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#worlds #lenzerheide #2018



#longling #songhang #china



#pune #downhill #cup #india



#redbull #hardline #2018



#itw #rishabgowda #india

X FUSION

RV1

FEATURES

The HLR damper is a twin-tube, cartridge based damper which features high and low speed , independently adjustable compression and rebound damping adjustment. Carbon fork guards protecting the magnesium lower legs.

Neutra Valve pressure release valves to neutralize internal pressure providing the most consistent spring rate characteristics.

Nvolve Wiper seals reducing seal drag and increasing durability

Single Bolt 20mm Pinch Axle

Optimized Dual Crowns for 26 and 27.5 inch wheels

Clip on frame guards

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 6.1lbs/2767 grams

Wheel Size: 26 inch or 27.5 inch

Travel: 200mm (ITA 180-200mm)

Stanchion: 36mm Aluminum

Spring: Coil

Damper: Twin Tube HLR Cartridge

Adjustments: High and Low Speed Compression, Rebound

Steerer: 1 1/8th Dual Crown

Axle: Bolt-On 20mm

Features: Neutra Valves, Fork Guards

Colors: Matte Black, Smoked Chrome

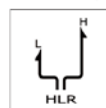
Axle to Crown: 26in. 569mm, 27.5in. 579mm @ 200mm of travel

Offset: 26in. 42mm, 27.5in. 46mm

Max Rotor Size: 203mm



TECHNOLOGY



HLR damping systems are on our performance line. They offer external rebound adjustment & external high and low speed compression adjustment.



Open path damper in a sealed outer tube for ultimate performance, low weight and low stiction.



The Adjustment Shield is an aluminum protection cap that keeps the fork's compression knobs safe from deadly impacts by natural terrain while ripping rough trails.



Pressure release valves to neutralize internal pressure providing the most consistent spring rate characteristics.



Brake house guides for simplistic and easy brake line mounting.



New ultra durable, low friction wiper seals for all forks.



Specific offsets for 26, 27.5 and 29 inch wheel platforms.





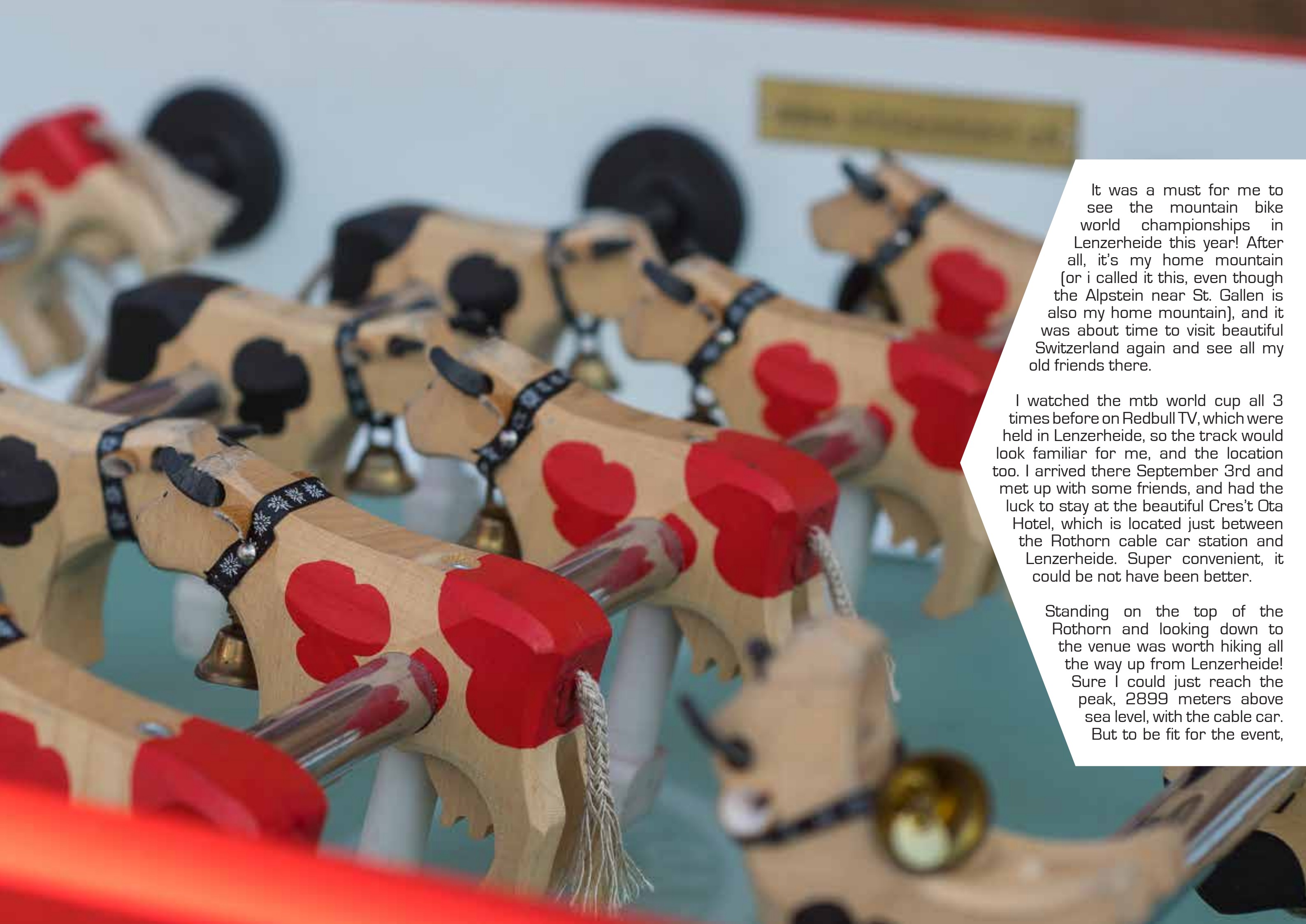
2018 MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



LENZERHEIDE
SWITZERLAND

It's been a long time since I've been back in Switzerland, as I travel mostly in China or Asia for riding my bike. In 2015, when the world cup was introduced to Lenzerheide, I knew at once i had to go there to watch it. For 27 years, I skied, snowboarded, and biked there. In 2002 Redbull organised a Freeride Race, called „Redbull Bike Attack“ similar to today's „Bike Avalanche Race“ in France. I was of course also Racing there every year, the last time in 2007. That time, there was no bike park, but sometimes you could just ride the „Bike Attack“ trail in the summer, which I also did many times.





