I missed my line and lost all my speed right before an uphill section. I had to give my all to regain enough pace so I could clear the last jump before the finish line. This didn't work out but luckily it was enough to cross the line as fastest qualifier with a tiny margin of 0,3 seconds. Superstoked with this unbelievable result, I wasn't too sad that I screwed up







my 2X qualification run later that day. The 2X race was held on a course with jumps of notable size. After a timed run, the riders had to compete in knock-out runs. Other than the DH race which had a womens group, I had to compete in the strong international field as only female, with hardly any chance of a good ranking. The more I was amazed when I could keep up closely with my competitor Aiden Varley from Australia in the final knock outs.

The next day it was finally time for DH race day! The womens group was scheduled first, so I went to the venue right after breakfast. To my big relief volunteers were waiting to push up the bike. I had no opportunity for a warm up or training run , but this didn't worry me too much as I knew that I had the speed and skills to make it to the podium if I didn't make big mistakes. Since I had finally memorized the track, I went confidently into the start gate as last rider



in the field. With a pounding pulse I was waiting for the start signal and when it sounded I rolled into the first sandy corner on the edge of an abyss. The track was so dried out that there were dust and sandpits on parts of the track which made it superhard to judge the grip of the soil. The steep and technical top section went great and I had a lot of power left to pedal and pump through the flat middle section with lots of quick turns. Coming closer to the bottom, my thighs were burning and my energy was fading - but my concentration wasn't. I managed to handle all key points well - especially, the one I had screwed up during my quali run went superwell and I had just the right speed to clear the final jump and approach the finish. With a racing pulse and out of breath I sprinted across the line where there was no display to check my time, so I had no idea about my result. But Mesum and some other riders headed towards me with a smile on their faces to congratulate







me on my victory.

My first thought at this moment was: YESSSSSS! My second thought was: How should I open the champagne bottle on the podium with everyone watching me? This concern only vanished, when I was handed a pre-opened bottle later on the stage and I completed the most stressful task of the trip.

We ended the event with a loud and fun riders party, which allowed us to chat about the past days and exchange contacts. The next day we departed early in the morning before the sunrise, and as spontaneous as this journey had begun it also came to an end.

Even many weeks later I love to look back at what a great adventure China has been. I had an unforgettable time in one of the most unique places on earth and became friends with so many wonderful people from all over the world, who found each other by the sport of mountainbiking.



# “APPLE”

S-PARTS TITANIUM  
**COLOR** DESIGNS

“苹果绿”系列钛合金套件



/ S-PARTS TITANIUM /







# YAKRU ENDURO

The Yak Ru Enduro took place in the Manang district of the Annapurna Ranges, Nepal. The 3-day, multi-stage enduro format competition allowed participants the chance to mingle and socialise at intervals on untimed up hills and flat sections of the route, before racing against the clock on the descents.

The event features seven race stages on Himalayan alpine & forest trails around the town of Manang and the greater Manang District of the Annapurna Conservation Area. These include a variety of steep, technically-demanding, and physically-challenging downhill trails all between 3300m and 4300m altitude, making it the highest enduro mountain bike race in the world held in 2017.





A very special alpine enduro adventure kicked off for Yak Ru riders today as they scaled their first liaison stage above Gangapurna glacial lake.

At an altitude of 3800m and starting from a high point between some old village ruins and a chorten, the "Warm-up Stage" was specially picked to allow riders a chance to savor the magnificent Himalayan scenery surrounding them. Loose, loamy conditions on the warm-up were just a precursor to the real test: Stage 1, the first timed stage. Dropping riders through tight, loose switchback turns before spitting them out along a high-speed ridge line traverse overlooking the glacial lake far below.

