



2S Rider Race Report

2S Rider:	Tom Deacon
Race:	UCI World Cup Round One
Date:	11 th -12 th April
Location:	Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

After spending 4 weeks in Spain racing the Maxxis Cups and filming for FOFO 2, I went home for 2 days before the mammoth trip to SA. Three train rides, 3 flights and 2 days later I was in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

It was a lot different to I imagined, a lot greener and pretty much reminded me of home except it was sunny and about 30degrees C. We got there before most people and set up the pits early, it was exciting watching everyone role up and get pitched seeing the new teams and catching up with old faces you haven't seen over winter.

Practice started on Thursday. Straight out the start gate was a tabletop into a dusty berm then some off camber before hitting the rock section. After the rock section was some pedalling then into the "cork screw" section and hip which most riders hopped off the left rather than taking off the big takeoff. This sent you into a kicker where you launched into a gully at mach10 and pinned it down to the triple and 50ft table. This was a real fun bit of track before getting to the flat straight woods that made your lungs burst. I'm glad I was on the 2Stage here though, with it locking out under pedalling was a sure advantage and got up to speed fast.

If you could still see after sprinting the flat section you got to have some fun on the 4x course with some nice jumps and fly offs before crossing the finish line.

It was a new format here having qualifying on Friday. We had a good couple of runs in the morning then chilled out while Trev prepped our bikes ready for our runs. I was pretty nervous with it being the first WC of the year but I had a solid run and qualified.

Race day came round quick, I put in 2 runs in the morning practice, and I felt good and had a couple of new lines. I was looking forward to the finals. All morning spectators were piling in to get a spot on the track to watch the finals, the atmosphere was amazing and everyone was hyped up to support homeboy Greg Minnar.

I had a pretty solid run up the top and pedalled as hard as I could, it was an absolute killer doing a race run here. I smashed my foot on a stump pretty bad ripping my toe nail off and nailing my toes which wasn't the best but ended up 57th. Most said the race was won or lost in the pedalling section. I will be training hard over winter for when we return to SA next year!!

It was an awesome trip and decent start to the UCI series. Trev did a top job of keeping the bike in shape and thanks 2Stage Bikes, SRAM, FUNN, TGG-customs, Adidas Eyewear, Leatt Brace and Five Ten.

- Tom Deacon