It was a must for me to see the mountain bike world championships in Lenzerheide this year! After all, it's my home mountain (or i called it this, even though the Alpstein near St. Gallen is also my home mountain), and it was about time to visit beautiful Switzerland again and see all my old friends there.

I watched the mtb world cup all 3 times before on Redbull TV, which were held in Lenzerheide, so the track would look familiar for me, and the location too. I arrived there September 3rd and met up with some friends, and had the luck to stay at the beautiful Cres't Ota Hotel, which is located just between the Rothorn cable car station and Lenzerheide. Super convenient, it could be not have been better.

Standing on the top of the Rothorn and looking down to the venue was worth hiking all the way up from Lenzerheide! Sure I could just reach the peak, 2899 meters above sea level, with the cable car. But to be fit for the event,

running up and down with the camera gear from the middle station of the Rothorn cable car, which is 1905 meter above sea level down, to the finish line, which is 1492 meter above sea level, was good training.

Down in the finish area, everything and everybody was gearing up, it's Worlds and that means business! A once in a lifetime chance! Not like world cup racing, which of course is also important to win, but with chances to do better another time. Here the athletes have to wait for another year to try again. And there will be only one world champion per discipline, only one person can take home the rainbow stripes and wear them for a year. I was finally also geared up with the yellow photographer bib, though I had to fight a bit, as I was doing the accreditation a bit wrong, not knowing, whether i should register as media, or only as photographer. But as media, I only got a „new media“ badge, and was only allowed to take pictures with all the other spectators. I sure was not





WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

LENZERHEIDE
SWITZERLAND



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happy about that, traveling the whole way from China to Switzerland, only to stand in the crowd and take pictures from there. I wrote an e-mail to the press officer of the UCI, explaining the situation to him, and he immediately replied, saying i could come to the media center to pick up my new badge (as photographer) and the yellow bib (the red bib is for all areas, the yellow is for all areas but restricted for inside the finish line). I could not have been happier! And learned a lesson, so if next time the UCI allows me to take pictures as an accredited media in Asia, I will know. But so far, UCI Asia has never replied to me when I wanted a accreditation for UCI Asia mtb events. Thats why, i was not at all familiar with the procedure.

The weather was not too bad, the sun was mostly out, and it was not too hot, except there were some rain showers, which made the track a bit slippery, but not for long. The game was on, everybody was training to know the trail, either for the XCO or the DH trail.

But first comes first, the Team-Relay was the first race to sort out the champions. For the first time this year, there were 5 riders instead of the 4 riders they used to have for each country. The U23 were also allowed now to race in the Team-Relay. With men and women mixed and different age categories, it was sure to be an interesting race. And so it was, each lap was another country leading, first Italy with Gerhard Kerschbaumer, then second lap it was France, the third and fourth it was Australia. Jolanda Neff from Switzerland came close on lap 4, but it was then Nino Schurter which made it clear for Switzerland to win gold in the opening event. 13 seconds later Manuel Fumic secured for Germany the second spot. Another 21 seconds later after Fumic, Simon Andreassen from Denmark got in, and they took the third spot on the podium. Japan finished 19th out of 22 nations, 6 minutes and 53 seconds behind Switzerland.

The juniors in the discipline XCO started the individual





battle first, to decide who would be the UCI champion in 2018. Last year's women juniors gold medalist Laura Stigger from Austria was the one to beat, but she made it clear there would be no chance! She was going hard at the very first climb at the start and separated herself from the field. After 5 laps (21 km), she was 3 minutes and 3 seconds in front of Tereza Saskova from Czech Republic. In third came Harriet Harnden from Great Britain. 17 year old Akari Kobayashi from Japan was the best Asian female junior, and got herself to the 17th position.

At the start of the men juniors, there were some rain showers, which made the track a bit slippery, but it stopped, and everything went back to normal. They had to ride 6 laps, or 25,2 km. Mathis Azzaro from France had a lead of 41 seconds in the first lap, but Leon Kaiser from Germany and Alexandre Balmer from Switzerland and his teammate Loris Rouiller closed the gap slowly till they rode all together making the pace. Leon Kaiser

attacked in the last lap, and only Alexandre Balmer could follow him. Alexandre Balmer had a bad start but came back, and even managed to sprint before the finish line, to have only 2 seconds ahead of Leon Kaiser. France with Mathis Azzaro got 3rd, 1 minutes 13 second back from the winner. In the 59th place was Shinichi Kaminaga from Japan as best asian rider.


It's Friday and things were now getting really interesting! First is qualification for the downhill final, elite and juniors have to do it. That's the new rule, men juniors ranked 1-60 can go to the finals. 18 year old Chinnapat Sukchanya from Thailand and 17 year old Japanese Junichi Yamada were the only asian riders, and both made it also into the final. Among women juniors, all 14 riders made it to the final, as only 15 could make it into the final. There was no asian rider in this category. 104 riders started in elite men, with 80 being admitted for the final, including the 20 protected riders (1-20 UCI ranking).





Kazuki Shimizu and Yuki Kushima from Japan and Suebsakun Sukchanya from Thailand and Saken Kagarov from Kazakhstan were doing the qualification, but only Kazuki Shimizu did well, he got 58th. Yerin Jang from South Korea, Siraphatson Chatkamnoed and Vipavee Deekaballes from Thailand were the only women in the elite category from Asia. 40 female riders can do the final, but only 32 did the qualification, so all 3 got through.