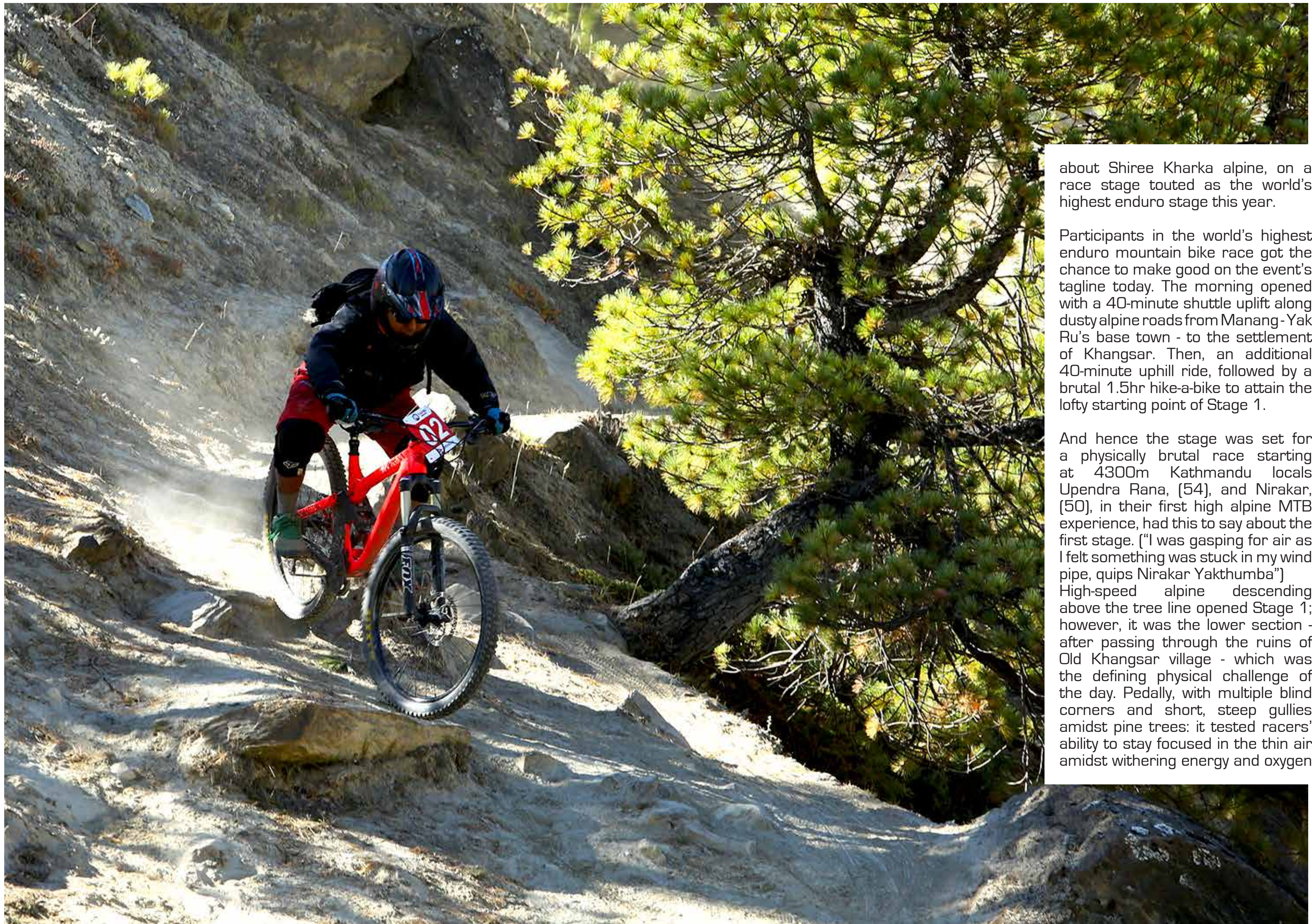
Next up, the riders got a chance to explore the alpine farmlands just above Manang for Stage 2. The Braken Gompa stage was a combination of rock gardens, flow sections, and loose-over-hardpack singletrack passing below the town's prominent stupa, a popular day-hike spot.

The second stage ended literally a couple of minutes' ride back to the event base - the Tilicho Hotel to wrap up a relatively easy day today for riders.

The following day will see riders ascend and take on the much talked-







about Shiree Kharka alpine, on a race stage touted as the world's highest enduro stage this year.

Participants in the world's highest enduro mountain bike race got the chance to make good on the event's tagline today. The morning opened with a 40-minute shuttle uplift along dusty alpine roads from Manang-Yak Ru's base town - to the settlement of Khangsar. Then, an additional 40-minute uphill ride, followed by a brutal 1.5hr hike-a-bike to attain the lofty starting point of Stage 1.

And hence the stage was set for a physically brutal race starting at 4300m Kathmandu locals Upendra Rana, (54), and Nirakar, (50), in their first high alpine MTB experience, had this to say about the first stage. ["I was gasping for air as I felt something was stuck in my wind pipe, quips Nirakar Yakthumba"] High-speed alpine descending above the tree line opened Stage 1; however, it was the lower section - after passing through the ruins of Old Khangsar village - which was the defining physical challenge of the day. Pedally, with multiple blind corners and short, steep gullies amidst pine trees: it tested racers' ability to stay focused in the thin air amidst withering energy and oxygen



levels before departing them at the finish line via a series of loose, hoot-worthy switchbacks.

