



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hot, Fast and Unforgettable: The Gralloch Delivers Gravel Racing at Its Finest

GATEHOUSE OF FLEET, SCOTLAND - Under a blazing sun and on bone-dry, dust-choked trails, The Gralloch returned to the Galloway Forest Park for its third edition, offering a thrilling spectacle as part of the UCI Gravel World Series. Riders from across the globe (35 nations) tackled the iconic Scottish course, with elite men and women racing flat-out across 111km of rolling gravel, fierce climbs, and technical descents.

With scorching conditions transforming the famously rugged route into a high-speed battleground, both elite races delivered gripping storylines, breakout performances, and two unforgettable sprint finishes in Garries Park.

Men's Elite Race: Vakoč Claims Victory in Photo Finish

A stacked men's field set off with a clear intent to race hard and fast. Early climbs, including the iconic Fuffock Hill, saw a large front group emerge before Petr Vakoč (Canyon Isadore) and Ben Thomas (Ribble Outliers) broke clear on the descent and built a commanding lead, continually increasing through key climbs such as Slaughter Hill and along Raiders Road. The gap increased further up until the 76.5km mark.

But as Vakoč suffered a puncture, the door opened for a dramatic regrouping. Matthew Holmes (OGT Factor Racing) and Benjamin Perry reeled in the leaders, setting up a tense four-way battle.

Returning to Garries Park for the sprint, Holmes led it out, but a perfectly timed inside line from Vakoč saw the Czech rider snatch victory by just **three hundredths of a second**. Holmes was left agonisingly close to back-to-back Gralloch wins, with Perry rounding out the podium and Thomas finishing fourth—just one second behind.

Top 4 separated by a single second. A race for the ages.

Women's Elite Race: Neefjes Triumphs After Epic Battle

The Elite Women's field was loaded with talent—and ready to race. Noemie Thomson lit up the course with a fearless solo attack on Fuffock Hill, carving out a lead that stretched to nearly 2.5 minutes by KM61.

Behind her, a chase group of four formed: Ffion Gilbert (Wold Top Pactimo), Tessa Neefjes (Liv Racing), Lizi Brooke (Das Hutchinson), and Sophie Wright (Ribble Outliers). Thomson's crash with 14km to go gave the quartet the opportunity they needed.

What followed was a tactical game of grit and speed, culminating in yet another four-way sprint into the Event Village. Brooke (+0:07) was the first to fade, while Neefjes surged ahead to secure a famous win ahead of Gilbert (+0:00) and Wright (+0:01).

A Gravel Classic in the Making

With the Galloway hills baking in Scottish sunshine, thousands of supporters and riders lined the course and festival grounds in Gatehouse of Fleet to witness a world-class gravel showcase.

The Gralloch once again proved itself as one of the premier gravel events in Europe—delivering drama, challenge, and a celebration of the off-road spirit in one of the UK's most scenic locations.

Official results are available at: <https://www.grallochgravel.com/results>

##ENDS##

FURTHER INFORMATION, IMAGES & VIDEOS

Full details about The Gralloch are available at: grallochgravel.com

Event images are available at the link below and should be credited to **Red On Sports (and the relevant photographer)**:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PJeY-cn9__nBVjO6hnUm502GzGePH08b?usp=sharing

PRESS CONTACT INFORMATION

Maximilian Wussler, Red On Sports

Email: press@redonsports.com

Tel: +44 7444 266740

NOTES TO EDITORS

About The Gralloch

The Gralloch is the United Kingdom's premier gravel cycling event and the first to be included in the UCI Gravel World Series. Held annually in Gatehouse of Fleet, Scotland, The Gralloch has rapidly grown into the largest and most prestigious gravel race in the UK. The event offers a true festival atmosphere with a world-class race, a standalone women's start, a non-competitive sportive, live music, food and drink, and a vibrant expo village. The Gralloch has become a must-attend for elite riders, amateurs, and cycling fans alike, serving as a key qualifier for the UCI Gravel World Championships.

About Red On Sports

Red On Sports is a leading sports event management and marketing company based in the UK. Specialising in gravel cycling and endurance events, Red On Sports owns and operates a growing portfolio of international experiences including The Gralloch, the British Gravel Championships, the Merciless Gravel Challenge Series, and the Unchained Touring Club. With a commitment to excellence, sustainability, and community, Red On Sports is shaping the future of off-road and adventure cycling across Europe. **For more information visit:** www.redonsports.com