Afternoon was all about XCO and U23 category. First start was for the women, and as expected Sina Frei and Alessandra Keller went on a mission to bring it home on home turf! At the start both sprinted away and took the lead together. Alessandra Keller was attacking in the 3rd lap out of 6 (25,2 km) and made a 38 second gap over Sina Frei, which she extended till the finish line to 1 minutes 22 second. Sina Frei, the gold medalist last year, secured 2nd place and 3rd was Marika Tovo from Italy. From Thailand, Warinothorn Phetpraphan



came 44th as best asian rider. The weather was still cloudy and with a temperature of 15° celsius it was good for racing, not too cold, not too hot. Then the men where to go, 7 laps means 29,4 km they had to race. It was an interesting race, battling out for who could take the lead. It was always a different rider, after lap 3 only Christopher Blevins from USA and Alan Hatherly from South Africa were riding together in front. David Nordemann from the Netherlands came third, 1 minute and 5 second back of South African Alan Hatherly which was the UCI XCO U23 winner in 2018! Christopher Blevins came 2nd and had a 27 second gap. South Africa had the last gold medal 9 years ago in such an event. The best asian rider was Riki Kitabayashi from Japan, who came 86th.

It's Saturday, bluebird sky, 20° celsius warm, perfect weather for athletes and spectators! Over 20'000 fanatic people came to watch if the two Swiss riders Jolanda Neff and legend Nino Schurter



would take gold home in front of the home crowd! Nino Schurter lives in Chur, only 20 minutes' car drive away from Lenzerheide, so for him, it was really a home race.

Before the race, the PC7 Team, members of the Swiss army fighter pilots, performed an air show over Lenzerheide! It was a nice performance from them, especially as they flew only about 3 meters apart from wings to wings in a formation, with speeds up to 350 km/h.

The women's race started around lunch time, and it was Jolanda Neff going full pull out from the start. But she had suffered a crash a week before and had a cold, so she was not 100% up to the game. First round she only came in 8th, but despite not competing at her highest level, she made it back to the 4th place already in lap 4. The women had to go 29,4 km which means 7 laps. And Annika Langvad from Denmark was dictating the pace. Until Lap 6 she was leading, but Kate

Courtney from USA was always with her, after she managed to get past Emily Batty from Canada after lap 3. Kate Courtney is strong in the technical sections, and it was there that she took over the lead from Annika Langvad in the last lap. At the finish line she was 47 seconds in front of Annika Langvad. Jolanda Neff was trying hard to close the gap to Emily Batty who came 3rd, but it was not enough. The crowd was absolutely mental, cheering the riders on to give it all!

Anton Cooper set the pace for the mens race. Sprinted out the Start, which was a little uphill at first and followed with a 90° left curve into some proper uphill section, the longest of the course. 9 laps of a total distance of 33,6 km they had to race, now with even more spectators along the trail. And most of them they had cowbells or Swiss flags in their hand, and wanted to see, can he do it? After last year's perfect perfect season, when he was winning whatever you can win. He only has probably one chance to do



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

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it. First lap is done, and two riders were riding in front. It was Gehard Kerschbaumer and Nino Schurter. The two were riding in front of small group with Henrique Avancini from Brazil, Florian Vogel and Mathias Flückiger from Switzerland, Titouan Carod from France and Mathieu van der Poel from the Netherlands. The group had a gap from about 12 seconds in the 3rd lap. Nino Schurter was attacking before one a half laps to go, and Gehard Kerschbaumer could not respond, and the gap was only a tiny 6 seconds coming in to the last lap of 8. Nino Schurter, with the energy of the fans cheering him along the course to the finish, was still pushing, to make sure he could win it! Man the pace was mind-blowing, they went so fast! There was enough time to play with that Nino Schurter could celebrate his win 20 meters before the finish line, celebrating with his fans. He rolled slow into the finish line and was still 11 seconds ahead of Gehard Kerschbaumer from Italy. What an amazing performance Mathieu

van der Poel showed the spectators. Riding all alone from lap 3, as he was trying to close the gap to the lead riders, but no one could follow him, so he did it all by himself, 5 laps long! Big respect for that! The crowd was going nuts at the awards ceremony. Screaming his name over and over, it was sure for Nino Schurter an unbelievable experience to win gold in his home.

Lenzerheide set the record on a mountain bike world championship, with over 65'000 spectators. Because on the final day, also more than 20'000 people wanted to watch the downhill final. The women juniors made the start early in the morning, with none other than overall world cup champion Valentina Holl from Austria taking the gold! The 17 year old was riding on another level, separated all other women, with Anna Newkirk from USA following by a gap of almost 11 seconds. In third place, Mille Johnset from Norway. Valentina Holl would hold with her time the 7th place in the women elite category. Also in the



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2018 MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