The pained, exhausted look on many a racer's face at the finish line told the story of how epic this stage was. A long rest here was in order for almost everyone before proceeding with the liaison to the second and final stage of the day.

Stage 2 could not have provided a larger contrast. A short but steep route consisting of high speed singletrack carving through bizarre spire-shaped rock formations that was barely 2 minutes long for most in the hunt for a good timing. It finished in a jagged canyon overlooking the Marsyangdi River; and where finished riders could immediately cross a prayer flag-adorned suspension bridge to view the descents of their compatriots from the opposite bank. Tomorrow, the Yak Ru heads up the trail leading to the hallowed Milarepa cave to kick off the final day of racing in the Manang valley. With just three more stages to be contested, the competition for the inaugural enduro champion title of Yak Ru is still running hot!

The final day of the inaugural Yak Ru Enduro saw riders taking on the opening uphill liaison on the trail leading to Milarepa's Cave, just a







short ride away from the event's staging town of Manang. The cave, located high above the valley floor, is steeped in legend. According to local lore, Milarepa was a saint who, while meditating in the cave, convinced a hunter to put down his bow and arrow, disavows the killing of other living beings, and to pursue a life of compassion. The hunter, instead of shooting the deer he was stalking, shot his arrow towards the nearby glacial moraine, where it fell - and remains supposedly till this day. He then discarded his bow on the cliff face, which is now enshrined amidst a collection of hanging prayer flags above a monastery that overlooked the starting point of today's Stage 1.

In this mythical setting at above 3800m altitude, riders dropped into Stage 1 - featuring tricky, pine needle-crusted loam that traversed away from the glacial moraine before finishing in a clearing at a big white stupa. Stage 2 commenced with a steep ride out of the loam into a series of dusty switchbacks and technical rock chutes, before depositing riders at the bottom of the hill, where horses and yaks were among the spectators milling about in the adjacent meadow. A quick pedal brought riders to the settlement of Munji, where a quick



pit stop-lunch had been organized for everyone. Meanwhile, officials scrambled to get Stage 3 online - a long, undulating loam and shale singletrack that weaved down from the remote village of Julu. After a 40-minute shuttle to the start, riders dropped in one by one. Pedaling hard to the penultimate finish line, many riders were exhausted by this final burst of effort required of them.

With the last rider down safely, a further pedaling transfer to the day's finish at Lower Pisang remained - a chance to savor one last look at the Manang valley along the way. It was time to draw the curtains upon the racing action for the Yak Ru Enduro. Riders-turned-revelers would turn the evening into a one of celebration and reflection at the adventure they had just accomplished.

The following morning sees the Yak Ru Enduro alumni go their separate ways: some opting to hitch up their bikes in their 4WDs to descend the road out of the valley; others opting to mountain bike down that same road (by far the faster and more superior option!); and still others opting to go back up the valley to Manang - and beyond - to explore the high altitude playgrounds of Tilicho Lake and Thorong-La Pass with their bikes.







# **X FUSION**

## **MANIC**

(AM/XC/ENDURO)

### **FEATURES**

Internal cable routing only  
New shifter style remote  
Double key-way design prevents lateral twisting  
Wide range of seatpost angle adjustment  
Two bolt style head

### **SPECIFICATIONS**

Travel: 125mm  
Weight: 610g  
OD: 30.9mm / 31.6mm  
Color: Black  
Length: 421mm  
Insertion Depth: 285mm



**RIDER:** Mesum Verma **PHOTO:** Nishant Shah





Leo Francis

Mesum Verma

Rachel Atherton  
Mille Johnset

On the first weekend of October amateur riders Gill Harris, head of communications at Atherton Racing and Gee's friend Rob Marsh both tackled their second Red Bull Foxhunt. Gill was in Machynlleth with Rachel Atherton, Fox Katy Winton and 250 hardy female riders while Marshy joined Gee, Loic Bruni, Rob Warner and last year's winner Colin Ross and 450 other guys in Rostrevor, N. Ireland.

How did their experiences compare and who would come out on top?





## Gill

The female, Machynlleth based version of the 2017 Red Bull Foxhunt was seriously muddy! The atmosphere at Foxhunt is famously supportive, never more necessary than at this year's event where conditions made the riding super-tough! The clay - rich mud clogged tyres, turning them into slicks halfway down the track and built up under mudguards, stopping the wheels from turning at all! The trick, apparently is to keep moving at speed, easier said than done on this technical track!!

