

4x#1 : Fort William, GBR : 01-02.06.2002

France's Gracia and Chausson Win Four-Cross Debut

The *Downhill* and *Four-Cross* season of the **Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup** began successfully in Scotland Saturday evening, as the newest discipline in cycling debuted to large crowds and exciting racing. After replacing the dual with four-person racing on a short downhill track, the 4-X has taken off in the 2002 season.



Approximately 5,000 spectators paid admission to witness the racing Saturday on a carefully crafted course at the foot of the Nevis Mountain Range near Fort William, in western Scotland. They saw two of the sport's best riders in **Anne-Caroline Chausson** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) and **Cedric Gracia** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale), who give both their team and nation a double-win in the 4-X.

Cedric Gracia (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) won the men's final over second place **Wade Bootes** (AUS, Trek-Volkswagen) after an exciting race, one which claimed the top qualifier in **Brian Lopes** (USA, Fox/GT) and disqualified the top British finisher in **Steve Peat** (GBR, Team GT). With four of the world's best riders lined up for the men's final, it came down to the first few seconds to determine the winner, and in those seconds a lot happened.

"Steve and I were last out of the start," said Gracia afterward, adding "Wade slipped in the start though, so I was coming up fast into the first turn. I tried to make a nice inside move on Brian, but I slid and pushed him to the outside of the track. I don't know what happened after that, but I am happy to win."

World Champion dual racer Lopes crashed off the course in that encounter, finishing fourth after hitting the ground hard. *"It was a good move by Cedric," he said. "It was a weird turn - he was inside and I ran out of room."*

While Gracia was racing for the finish line to claim the first men's win in this new world cup discipline, former dual World Champion Bootes held on for second place - followed closely by Peat to the finish line. But Peat hit one of the marker gates near the finish, and was relegated to last place as a result. This moved Lopes into third place and Peat fourth.



"I hit the gate and they saw it," smiled Peat after learning that he had been cited by the UCI officials. "There's not much I can do. But it was a great race, and the crowd was really good."

World - and World Cup Champion - Lopes said he was also pleased with how the Four-Cross debuted. *"It went off well," he said, adding "The crowd was awesome, and the organizers built a good course for any weather."*

Michal Prokop (CZE, Team Be-One) won the men's small final, followed by British BMX standout **Dale Holmes** (GBR), **Kirt Voreis** (USA, Haro/Lee Dungarees) and **Bas DeBever** (NED, Be-One Team).



	<i>Bib</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Firstname</i>	<i>Team</i>
1	2	FRA19780323	GRACIA	Cedric	VOLVO-CANNONDALE
2	3	AUS19740530	BOOTES	Wade	TREK VOLKSWAGEN
3	1	USA19710906	LOPES	Brian	GT BICYCLES
4	8	GBR19740617	PEAT	Steve	
5	5	CZE19810401	PROKOP	Michal	TEAM BE ONE
6	11	GBR19711006	HOLMES	Dale	
7	10	USA19740531	VOREIS	Kirt	HAROLEEDUNGAREE
8	37	NED19680416	DE BEVER	Bas	TEAM BE ONE
9	13	FRA19730717	JANY	Stephane	
10	16	GBR19741120	LONGDEN	Will	
11	19	FRA19750110	AMOUR	Karim	
12	23	SVK19820410	POLC	Filip	
13	9	GER19780620	MEYENBORG	Sascha	
14	15	USA19690630	KING	Mike	HAROLEEDUNGAREE
15	22	FRA19800826	DELDYCKE	Mickael	FIAT ROTWILD
16	61	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT	Scott	
17	4	AUS19810531	RENNIE	Nathan	
18	6	AUS19780301	KOVARIK	Christopher	
19	7	GER19760514	TSCHUGG	Guido	
20	12	RSA19811113	MINNAAR	Greg	GLOBAL RACING
21	14	USA19821113	NOBLE	Caile	
22	24	GBR19810310	WARDELL	Dave	
23	33	GBR19820125	ATHERTON	Daniel	
24	34	GBR19690915	HOWARTH	Darren	
25	18	GBR19720201	PAGE	Nigel	
26	20	ESP19820930	GUARDIA PASCUAL	Bernat	MAXXIS-MSC
27	21	CZE19850705	TATARKOVIC	Kamil	
28	25	CZE19780529	MAROSI	Michal	
29	26	GBR19741008	OGDEN	Martin	
30	30	GBR19850226	ATHERTON	George	
31	38	JPN19800422	IDEGAWA	Naoki	GLOBAL RACING
32	49	FIN19791019	MIETTLNEN	Kalle	
33	17	AUS19771105	MCCARROLL	Sean	GLOBAL RACING
34	27	GBR19811029	BARKER	Steve	
35	28	GBR19780523	MURRAY	Martyn	
36	29	NZL19760430	KIRCALDIE	John	
37	31	GBR19831015	FORTE	Toby	
38	32	IRL19770906	O'BRIEN	Glyn	
39	39	GBR19821017	THOMSON	Stuart	
40	43	BRA19800209	BERCHTOLD	Markolf	GLOBAL RACING
41	46	JPN19760413	TAKAMATSU	Kenji	
42	47	GBR19840104	BATEY	Richard	
43	52	GBR19850112	GOULD	Jordan	

44	53	BEL19830323	VINK	Nico	
45	55	GBR19850705	HERITAGE	Mark	
46	56	GBR19810504	COOKSON	Iain	
47	57	BEL19830209	LENSSSENS	Kristof	
48	62	AUT19800927	FAHRGRUBER	Robert	
49	35	AUT19800707	BUBLA	Thomas	
50	36	CZE19780316	HYNCICA	Vlastimil	
51	40	GBR19840727	CHEETHAM	Richard	
52	41	GBR19811124	BALL	Chris	
53	42	USA19730705	EBBETT	Kyle	
54	44	GBR19700506	GEALL	Steve	
55	45	NOR19811220	HANSEN	Trond	
56	48	GBR19790215	DELL ISOLA	Marco	
57	50	FIN19770417	HANHILAHTI	Antti	
58	51	IRL19830503	ROSS	Colin	
59	54	AUT10910426	JIRSAK	Ernst	
60	58	GBR19780523	PARSONS	Russell	
61	59	GER19740521	ZOELLNER	Heiko	
62	60	NOR19800807	JOHNSEN	Espen	
63	63	GBR19850219	RUFFELL	Steven	