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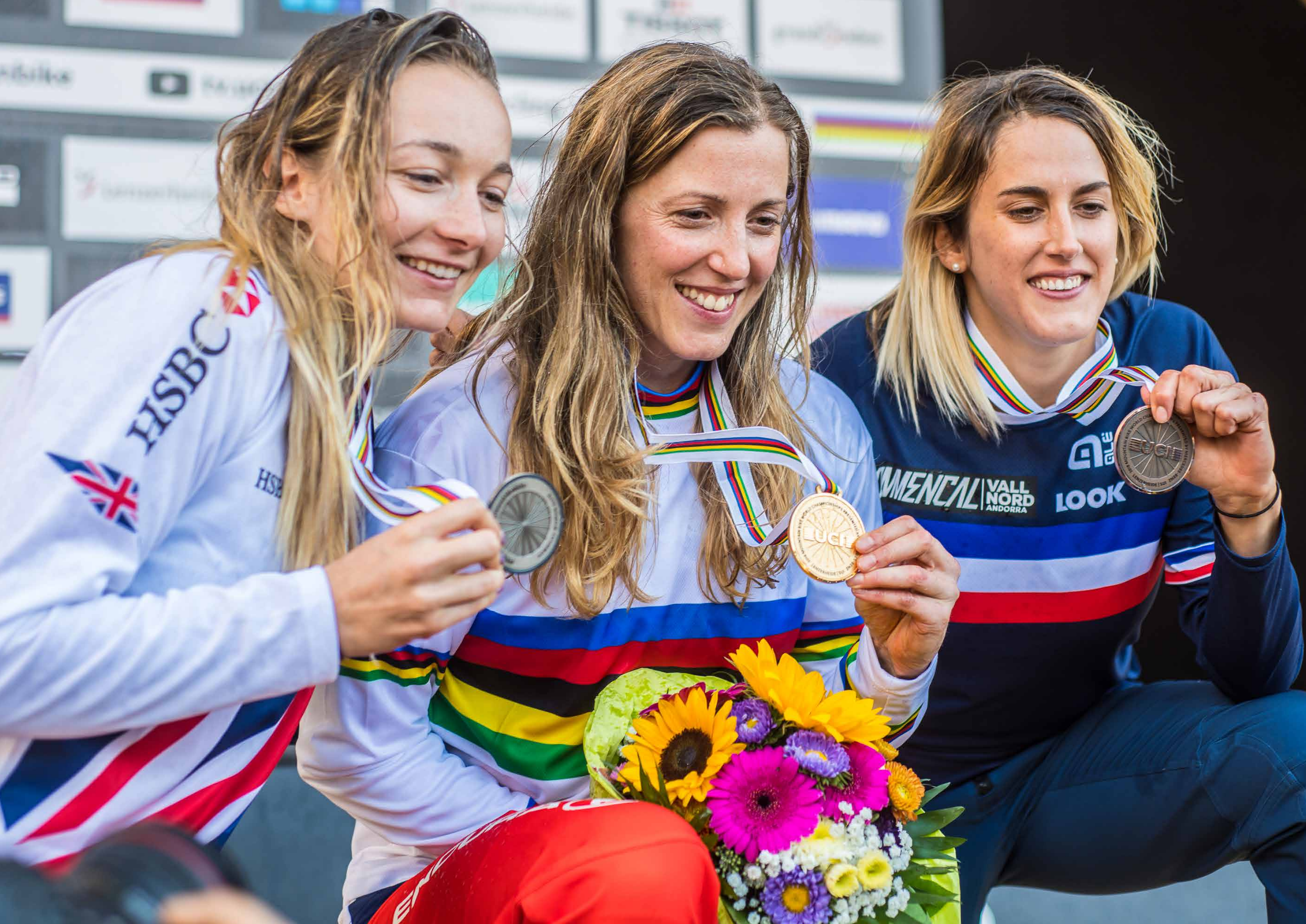
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morning the men juniors had to go down the hill. And it was Kade Edwards from Great Britain who went down fastest. 4 seconds behind him in 2nd came Kye A'hern from Australia, and in third it was Canada's Elliot Jamieson.

After lunch, the battle was on, who will be first? It seemed the battle was between two women from Great Britain, Rachel Atherton and Tahnee Seagrave. Myriam Nicole from France would have a hard time, as she has been injured for a long time, and was only now coming back to racing. But it's worlds, hardly can't take someone out, who is riding in the world cup's top ten. Yerin Jang from South Korea went first down the mountain. It was her first time, and i think she had for sure quite a struggle, but she did good, and she is only 19, so she will for sure learn more in the future. The best female asian rider was Vipavee Deekaballes from Thailand with her 27th place. Despite being long away from racing, Myriam Nicole took the hot seat but Tahnee Seagrave was





seating then shortly in it. Rachel Atherton came down with a insane lead of almost 10 seconds!!

Would Martin Maes from Belgium shock everybody again? The EWS (Enduro World Series) rider shocked everybody at the last world cup, winning the last stop in La Bresse (FRA). Martin Maes is not regularly racing the downhill cup, only when the time allows him, if he is not busy racing enduro races. But, yes, he again shocked all, he was in the hot seat for 23 riders and nobody could touch him. Until the man who knows how a rainbow jersey looks went down the mountain. But it was very close, only a gap of 0.213 seconds. Back to back, Loic Bruni from France won gold. Amaury Pierron from France was not really at a good pace and then he crashed, so the dream of being overall world cup winner and world champ crashed into the dirt. Danny Hart from Great Britain came also close to Martin Maes, but came 3rd only 0.305 seconds back of Loic Bruni. The only asian rider, Kazuki Shimizu





had bad luck, hitting his derailleur on a stone and breaking the hanger, and if that wasn't enough, he then also had a flat tyre.

The worlds were over, and it was a really nice week! Met also a lot of friends, and photographers gave mtbmagasia some pictures for the articles, especially Sven Martin!

I wished I had more time here in Lenzerheide to ride my bike, but I was really busy taking pictures. There will not be a next time, as world championships are moving to a other country. So I was glad, i made the effort to go to my old home Switzerland!

Next year it's in Canada, Mount Saint Anne. It would be cool to go there, let's see if I can get the money for it.

Ride on!!



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TRAVEL	DIAMETER	LENGTH	WEIGHT	P/N
125mm	30.9mm	390mm	510g	07540
125mm	31.6mm	390mm	530g	07541
150mm	30.9mm	440mm	552g	07560
150mm	31.6mm	440mm	573g	07561

