

DH#1 : Fort William, GBR : 01-02.06.2002

Australia's Kovarik and England's Moseley Celebrate Downhill Wins:

The 2002 season of the **Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup** began its downhill season this weekend in Fort William, Scotland as two Commonwealth nations celebrated victories in Sunday's finals. **Chris Kovarik** (AUS, *Intense Cycles*) won his second-straight world cup race for the men, just after **Tracy Moseley** (GBR, *Team Kona*) won her career's first.

Large, enthusiastic crowds lined all 2.6 kilometres of Scotland's new world cup course, which dropped 525 metres from the Ben Nevis mountain range over rocks and mud to the base area below. And, with both the debut of Four-Cross racing Saturday evening and the debut of world cup racing in Scotland, it was a memorable weekend for this mountain bike circuit. Weather was cool and wet for much of the day, raining lightly during much of the competition.



Chris Kovarik, AUS

An unusual men's race featured a dominant win by the Australian Kovarik, who beat both **Cedric Gracia** (FRA, *Volvo-Cannondale*) and **Nathan Rennie** (AUS, *Yeti/Pearl Izumi*) by an amazing 14.02 seconds. The two runners-up tied for 2nd place after posting the exact same times down to the hundredth of a second. Kovarik's impressive winning margin is the largest in recent memory, and comes on the heels of his win at the final round last season.

"I was nervous today," said Kovarik. "I had a good timed practice run yesterday, but in qualifying I took it too fast and crashed, and that balled me up for the rest of my run." But Kovarik still managed to qualify 3rd fastest for the final, then stayed up on his bike to post an amazing time of 4:33 in the final with an average speed of 35 kph.

"I have a rugged style, holding one foot out and using flat pedals," he added. "I think I ride on the limit, and can do that with my style - it works for me." Kovarik admits that two straight wins don't hurt his mental game either. *"Yeah, it gives me a real confidence boost, and tells me that I belong in the top five."*



Cedric Gracia, FRA

Gracia captured second place after a wild run from the two-time world cup winner, as he rolled across the finish covered in mud. *"I crashed in the woods and smashed myself good, but I never gave up," he said. "I'm tired of finishing just in the top ten, I think I'm angry and more determined. I have a new bike that works so good, new Fox shock and Oakley shoes, my sponsors are great and the team atmosphere is good."*

Nathan Rennie (AUS, *Yeti/Pearl Izumi*) tied with Gracia for 2nd place, coincidentally sharing the Tissot "hotseat" at one point during the finals as they awaited the eventual winner. Asked if he had a clean run, Rennie replied *"As clean as it gets considering all the mud. But it was generally smooth and I didn't get any arm pump - so I'm happy with the run."*



Nathan Rennie, AUS

Second-seeded **Nicolas Vouilloz** (FRA, Vouilloz Racing Team) finished 4th after crashing during his final run, running off the course and into a ditch to the left of the track. Faring even worse was the top qualifier **Steve Peat** (GBR, Royal/Orange), the local favorite who had a pair of wild crashes in his run. He crossed the finish covered in mud and without a saddle, his goggle lens material strewn around his body to take 17th place.