Katy Winton did a top job as the fox while Rachel advised and Trek Factory Racing mechanics Sam and Joe fixed, tweaked and coached hundreds of riders who dropped by for a chat and a helping hand.

Here's the thing; because I work for Trek Factory Racing everyone assumes I'm an experienced rider, well they've sure had those illusions shattered!! I've been at every Foxhunt to date and loved them, the first year I was too scared to ride, the second too full of cold, the third, at Melmerbey scar I did OK, 117th without really trying so this year there was a goal -top 100 or bust!

## Marsh

Ireland is such a great location for this race, everyone was so stoked to be there. The atmosphere was 100% upbeat, I didn't hear a bad word all weekend, Gee and Loic had such great banter with the guys , Gee's a veteran of this event of course but I'm not sure Loic knew what to expect!

Unlike the girls (back in my hometown) who experienced all the rain and wind that Wales had to throw at them, our weather couldn't have been more perfect , It had been raining before we got there but by the time we came to ride it was just moody skies which perfectly suited the intensity of the track!

The track itself was pretty greasy and











Loic Bruni  
Rob Warner  
Rob Marshcheck

Romina Amato 



it got slippier through the weekend with 450 riders piling down it.

Practice and seeding were on the second half of the track, it was the downhill section and it was superb, nice and steep with multiple lines. Every split had maybe another 3 options splitting off, loads of choices for different lines, speeds, some rocky some flat, some drops, every single rider could have ridden a different trail .

### Gill - Saturday

Practice was hilarious, queues for the B lines kept erupting into laughter, I was struggling in the mud and took a couple of knocks but nothing major, I was still buzzing, everyone agreed this was the hardest Female Foxhunt track to date but loads of us were stoked to have such a challenging track, a legit natural trail, I felt proud to be a rider, I could do this!

Some chose not to seed after the arduous morning and I might have sat it out if the team-mates hadn't kicked me up the hill, I was tired! About 170 of us headed to the top, I remember practicing race-faces my friend who was driving the uplift but after that my seeding run is a blur! I definitely came off, maybe twice? I did manage to keep moving but it wasn't the smooth run I'd had in my head, I crossed the finish line and burst in to tears! Why? I can't say. Frustration, fatigue, adrenaline, relief – probably all of the above.

A quick hug from the team-mates and a sympathetic high five from the friends who'd struggled down ahead of me and I was right as rain but it did make me appreciate the huge emotional investment that racers make. Working with three of the toughest riders on the circuit I've always known that mental strength is at least as important as physical but there's knowing and then there's really knowing. There's nothing like actual experience to drive that home. Thank goodness I'll never have to race a World Cup!

### Marsh

I'd tackle anything, my background is







motocross so my style is aggressive! The mass start really suited me and bashing elbows and claiming the space in front of me is nothing new. I'd rank myself intermediate as a rider, I'm just getting into the sport, or really back into the sport after a long gap so there were parts of the track I found easy, parts that were really challenging but I'd recommend it to anybody, the whole weekend was very relaxed, no pressure, and after the day's riding there was chance for a few drinks around town!

### Gill – Sunday: Race-day.

Rachel was running around everywhere, reassuring the nervous, joking with the confident ones, I kept hearing her say "Everybody here can do this, even in the mud, just have the confidence to have go" And I started to believe....

So in the final reckoning 190 women took to the mass start grid and I was one of them. Fox Katy (so lovely OFF the bike!) was wild, overtaking all but 20 of the riders in some impossible situations, my room-mate for the weekend 16 year old Atherton Academy's Mille smashed it into 1st and I was happy to survive in 163rd – despite some serious heckling and several crashes!

When I crossed that finish line I was stoked! Absolutely made-up to have got down the entire course – yeah I crashed out, more than once, I honestly can't remember how many times (there are plenty of pictures, I could count if I wanted) ... and the bruises... But I bloody did it. It was a hard track, it was full of other riders, it was muddier than I've ever ridden before and still I got down!

### Marsh

Sunday morning was electric – we got in two practice runs in the downhill section, everyone was howling, it was an absolute joy to be part of it, like an actual pack of hounds

The whole course started on top of the



Morgan Treacy



Loic Bruni





Olaf Pignataro

Mille Johnset



mountain with a long singletrack pedal funnelling down to a bridge where you could fit maybe 6 riders, it was like rolling the dice whether you'd get through or not

There were quite a few cool short-cuts in the open section you could go across corners but need to be sure you could actually get in front of the guys you were trying to overtake! Anywhere you could take a different line if one person crashed the rest would have to wait, or climb over, or run, it was insane!