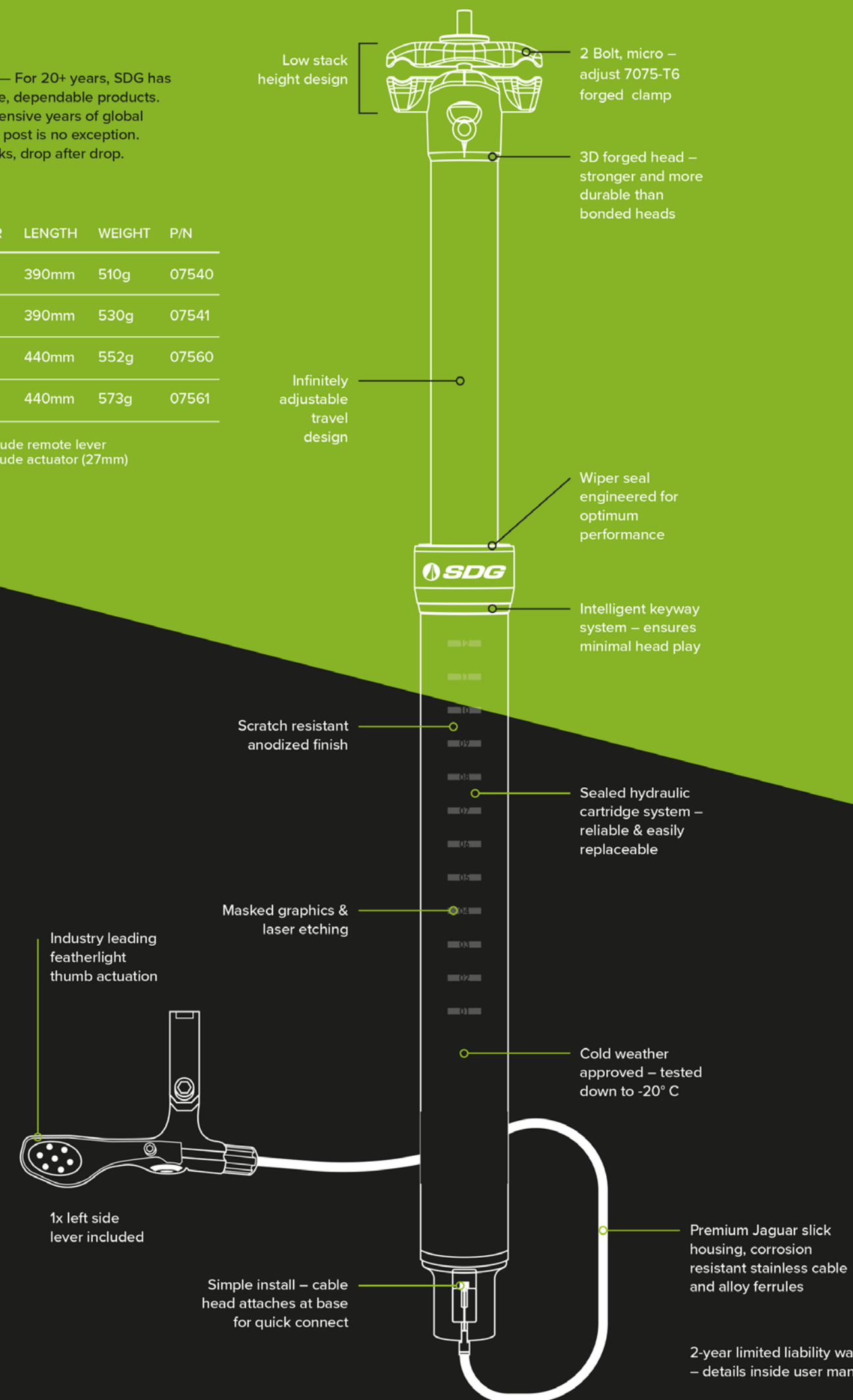
* Weight does not include remote lever
* Length does not include actuator (27mm)

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– details inside user manual




Longling Songshan International Downhill Race

Words by Donna Meek

After fun-filled summer racing in North America, the Meek Boys, Toby and Rory Meek, were invited to race in the Songshan Downhill Race near Longling in Yunnan province. This was a downhill adventure not to be missed!

With permission granted from school to miss a week, the Meek family set off for Kunming. There we changed to a smaller airline called "Lucky Air" whose name had us feeling a little perplexed and we flew to Mangshi. There we were met by a large entourage of race organisers and riders and whisked north by bus.

 Longling Songshan International Downhill Race

 Donna Meek & Matej Charvat

One of the major sponsors of the event was Longling Jade Company and we were very privileged to stop by their exhibition centre and view the most stunning yellow jade sculptures carved by master carvers. After a tv interview of the boys, we continued north by chartered bus to the hotel and settled down for the night. The hotel was set in a thermal region with fantastic outdoor hot pools and huge thermal baths in the hotel rooms.

Day Two after a hearty Eastern breakfast, we loaded up the dozens of downhill bikes onto 4WD trucks and drove about half an hour up the road to check out the race course. Organiser John Watt had created a fast, smooth trail down Songshan Hill through the trees and tobacco fields. After a course walk, Toby & Rory were on the trail and shredding all day long. The race organisers had 4WDs busy shuttling the enthusiastic riders and their bikes





up the hill after each run. A hearty buffet lunch was provided each day for riders in a huge dining hall in the nearby village.

The downhill race venue had special significance for the event due to it commemorating seventy years since the Chinese people recaptured the mountain from Japanese Occupation during World War Two. It wasn't an easy task either. The locals dug a secret tunnel under the mountain and blew off the top to surprise the Japanese and regain possession. There is a special memorial site with statues on Songshan Mountain to remember the fallen soldiers and civilians who took part in the daring and ingenious mission.

Race Day was held on August 30th, a Thursday, since that marked seventy years to the day. A huge crowd gathered to race the racing unfold. Downhill riders came from across

the globe: China, Australia, Taiwan, Czechoslovakia, South Korea and Canada. Toby and Rory raced in the youth section and came second and third respectively behind Jackson Goldstone who had also been invited to race. The medals were the most unique ones the boys have ever won and contained some of the famous yellow jade the region is renowned for.

The television coverage of the event was spectacular and each rider was shown live on the big screen for their full race run. There were twenty-two cameras operating on the day including four drones. The television coverage switched interchangeably between the land cameras and the drones and this was spectacular footage! The UCI World Cup Downhill race organisers and media leaders could certainly learn a thing or two from this sophisticated live coverage set-up.





After the downhill race, the event organisers had also built two table tops near the start ramp so the afternoon quickly evolved into a jump competition session. Toby and Rory were in their element, sending no-handers, nac-nacs, huge whips and the best part was a race organiser stood on the second table top with 100 remimbi notes in his hand. If you could reach them, you got to keep the money! This made a great spectacle for the enthusiastic and vocal crowd. And the riders kept pulling off trick after trick to wow them.

That evening, back at the hotel, there was an after-race party with lots of great prizes for everyone. The prizes ranged from mountain bikes to riding gear to nifty knee-high socks with inbuilt shin pads in them. These super-rad socks were the favourite prize for Toby, Rory and Jackson. Now they're also being used at home for in the

skateparks and playing football.

Congratulations goes to the race organisers for a very well-organised downhill event which promoted a strong sense of camaraderie and identity among the riders. We will definitely be back next year. All the people were so friendly and helpful. The Longling region itself was stunning and the hot thermal baths to soak in during the evenings, after bike maintenance time, were divine! The region has one of the highest rainfalls in China however, for the week we were there, the weather was stunning except for one morning with light rain during practice.

