



## **NEWS LETTER WINTER 2012**

It was another fantastic summer of Mountain Biking in the French/Swiss Alps, the weather had been great throughout spring period which has meant that the trails were in fantastic condition all summer.

The team at Chatel Bike park yet again did a great job in not only maintaining the existing trails but also in creating some challenging new ones. It's great to see that each year the resort is investing in the development of the trail network and ensuring that there is always something new for the returning bikers.

Along with the Porte Du Soliel marked trails, we were also able to recce some great backcountry terrain around the Swiss valley, using their excellent train network, incorporating some epic single track descents and stunning wilderness views.

Now that we are through the hectic Christmas and New Year period, we can start looking forward to another summer of biking fun. I will keep you posted on all of the upcoming biking news from Chatel via the Holygrail web site and newsletters.



### **BIKE PARK AMMENDMENTS**

During October and November the old Rochassons two man lift from the mid station of the bike park has been replaced with a modern six man lift, with a uplift time of only 4 mins this should hopefully see an end to those long lift queues !!



Also the dedicated Bike Park crew have been hard at work creating some epic new runs along with updating some of the classic lines that we have come to love.



Check out offers for our Yoga and Wellbeing retreat at [www.holygrailmtb.com/yoga](http://www.holygrailmtb.com/yoga)



*Twisting Ridgeline Decent*



*Epic Swiss Terrain.*



For bespoke Catering services visit [www.deliciousliaison.com](http://www.deliciousliaison.com)

**New Trails:** Kougar, JaJa, El Chicano and Sebe

**Trail Upgrades:** Serpentine, Ric Rac and Fluid



## WORLD CHAMPS CHAMPERY 2011

What a weekend!

The Elite downhill races that many fans consider as the 'Blue Ribbon' events of any UCI MTB World Championships, ended with two surprising winners who were able to take advantage of the challenging course conditions to clearly beat the pre-races favourites thanks to inspired runs down the treacherous 'La Derup' course.



Danny Hart rode one of the most impressive runs that I have ever seen to demolish the opposition by a clear 11 seconds; his composure was such that he even managed to put in a hugh whip over the final series of jumps. My hat comes off to a young man with a huge future in the sport.

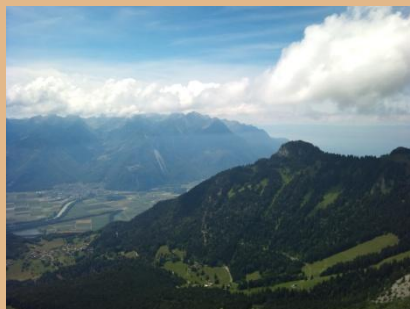
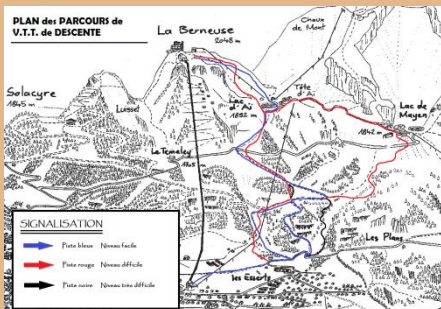
Although the British ladies were unable to match the World Championship title that Tracy won last year, she did follow it up with the overall World Cup victory that she so richly deserved. Her consistent pace and awesome strength gave her the edge over her competitors all year long.

Lets keep our fingers crossed that the ever emerging pool of talent in the UK can match or even build on a great 2011.



## RIDING LEYSIN BIKE PARK

Its less well known than its Port Du Soleil counterparts but still well worth a visit, consisting of two blue, two red and one very gnarly black run it has plenty to keep you interested. Factor in that there are very few people up there and that the runs are in great shape (Not to many brake bumps) and you will have yourself a great day.



*Nice spot to mend a puncture!*



Whinlatter Forest Centre Keswick



***'TOP TIP – 'STAY LOOSE AND LET THE BIKE DO THE WORK FOR YOU'***



Chatel Bike Park

The views off of the top from the La Berneuse are quiet simply stunning as on a good day you can see some off the classic mountains Mont Blanc, Matterhorn and Eiger!!

---

## SUMMER 2012 BIKING ITINERARY



### THE RAZOR SNOW BIKE COMP 10<sup>TH</sup> March

The Razorsnowbike includes two races and welcomes amateurs and professional MTB riders on snow at Linga.

For the first competition of the day, the riders entering the derby will start at Col du Linga for a speed competition that will take them to the bottom of Linga, after that the six cross will take place on a run full of moguls and traps.



### PASSPORT DU SOLEIL 29/30/01<sup>ST</sup> July

The world famous Passports will again be run around the last weekend in June and running over three days, the route takes you through 80 km of stunning alpine terrain and 7000m of vertical descent it's going to be another date not to miss. Tickets go on sale on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Feb and you will need to be quick to get one!!



### CHATEL MOUNTAIN STYLE 06/07/08<sup>TH</sup> July

For the 6<sup>th</sup> year running the Free ride Mountain Bike World Tour is coming to Châtel, with the world's top riders descending on Châtel to ride the infamous FACE... over two days of extreme completion.



### ISX EUROPEAN DOWNHILL CUP 08/09<sup>TH</sup> Sept

Right after the World Championships the series will head for downhill Mecca Portes du Soleil; to be more exact, to Châtel in the French part of the region. 2012 will see the Cup returning for the fifth time, with the race taking place on the Bike Patrol course, not for nothing classed as a black run.



*No I haven't just ridden over the camera man.*



*Top of the world!*





## HOLYGRAIL BIKE CLUB

In collaboration with [Alpine Retreat](#), we are offering the chance to come and join us for a great weeks riding in the Porte Du Soleil running from Sat Aug 11th to Sat Aug 18th.

We're well aware that not everyone has a large group of riding buddies that they can call on for their summer biking break, which is why we've put together the HolyGrail bike club, there are no minimum numbers required for booking which means anyone can come and join our social group of like minded riders. All are welcome and the friendly atmosphere will ensure you have a holiday to remember.

Included in the Bike Club package:

- Accommodation in a traditional Alpine Chalet
- Continental Breakfast (Cooked Breakfast Available on Request Supplementary Cost)
- Transfer's from Geneva Airport
- Shuttle runs to and from the Lifts
- Bike Tech assistance (If Required)
- Comprehensive on mountain assistance

## Dates / Price

11th/18th August - £350 per Person



## MTB KIT



**Trek Remedy:** This is high on my birthday wish list as having tested one last summer I believe that it is as close to the ultimate compromise as you can get in the Alps!

It's happy to climb all day long but with 150mm front travel you can also feel comfortable on steep and technical descents, by switching from single to twin ply tyres it's just as at ease in the bike park!

Come and visit the web site for up to date info and a sneak preview as to what to expect with a Holygrail Holiday

[WWW.Holygrailmtb.com](http://WWW.Holygrailmtb.com)



*Stopping for lunch on the Mont De Grange.*



*The French/Swiss Border.*



*New Route Finding, I think it goes???*

