**4X WORLD TITLES AWARDED TO AUSTRALIAN BUCHANAN AND SWEDISH BEKEMAN**

**AT VAL DI SOLE**

**Caroline Buchanan** from Australia and **Felix Beckeman** from Sweden have been crowned the 2017 UCI World Champions in the 4X division. The world titles were assigned to the two riders Friday evening on the Commezzadura track in Val di Sole. **Giovanni Pozzoni** came in third, winning the prestigious bronze medal.

Beginning with the semi-finals, the women's race was closer than the men's. All of the favourites qualified for the finals, with the silver going to **Romana Labounkova** from the Czech Republic and the bronze going to **Helene Valerie Fruhwirth** from Austria. Meanwhile, the wooden medal went to **Natasha Bradley** from Great Britain. This is the fifth gold medal for Caroline Buchanan in the 4X category, after the world titles she earned in 2009, 2010, 2013, and 2016.

The men's race was longer and more thrilling, especially because of falls and errors that happened from the final sixteen to the semi-finals, which excluded some of the most likely candidates from the podium. One of the strongest and most enduring Four Cross specialists, **Scott Beaumont** from Great Britain, was out immediately due to a fall. The surprises began in the following round with the elimination of the current world champion, **Mitja Ergaver** from Slovenia, who came in third in his round. The same for Cristofoli. The real drama played out in the semi-finals, first with the eliminations of British **Luke Cryer** and French **Sylvain Andre**, and then of **Barry Nobles** from the US, followed by Austrian **Hannes Slavik**. Thus, Pozzoni found the track cleared for his well-earned finals, having raced consistently and aggressively. Beckeman dominated the race, preceding Frenchman **Quentin Derbier** and the cyclist from Bergamo's Team Le Marmotte Loreto. **Benedikt Last** from Germany came in fourth. A large audience came to watch the men's and women's finals, lining up along the entire course of the spectacular Daolasa track and crowding the stands near the finish line where a big screen made sure nobody missed a moment of the races.

For more information and other materials:

**OMNIA Relations PRESS OFFICE**
OMNIA FACTORY, T. + 39 051 6939166\_6939129 | OMNIA LAB, T. + 39 051 261449

Media Relations: Chiara Caliceti, chiara.caliceti@omniarelations.com
Press Office Coordinator: Alessandra Iozzia, alessandra.iozzia@omniarelations.com,

M. + 39 333 3835185
Press Office: Nicola Cristofori, nicola.cristofori@omniarelations.com,

M. + 39 349 6086830

 Content editor: Elena Tartaglione, elena.tartaglione@omniarelations.com

 [www.omniarelations.com](http://www.omniarelations.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**PRESS OFFICE Val di Sole**:

Alberto Penasa, penasa.a@valdisole.net; T.+39 0463 900863

**CONTENT EDITOR Big Events Committee:**

Cristiano Guarco, cristiano.guarco@gmail.com