Toby and Rory have some great memories and stories to take away from Songshan Longling Downhill Race and they have made some great new friends who they will surely meet again at other races in the near future. That is the beauty of downhill riding. It is one of those





sports that by nature, fosters genuine camaraderie and enduring friendships. Like-minded people enjoying like-minded gravity adventures.

See you at the next race!

Words by Matej Charvat

China is definitely a bit different than any other part of the world. The race itself, but also the whole trip. You just never know what to expect every single day.

It was about to be my second race in China and as I really liked it last time, I just gave it a green light without even thinking, almost.

Songshan Longling is a quite small town in the very high mountains. It is very close to the border with Myanmar. The whole province called Yunnan is the place with most rain in whole China. It didn't rain much thru my stay, but it was a nice and green place. Thanks to the altitude, the temperature was really nice for riding a bike.

I think the sport is really going to grow in China. When the Chinese guys would like to make something perfect, they are just going to make it 100%. The only limit is they just need to find out what is needed and how exactly it should look like!

The track was prepared perfectly and was reshaped after every training session. The live TV coverage was awesome, cutting live from 20 cameras on the track plus live drone footage following the riders.

The track was really fast on the





raceday. It was really tough race, because we didn't have any practice that day and the field for the podium was super stacked. I luckily managed to win the qualies and also the finals, after some solid mistakes made on the track, because I was pushing too hard!

All good tho and I have to say the race was just great experience, great riding, good fun. I enjoyed whole week of visiting China and it was definitely not my last time racing the Chinese slopes.

Thanks to all people involved, organizers for a great event.

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#ixsplayground



PUNE DOWNHILL CUP

5 AUGUST



This event was thought up by Ruturaj Bhopatkar and Slade Gomes, and was initiated and made successful by the Pune MTB community.

We thought of it as an opportunity for young riders to get in the sport and show their talent by going downhill in the hills of Pashan. So we're going to conduct all the upcoming events in Pune under "PUNE MTB CORP". Pune MTB Corp is a rider developed company, which will have Mountain Biking events under the Pune MTB Corp. The Pune





Downhill Cup is a branch to the Parent Company. We look to expand this in the future! We started building the trails a month earlier, keeping in mind that the trails we're building we're going to be according to the mindset of a beginner as well as a pro Mountain Biker. We built two tracks for the event, for Hardtail and Full Suspension

bikes.

We wanted to make sure that this would be an event which would have some impact on the Indian Mountain Biking community as racing is termed as a very serious activity and this can be very hard for beginner level Mountain Bikers, so we wanted to make sure that people would have fun on the tracks as well as go very fast!
The event was a



great success and the number of Hardtail Riders that turned up was a good 18 riders and 7 riders in the Full Suspension category. This shows that the Hardtail community in India is currently strong and we hope to have more and more riders in both the categories from all the other states. We plan to have more Races in the





future
and not only
for Downhill, we also
plan to do events of other
disciplines of Mountain Biking.
We're aiming at the young
riders who are just getting in
the sport or they're wanting
to try out Mountain Biking.
We have also planned Mountain
Biking Camps in the future for
the young riders as well
for the riders who are
still developing.



PUNE
DOWNHILL
CUP **PODIUM**
FULL **SUSPENSION**
C A T E G O R Y
1st Place - Rishabh M Gowda
2nd Place - Ruturaj Bhopatkar
3rd Place - Zaki Alvi
HARDTAIL **CATEGORY**
1st Place - Shashank CK
2nd Place - Sarwarth Sawant
3rd Place - Virendra Mali

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)



Gee takes the win with
3rd for Charlie !!

Red Bull Hardline Finals
2018 race report.



Gee Atherton



Once again to the hills around Dinas Mawddwy, for the 5th Red Bull Hardline.

Saturday was misty with on and off showers all morning but the riders were all stoked to race, loving the 2018 additions to the course as they got comfortable with the track over 2 days of sunny practice on Wednesday and Thursday.

Friday's practice was completely rained off so Saturday morning which left the course very slippery despite frantic running repairs, many of the riders



were struggling with the cold.

21 riders raced qualifications, Phil Atwell had a small crash in Thursdays practice damaging his shoulder and withdrew. Phil said “ At a World Cup I’d probably tape it up but for this course you need to be 100%” Killian Callaghan, Oscar Harmstorm, Erik Irmisch, Keegan Wright and Course Designer Dan Atherton were also non-starters.

Dan said “There is no way to ride this course if you aren’t 100% on top form



and 100% committed to the race so I chose to make myself useful to the dig crew and the other riders!”

Morning practice was heavy going!

Gee said “that was so hard – particularly on the technical sections, really sticky and so physical.”

Reece Wilson was a victim of the wet weather with a crash resulting in a



broken collarbone.

With just 10 Finals places up for grabs the pressure was on for qualifications.

Gee took the quals win in 3.15.93

8th placed Josh Bryceland withdrew himself - so the Finals start list looked like this...

Gee Atherton - Bernard Kerr - Joe Smith - Alex Fayolle - Gaetan Vige - Charlie Hatton - Laurie Greenland - Brage Vestavik - Kade Edwards - Florent Payet

Gee said “Every year I go back wanting it more and more and pushing harder and harder for it”

Charlie said “I took it safe because of the weather, I knew it would be easy to crash! I went off track just before the road gap and came unclipped but managed to just get clipped back in before the take –off. It was sketchy!”



Finals

First up was Flo Payet setting the pace at 3.26.48, Kade crashed out at one of the tricky corners after the road gap but 6th place qualifier Charlie roared into the hotseat in 3.18.91 – 7 seconds clear of the field, it would be enough for 3rd place – his first Hardline podium.

Bernard Kerr took 2nd in 3.12.30

And Gee put all of his Hardline demons behind him taking the win in 3.06.72, 5 seconds clear of the field!

Gee said “Red Bull Hardline is so intense, its testament to how hard it is that its taken me five years to win it, but now I’ve done it once I want to do it again next year!”



