



THE 2026 HERO UCI CROSS-COUNTRY MARATHON WORLD CUP: THE END OF THE LA TRAMUN SEA OTTER EUROPE RINGS IN DAVID VALERO SERRANO AND ANNA WEINBEER AS THE WORLD CUP CIRCUIT'S WINNERS

La Tramun Sea Otter Europe declared the winners of its 88 km race – but the Spanish event also rung in the winners of the 2026 UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup.

David Valero Serrano, from Spain, was first to cross the finish line, followed by the recently crowned World Champion Andreas Seewald, with Norway's Eskil Evensen-Lie hot on the German's heels. The Women saw Anna Weinbeer win, followed by Claudia Peretti from Italy, with Natalia Fischer from Spain placing third.

The overall ranking of the 2026 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup is therefore led by Spain's David Valero Serrano and Switzerland's Anna Weinbeer, making them the winners of the HERO circuit's second edition.

Hashtag: #HERO #UCI #HEROWorldCup #HEROUCIMarathonWorldCup #RACEtoGLORY

Girona/Costa Brava (SPA), 20 September 2026 – Just like any good stage production, all good things must come to an end – and so they did, with the curtain call of the 2026 **HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup** taking place today in Girona. No encore needed but before sending the spectators on their way home, the race declared who the winners of this prestigious international circuit were.

Spain's Costa Brava was the stage of the sixth and final round of the UCI World Cup which overlapped with the La Tramun, organised as part of the Sea Otter Europe trade fair, which this year celebrated its 27th edition.

104 Elite cyclists competed on the qualifying track for the **2026 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup**, racing for **88 km and 2,400 hm**. A gruelling and extremely technical race which rewards cyclists' fitness and skills as they aim to secure a spot on the final podium.

THE RACE

Right from the start, David Valero, Samuele Porro, Dario Cherchi, and Marc Stutzmann composed the breakaway, with a one-minute lead over Lorenzo Samparisi and Tristan Nortje (South Africa), who made the headlines for winning the 2026 Cape Epic. Behind this second group, with quite a bit to catch up at the 20-km mark, was the freshly crowned Marathon World Champion, Andreas Seewald (Germany), with Wout Alleman (Belgium) keeping him good company who, today, really gave it his all in his last attempt to sweep victory away from Valero Serrano as World Cup leader.

The first part of the track's relatively smooth terrain allowed the chasing cyclists to make headway: at the 36-km mark, the breakaway group was joined by Seewald and Eskil Evensen-Lie (Norway), who slowly but surely made up for his slow start in the second half of the race. Leonardo Paez (Colombia), who placed third in the overall HERO ranking, never truly shone during today's race, while his teammate Dario Cherchi, while completing the race, had to give up hope for a top spot in the overall ranking as he was impeded by a mechanical issue.

The race really took off in the second half, as Valero sped up. Racing in his own country, he aimed to win a second time to conquer the Cup. The only one who had a stab at keeping up with him was Andreas Seewald who, despite his slow start, put his outstanding skills on show, this also applying to an excellent race strategy; another head-to-head was taking place further behind between Samuele Porro and Evensen-Lie for the podium's third place – in the end, the final sprint was won by the Norwegian cyclist.

Just a few minutes before, Valero Serrano cut the finish line as he waved the Spanish flag and embraced his Klimatiza Orbea team. Even Seewald's second place speaks highly of his performance and profile as athlete.

David Valero Serrano, representing Klimatiza Orbea Team, won today's race, which scored him 250 points, clinching the victory of the 2026 edition of the **HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup**. The Cup's winner says: *"This is an emotional moment. Winning in Spain matters to me and my team. I'm overjoyed to have won the World Cup and to have maintained my focus even in the season's final weeks."*

Wout Alleman, from Belgium, placed second in the overall ranking, while he placed fifth in the La Tramun ranking. His 140 points weren't enough to beat the Spanish rival.

The UCI World Cup overall ranking is closed in third position by **Leo Paez**, from Colombia, representing Lee Cougan Basso Factory Racing, who finished the La Tramun in sixteenth place.

DOMINATING ANOTHER RACE AMONG THE WOMEN

It looked as though Claudia Peretti had nothing to worry about, pulling out all the stops in the track's first half, to the point she had over 2 minutes' advantage over Anna Weinbeer, from Switzerland. The Swiss cyclist was debuting her World Marathon winner jersey, which she won last week in Trentino. Peretti, from Italy, had to reckon with the slow but unstoppable march of Weinbeer, who caught up with her at the foot of the climb and *"overtook me at twice my pace"* Peretti recounted at the end of the race. She qualified second at La Tramun – a déjà vu as she also won silver during the last weekend's race. Anna herself was

waiting for her at the finish line, and she burst into tears as she embraced Claudia for having snatched her dreams of victory. But as we all know, that's how sports work: only the best can win and, today, that person was Anna Weinbeer.

