



British Cycling Press Release
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For immediate release

OLYMPIC HOPEFUL MOUNTAIN BIKERS SUPPORT DALBY FOREST WORLD CUP BID

Top British mountain bikers have visited Dalby Forest in North Yorkshire as the final preparations are made to submit a bid to hold a Nissan UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country World Cup event there in May 2010.

Organisers are encouraging cycling fans to support the bid by cheering on British Olympians – or taking part themselves – in the Dalby round of the British Mountain Bike Race Series cross country mountain bike race on Sunday 10 May 2009.

The Dalby round of the British Mountain Bike Race Series is a test event for the 2010 Nissan UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country World Cup. It will be the first event to use the new World Cup course and a high level of support will boost chances of this prestigious World Cup event coming to the region.

2012 Olympic mountain bike hopefuls Lilly Matthews and Sebastian Batchelor both visited Dalby to show their support for the Dalby round of the British Mountain Bike Series.

York born Olympic Academy cross-country mountain bike rider Sebastian Batchelor, who also rides for Halfords Bikehut, said: "The new World Cup course at Dalby Forest will be fantastic. It is a brilliant venue for cross-country mountain biking and this year is hosting the second round of the British Mountain Bike Series on 10 May. There are races for riders of all abilities from beginners to top professionals. The layout of the course is great for anyone who wants to watch the racing, and there are lots of other facilities for a great family day out."

He added: "A big turnout of riders and spectators on 10 May will really help to secure the Nissan UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country World Cup here next year."

Cycling governing body British Cycling, landowner The Forestry Commission, UK Sport and regional development agency Yorkshire Forward are preparing to submit a bid to international cycling governing body the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) to bring the Nissan UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country World Cup to Dalby in 2010.

If the bid is successful, Yorkshire Forward has pledged to invest in the development of mountain biking in Yorkshire by developing a network of six new trail centres in the region and employing a new Go-Ride coach to inspire and nurture young Yorkshire cyclists.

More information about the British Mountain Bike Series can be found at www.britishxc.com and at www.britishcycling.org.uk

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Notes to editors:

- British Cycling is the national governing body for cycle sport in the UK
- British Cycling helps everyday cyclists enjoy riding more through the Everyday Cycling scheme
- British Cycling works throughout the sport – from delivering Olympic medals to encouraging people to get on a bike for the first time
- The Great Britain Cycling Team brought home 14 Olympic medals and 20 Paralympic medals from the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games
- British Cycling is the fastest growing cycling organisation in the UK, with 25,000 members
- British Cycling was involved with 3,000 affiliated events in 2008
- British Cycling encourages and develops children's cycling talents: the Go Ride scheme is expected to deliver up to 90,000 opportunities in 2008/09
- British Cycling is funded by membership, UK Sport, Sport England and British Sky Broadcasting
- For more information on British Cycling visit www.britishcycling.org.uk

UK Sport's World Class Events Programme invests around £3.3 million of Lottery funds each year in bringing world class international competition to the UK, with events supported primarily for performance reasons. It has supported more than 120 events of World, European or Commonwealth status since its inception in 1997.

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