Words: **Ari Cheren**

Images: **Mark Dawson** www.fattirefotos.com



Vouilloz | Gracia | **Kovarík** | Rennie | Pascal

	#	UCI Code	Surname	Firstname	Team	Time	Gap
1	4	AUS19780301	KOVARIK	Christopher		4:33.98	+0.0
2	5	FRA19780323	GRACIA	Cedric	VOLVO-CANNONDAL	4:48.00	+ 14.02
2	18	AUS19810531	RENNIE	Nathan		4:48.00	+ 14.02
4	2	FRA19760208	VOUILLOZ	Nicolas	VOUILLOZ RACING	4:50.36	+ 16.38
5	3	FRA19791011	PASCAL	Mickael	TEAM BE ONE	4:51.44	+ 17.46
6	6	FRA19800726	BAREL	Fabien	MAXXIS-MSC	4:52.72	+ 18.74
7	10	AUS19831121	HANNAH	Mick	HAROLEEDUNGAREE	4:54.40	+ 20.42
8	30	NZL19760430	KIRCALDIE	John		4:54.72	+ 20.74
9	20	USA19740531	VOREIS	Kirt	HAROLEEDUNGAREE	4:55.03	+ 21.05
10	33	GBR19720201	PAGE	Nigel		4:55.61	+ 21.63
11	21	ESP19790210	VAZQUEZ LOPEZ	David	GIANT GLOBAL	4:55.72	+ 21.74
12	29	ESP19810417	ROJO	Cesar	GLOBAL RACING	4:56.41	+ 22.43
13	17	NED19680416	DE BEVER	Bas	TEAM BE ONE	5:00.31	+ 26.33
14	7	ESP19730828	SAIZ	Oscar	MAXXIS-MSC	5:02.89	+ 28.91
15	104	GBR19820125	ATHERTON	Daniel		5:02.93	+ 28.95
16	50	ESP19760604	OULEGO MORENO	Ivan		5:03.11	+ 29.13
17	9	GBR19740617	PEAT	Steve		5:03.37	+ 29.39
18	79	ESP19820930	GUARDIA PASCUAL	Bernat	MAXXIS-MSC	5:04.11	+ 30.13
19	66	NED19720125	VAN DER HATERD	Wilfred		5:05.20	+ 31.22
20	64	FIN19840419	LEHIKOINEN	Matti	GLOBAL RACING	5:05.83	+ 31.85
21	85	POL19800623	ZIELINSKI	Gregorz		5:06.22	+ 32.24
22	1	RSA19811113	MINNAAR	Greg	GLOBAL RACING	5:06.26	+ 32.28
23	46	GBR19741120	LONGDEN	Will		5:06.99	+ 33.01
24	8	AUS19771105	MCCARROLL	Sean	GLOBAL RACING	5:08.27	+ 34.29
25	38	FRA19840107	CAMELLINI	Julien	VOUILLOZ RACING	5:08.74	+ 34.76
26	93	GBR19840925	BEAUMONT	Mark		5:09.54	+ 35.56
27	13	GBR19700916	WARNER	Rob	GIANT GLOBAL	5:10.52	+ 36.54
28	124	GBR19811029	BARKER	Steve		5:10.58	+ 36.60
29	68	LAT19800702	SKOLINS	Zigmars		5:11.47	+ 37.49
30	67	CZE19780316	HYNCICA	Vlastimil		5:11.58	+ 37.60
31	106	AUS19810316	BOYER	Ricky		5:12.00	+ 38.02
32	43	BRA19800209	BERCHTOLD	Markolf	GLOBAL RACING	5:12.48	+ 38.50
33	55	GER19760514	TSCHUGG	Guido		5:12.50	+ 38.52
34	52	FRA19820124	POOMANS	Julien		5:12.59	+ 38.61
35	87	IRL19790605	LAWLOR	John		5:12.75	+ 38.77
36	40	GBR19721010	PONTING	Tim		5:12.80	+ 38.82
37	72	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT	Scott		5:12.91	+ 38.93
38	44	GBR19700526	CARRICK-ANDERSON	Crawford		5:12.99	+ 39.01
39	88	SUI19810120	MERMOUD	Damien		5:13.88	+ 39.90
40	110	GBR19810310	WARDELL	Dave		5:13.93	+ 39.95
41	97	IRL19830503	ROSS	Colin		5:15.46	+ 41.48
42	70	NED19800318	THOLEN	Gertje		5:16.69	+ 42.71
43	113	NOR19811220	HANSEN	Trond		5:17.92	+ 43.94
44	35	FRA19750110	AMOUR	Karim		5:18.86	+ 44.88
45	83	CAN19720629	PORTER	Trevor		5:19.80	+ 45.82
46	58	GBR19810815	JARMAN	Rob		5:19.90	+ 45.92
47	107	GBR19821017	THOMSON	Stuart		5:20.94	+ 46.96
48	75	GBR19810228	CHEETHAM	Jon		5:21.43	+ 47.45
49	115	FRA19820826	PROST	Mathieu		5:22.26	+ 48.28
50	89	JPN19800422	IDEGAWA	Naoki	GLOBAL RACING	5:22.79	+ 48.81
51	96	NOR19800807	JOHNSEN	Espen		5:23.90	+ 49.92
52	92	ESP19780424	BAGO	Jordi		5:24.08	+ 50.10
53	111	IRL19831021	CORRY	William		5:24.17	+ 50.19
54	23	SVK19820410	POLC	Filip		5:24.71	+ 50.73
55	95	AUT19730618	PETSCHENIG	Markus	BANK AUSTRIA	5:25.33	+ 51.35

56	86	AUT19810330	HAAS	Mathias	BANK AUSTRIA	5:25.45	+ 51.47
57	103	BEL19830323	VINK	Nico		5:27.43	+ 53.45
58	109	GBR19750211	HUGHES	Stuart		5:29.61	+ 55.63
59	120	CZE19850705	TATARKOVIC	Kamil		5:30.49	+ 56.51
60	90	IRL19790505	YOONG	Andrew		5:32.50	+ 58.52
61	51	GBR19810817	DONOGHUE	Neil		5:32.82	+ 58.84
62	114	SWE19781130	OELUND	Herman		5:38.36	+1:04.38
63	14	SUI19770916	CALUORI	Claudio	MAXXIS-MSC	5:39.40	+1:05.42
64	130	BEL19830209	LENSSENS	Kristof		5:40.38	+1:06.40
65	127	ESP19800812	MARIAS SORRIBES	Ferran	MAXXIS-MSC	5:40.93	+1:06.95
66	135	RSA19790509	KEPPLER	Shaun		5:43.16	+1:09.18
67	31	FRA19800826	DELDYCKE	Mickael	FIAT ROTWILD	5:43.39	+1:09.41
68	102	RSA19780315	HOPKINS	Mark		5:44.63	+1:10.65
69	99	POR19800110	FIDALGO	Marco		5:44.90	+1:10.92
70	94	RSA19841113	DELPOR	Jason		5:49.23	+1:15.25
70	121	IRL19840403	SCOTT	James		5:49.23	+1:15.25
72	118	IRL19721229	MC GUIGAN	Martin		5:50.77	+1:16.79
73	101	AUT19750422	GOLLES	Michael	BANK AUSTRIA	5:52.31	+1:18.33
74	125	AUT19810426	JIRSAK	Ernst		5:55.91	+1:21.93
75	15	CZE19780529	MAROSI	Michal		6:04.47	+1:30.49
76	119	USA19840901	BEYTAGH	Gerrit		6:25.63	+1:51.65
77	71	GER19781003	SCHNEIDER	Frank		6:25.97	+1:51.99
78	26	FRA19760719	LAGNEAU	Cyril	MAXXIS-MSC	6:41.63	+2:07.65
79	126	IRL19720108	HALTON	Declan		6:43.52	+2:09.54
80	84	FRA19830509	ORTIZ	Nicolas		13:25.23	+8:51.25