I was glad I'd practiced some back-up lines for when my first choice was blocked! Two things I've learned from this weekend?

1) *Don't listen to anyone – they will say they are just going to have a laugh, just to get down the mountain but the second the hunting horn blows the red mist descends and they are in it for the win!*

2) *Its amazing how little space you need to fit a bike and a rider through.*

3) *there are no friends on track (check out the video of Gee pushing me over!)*

### Gill – Aftermath

A couple of days on and I'm a bit battered and bruised but gutted not to have gone faster! I let myself over-think and over-brake and I missed my goal by a mile, but in a way that misses the point. Red Bull Foxhunt is an awesome event, full of rad and supportive women, it's mega fun and I've progressed in so many ways. I'll see you next year!

### Marsh

This was my second Foxhunt, the first year I think I ranked 150th this year I moved up to 54th, a top 50 would have been nice but I was mega happy not to crash – I felt like I'd earned my place. It's just an incredible weekend, and firmly part of my life schedule – I don't know how I'd feel if I couldn't race the Red Bull Foxhunt.



Romina Amato



Kelan Grant





# MECHUKHA DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN BIKE CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

**24<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> November 2017**

EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF MOUNTAIN BIKING  
DOWN THE ALLURING TERRAIN OF MECHUKHA  
AND TAKE A SHOT AT WINNING THE 1<sup>ST</sup>  
EVER CHAMPIONSHIP OF ITS KIND IN  
NORTH EAST INDIA

Contact No - 9774655701 - 8861607540  
email address - mechukamtbpark@gmail.com

**LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**LIMITED REGISTRATION 40 PARTICIPANTS ONLY**



**Incredible India**



## PRIZE

- 1<sup>ST</sup> - 80,000/-
- 2<sup>ND</sup> - 60,000/-
- 3<sup>RD</sup> - 40,000/-
- 4<sup>TH</sup> - 25,000/-
- 5<sup>TH</sup> - 20,000/-

**REGISTRATION - 4000/- (INCLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION - ACCOMODATION & MEALS)**

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, WEST SIANG SUB-DIVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION, MECHUKHA



# HORNBILL FESTIVAL

## 2017

THCC Presents



## MOKOKCHUNG MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL 2.0

6<sup>TH</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

TOTAL PRIZE WORTH 2.0 LAKHS

Contact: +91 9402679388 / +91 9862 050755

\*for registration kindly log in to

[www.facebook/trailhoundscyclingclub.com](http://www.facebook/trailhoundscyclingclub.com)

After Event Highlights:

Dinner Party, Bon Fire, Live Music & DJ Night



### MOKOKCHUNG XTREME DH CHALLENGE 1.0

- Men Elite (Expert Class)
- Local Class
- Open Femino



### MOKOKCHUNG XC 2.0

- Men Elite (Expert Class)
- Under 17 Boys (Local Class)
- Open Femino





# GREENLAND DOWNHILL RACE



2nd & 3rd December 2017 · ENPING CHINA



# RAJASTHAN FIRST EVER

## CROSS COUNTRY MTB EVENT IN FOOTHILL OF ARAVALI MOUNTAINS

Cross Country  
MTB Event  
10 Dec 2017

[www.mtbjaipur.in](http://www.mtbjaipur.in)



Contact  
9414096282  
7737107300

Venue : Aakeda Village VKI Area, Sikar Road, Jaipur (Raj) - 302013 India



## ABOUT



**MESUM VERMA**

CEO  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



**FABIAN  
MITTERHAUSER**

RIDER  
EDITOR



**RAKESH  
OSWAL**

PHOTOGRAPHER  
EDITOR

## PEOPLE



**MICHAEL  
WALTERS**  
PHOTOS



**GITESH  
GUPTA**  
PHOTOS



**RUTURAJ  
BHOPATKAR**  
WORDS



**JAYESH  
DIXIT**  
WORDS



**BELLA  
CHEN**  
WORDS



**WILSON  
LOW**  
WORDS

## PARTNERS



## ISSUE 42

### EDITORS / PHOTOS

Michael Walters, Gitesh Gupta, Ruturaj Bhopatkar, Jayesh Dixit, Mesum Verma, Bella Chen, Wilson Low, Sunil Sharma, Leo Francis, Peter Lewis, Romina Amato, Morgan Treacy, Olaf Pignataro

### DESIGN

Mesum Verma

### ADVERTISING / INFO

Mesum Verma: [mv.mtbmagasia@gmail.com](mailto:mv.mtbmagasia@gmail.com)

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