RIDER: ARNAV „MAX“ SHERCHAN
PHOTO: GAURAV MAN SHERCHAN

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DOWNHILL, MOUNTAIN BIKER RISHABH GOWDA



A mountain biker wearing a blue jersey with 'INDIA' on the back is riding a dirt jump in a forest. The biker is in a crouched position, leaning forward over the handlebars. The jump is a raised section of a dirt trail. The background is a dense forest of tall evergreen trees with green foliage. The ground is covered in grass and dirt.

Hi Rishabh, tell us a little about yourself, where you're from, what is your age and what you do for a living?

Hey! My name is Rishabh Munegowda. Currently 17 years old, living in Bangalore, India. I'm still a student studying in 12th grade, but pursuing things a lot above my grade.

When did you start to ride bikes, and how did you get into the sport? Were you also interested in other sports, like the famous ones like cricket?

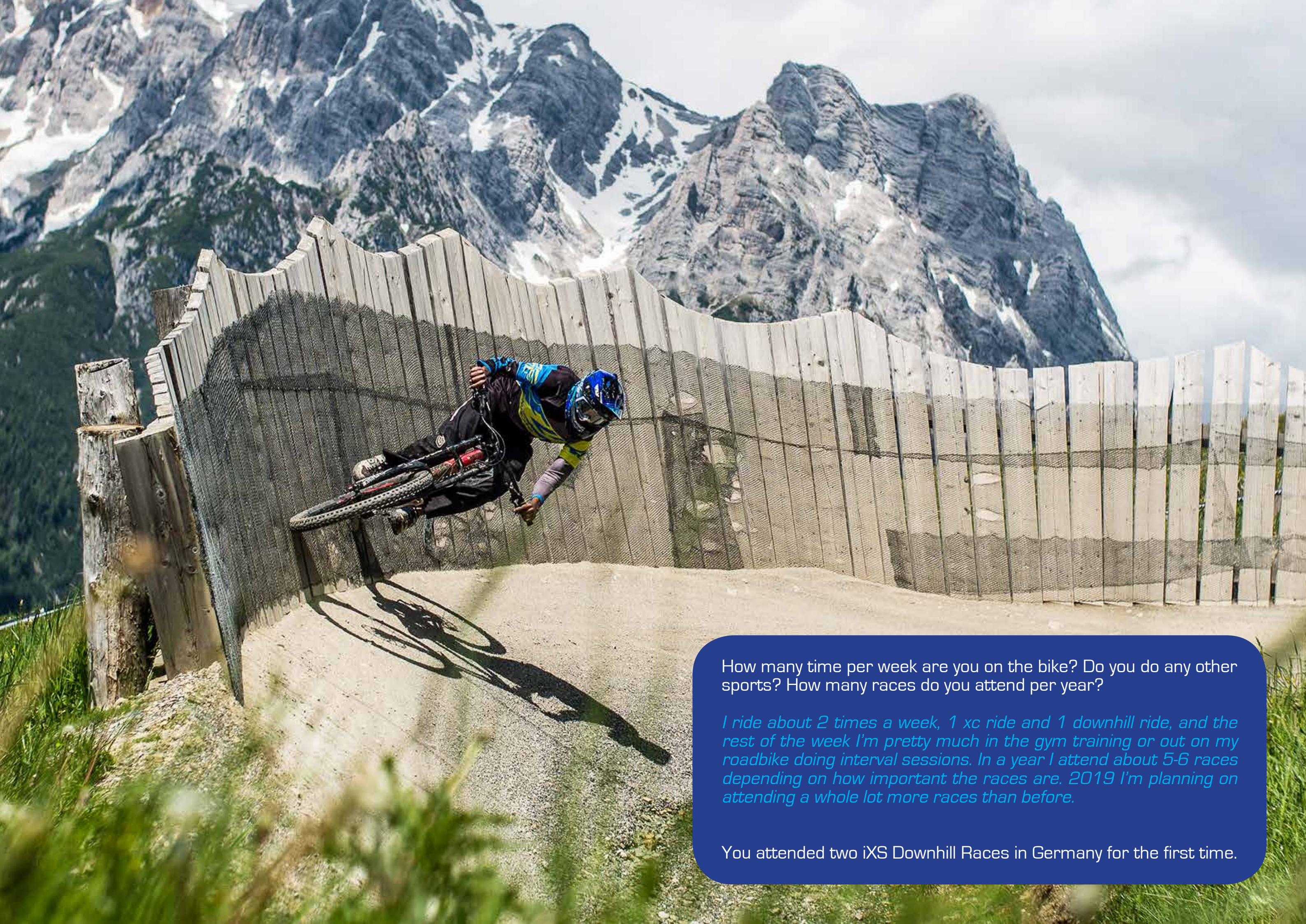


Riding bicycles has always been a part of my life as a fun hobby but I never really had the zeal to compete in races until a few years ago. I kinda saw a few videos about biking and its exposure in India, I was instantly hooked. On the other hand I do like gaming quite a bit and I used to play a little bit of football.

You first rode a road bike, how did you come to switch over to mountain biking? Do you still ride the road bike, or what do you do about endurance training on the bike?

I started off roadbiking back in late 2014 because that's what my friends were into and I was most exposed to, so I raced my first ever race which was on a road bike, I was insanely surprised to see the competition. That's one of the things that motivated me to train harder and attend more and more races. Mountain biking as a sport was pretty much unknown to me, until I researched a little about the sport, I was hooked like a kid addicted to candies. I just couldn't stop riding. Roadbiking is still a big part of the training routine as it helps a lot in terms of endurance and power on the bike, but to be honest I don't really enjoy it as much I used to, ever since I learnt about mountain biking.





How many time per week are you on the bike? Do you do any other sports? How many races do you attend per year?

I ride about 2 times a week, 1 xc ride and 1 downhill ride, and the rest of the week I'm pretty much in the gym training or out on my roadbike doing interval sessions. In a year I attend about 5-6 races depending on how important the races are. 2019 I'm planning on attending a whole lot more races than before.

You attended two iXS Downhill Races in Germany for the first time.



Can you tell us a bit, what it was like to race there, what's it all about to race at an international level?