The fight for the third place on the podium was waged between Natalia Fischer Egusquiza from Spain and Yana Belomoina – the latter had surprisingly had a winning shot at third place until mid-race, but she then finished in fifth position.

Anna Weinbeer, representing KTM SPADA Powered by BRENTA BRAKES, finished the Spanish race in first place, winning 250 points – which contributed nicely to her already mathematically secured spot of overall winner of the **2026 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World**, which she'd held since the Black Forest race in July. She says: *"What can I say? I'm happy, happy for how today went but also for the extraordinary season I've had. I've won this cup and a week ago I won the winner's jersey which I'll get to wear for an entire year."*

Natalia Fischer, representing Extremadura Ecopilas, finished second in the overall ranking, while she placed third at La Tramun, which scored her 160 points. The World Cup podium was completed by **Claudia Peretti's** third position, who actually finished second during today's La Tramun – her resulting 200 points were not enough to finish second in the overall ranking.

The **2026 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup** sees both Elite and Master categories competing. In the latter, Xavier Calaf Garcia beat Alberto Losada Alguacil, with Alexandre Llado Diaz placing third, relinquishing the title of winner he had obtained in the first edition. Anna Magoń-Romanów won in the Women's category.

Gerhard Vanzi, coordinator of the HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup, declared: *"We're already looking to the next season, which is why it's important to take stock of the project which, even during its second edition, has contributed to the profile of mountain bike marathons. The HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup had proved how this sport represents an extraordinary tool to enhance the countries which host the event while also marrying high-octane, professional sport and the passion of countless amateur cyclists who embody its quintessence."*

After six races bursting with adrenaline and plot twists, this year's edition of the UCI World Cup ends. But the **2027 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup** is already being prepared.

Gerhard Vanzi's final remarks were: *"Before thinking about the next season, I would like to thank the UCI, the races' Organising Committees, and all the partners for their trust and collaboration. A special thanks goes to the Elite and Master athletes, who continue believing in the project, thus contributing to the success and growth of this new World Cup."*

La Tramun Sea Otter Europe -20 September 2026

Men's Ranking

1.	VALERO SERRANO David	SPA	KLIMATIZA ORBEA TEAM	4:32:00.29	
2.	SEEWALD Andreas	GER	SINGER KTM RACING	4:34:13.48	+2:13.19
3.	EVENSEN-LIE Eskil	NOR	METALLURGICA VENETA	4:37:25.78	+5:25.49
4.	PORRO Samuele	ITA	KLIMATIZA ORBEA TEAM	4:37:28.96	+5:28.67
5.	ALLEMAN Wout	BEL		4:41:28.68	+9:28.39
6.	NORTJE Tristan	RSA		4:42:28.65	+10:28.36
7.	SAMPARISI Lorenzo	ITA	KTM SPADA	4:44:00.84	+12:00.55
8.	BILLI Jacopo	ITA		4:45:06.77	+13:06.48

9. GESCHE ANTONA Sebastian Andres	CHI	KLIMATIZA ORBEA TEAM	4:45:24.36	+13:24.07
10. GORIA Stefano	ITA		4:47:53.03	+15:52.74

Women's Ranking

1. WEINBEER Anna	SUI	KTM SPADA	5:32:52.65	
2. PERETTI Claudia	ITA		5:37:47.05	+4:54.40
3. FISCHER Natalia	SPA	EXTREMADURA ECOPILAS	5:43:29.22	+10:36.57
4. GORYCKA KURMANN Paula	POL		5:53:00.75	+20:08.10
5. BELOMOINA Yana	UKR		5:57:12.70	+24:20.05
6. BOHLIN Amanda	SWE		5:57:49.54	+24:56.89
7. NJEMČEVIĆ Lejla	BIH		5:59:16.06	+26:23.41
8. ZARANTONELLO Maria	ITA	METALLURGICA VENETA	6:21:49.35	+48:56.70
9. MORATH Adelheid	GER	LEECOUGAN BASSO	6:27:12.17	+54:19.52
10. FASOLIS Costanza	ITA		6:43:20.96	+1:10:28.31

2026 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup

Men's Ranking

1. David Valero Serrano 1190 pt.
2. Wout Alleman 865 pt.
3. Leo Paez 770 pt.

Women's Ranking

1. Anna Weinbeer 1400 pt.
2. Natalia Fischer 1055 pt.
3. Claudia Peretti 980 pt.

The complete rankings can be found at heroucimarathonworldcup.com

Organising Committee

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