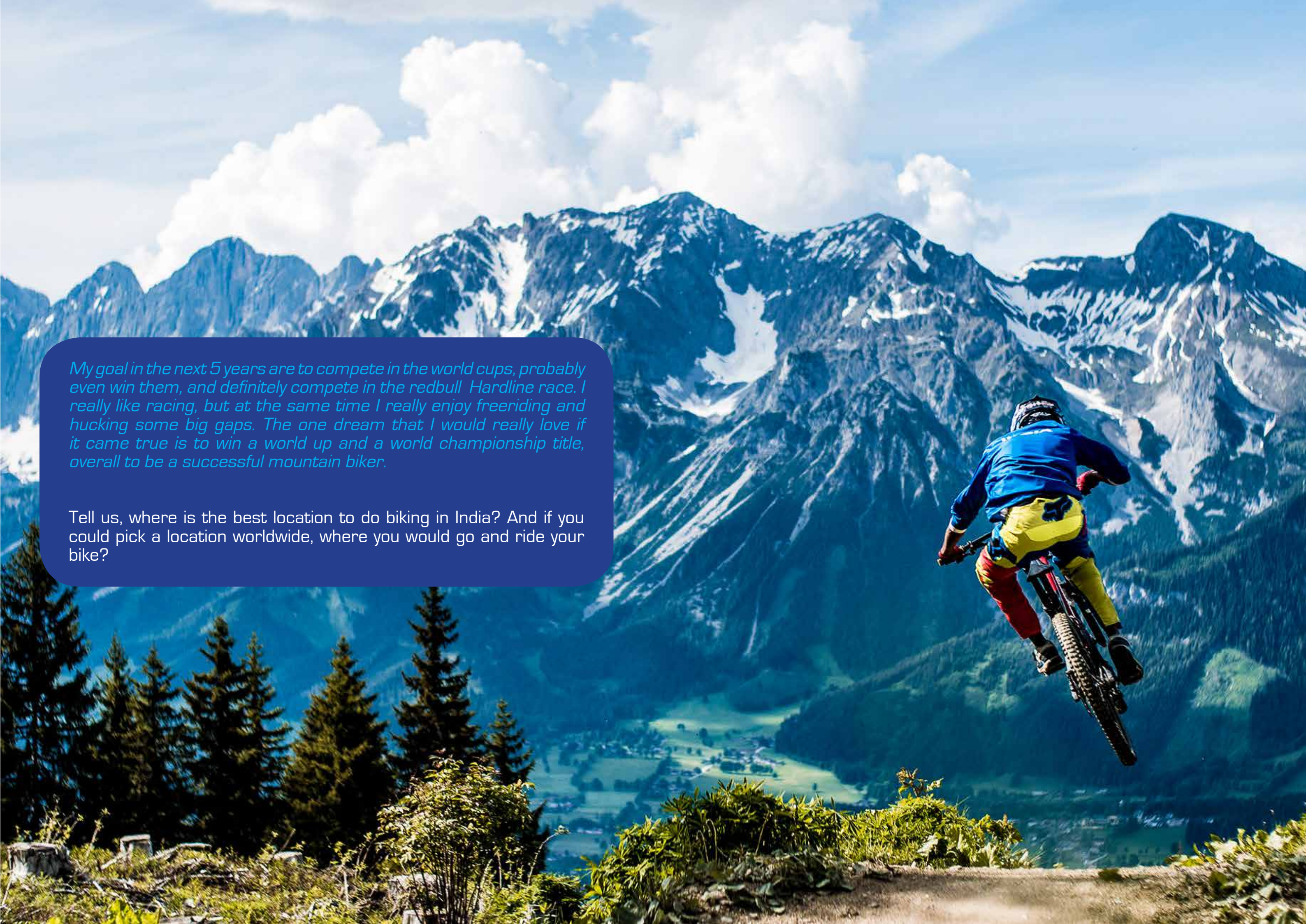
Attending the IXS races this year was just a huge step forward for me as an athlete because this was the first time I was introduced to the international level of competition, I was super stoked on seeing that but at the same time I was understanding how to prepare for such races, racing there was like no other place. The tracks were just insanely tricky and gnarly as hell, but it was an amazing experience. It's going in the books for sure.

A mountain biker in a blue and yellow jersey and black pants is captured mid-air, performing a jump over a rocky, uneven terrain. The rider is wearing a full-face helmet and is leaning forward on the handlebars. The bicycle is red and black. In the background, there are more rocks and a small building with a dark roof. A black banner with white and red text is visible in the bottom left corner.

Who supports you most? Your parents for sure, do you also have sponsors from the biking industry in India?


My parents really do support me a lot in terms of racing. So I'm super lucky to have such parents. With the sponsoring side, things are happening which are gonna happen next year once I'm done with my 12th exams.

What is your goal? Where will you be in 5 years? Still racing? Or what dream do you want to come true?



My goal in the next 5 years are to compete in the world cups, probably even win them, and definitely compete in the redbull Hardline race. I really like racing, but at the same time I really enjoy freeriding and hucking some big gaps. The one dream that I would really love if it came true is to win a world up and a world championship title, overall to be a successful mountain biker.

Tell us, where is the best location to do biking in India? And if you could pick a location worldwide, where you would go and ride your bike?



I think in India the best spot to ride a bike is probably Pune cuz it has such a variety of terrain and everything from flowy singletrack to insanely rocky downhills. One other spot would be Himachal Pradesh, the Himalayas is one heck of a place to ride your bike, the one thing is we still gotta find trails and build them up. My favorite place to ride a bike in world would probably be Schladming, Austria.

You chose mountain biking. Can you tell us why it's the best sport to do, and what it means for you to ride down the hill as fast as you can?



I love mountain biking cuz I never really did find another sport which gives me the same amount of adrenaline rush as this sport gives, it's mind blowing how addictive it is, it's the one thing I wake up to everyday without a doubt. It's probably has one of the best communities in cycling in general cuz everyone is just super chilled out, but the game faces do come out during the race. I believe the more fun you're having the faster you ride a bike!

Thank you very much for having time for us, we wish you all the best.
The last words are yours!





I would like to thank everyone who has supported me till now and helped me reach such a level in this sport.

“Send It Harder Everyday “.

*“Remember If You Crash
It Means That You Are Pushing
Harder Than You Did Last time”*

#about

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