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**Mauritius Tour Beachcomber 2018: South African rider James Reid supports the Tour's third edition**

When it was launched in 2016, the Mauritius Tour Beachcomber had one simple aim: to give mountain bikers an opportunity to quench their thirst for adventure in a beautiful natural setting. Since then, this key event in the local sporting calendar has been on a roll. Over the years, the MTB has played host to an array of high profile mountain bikers including Reunion Island's Quentin Soubadou, Gregory Maillot (the MTB ambassador in Reunion Island in 2017 and 2018), Yannick Lincoln and Aurélie Halbwachs Lincoln (respectively the MTB 2017 men's and women's champions). The patron of the Mauritius Tour Beachcomber's 2018 edition – due to be held from May 17th to 19th – has just been revealed as South African mountain biker James Reid.

A 25-year-old cross-country enthusiast, James Reid holds an impressive number of records despite his young age. He is a member of Team Spur and competes in the Elite category in South Africa. He is the South African MTB National Champion in 2016. In the same year, he finished 41<sup>st</sup> at the World Cup hosted by the International Cycling Union in Lenzerheide, Switzerland (UCI MTB World CUP - XCO - DHI). He also took the 42<sup>nd</sup> place at the Olympic Games in Rio in August 2016. Previously, he participated in the #GOGREEN campaign to improve waste management during endurance events in South Africa. "Although he has retired from competition for an indefinite period, James Reid has agreed to support the 2018 Mauritius Tour Beachcomber. We are grateful and honored by his presence in this event" said Arianne Devienne Bellepeau, Leisure & Events Manager of Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels.

As a reminder, this year's edition of the Mauritius Tour Beachcomber will consist of four stages: 65 km, 40 km, 5 x 4.5 km, and 63 km. Registration for this exceptional event is already open. Mountain biking enthusiasts can sign up via the following link: <http://www.beachcomber-events.com/mtb>.

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About Beachcomber

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels is the pioneer and leader of the Mauritian tourism industry. Since the creation of Park Hotel in 1952, a collection of 9 resorts have emerged over the years, including the mythical Royal Palm

Beachcomber Luxury Mauritius in 1985, considered by everyone as the reference in hospitality for luxury holidays in Mauritius.

The Group recently expanded its collection, with the integration of the Beachcomber French Riviera, situated on the Côte d'Azur, in France.

The collection of 9 resorts affords a choice of accommodation options ranging from rooms and apartments to suites and villas. Each hotel is imbued with a particular history and cachet, embodying an image of discrete luxury.

*Social responsibility – Fondation Espoir Développement (FED), by Beachcomber*

Set up and financed by Beachcomber since 1999, with the participation of hotels and employees, this foundation takes care of these main projects:

- *Projet Employabilité Jeunes (PEJ)*: professional insertion of school drop-outs through a training programme and industrial attachments.
- Collaboration with NGOs, schools and associations
- Regional projects – youth mentoring: the “Amour et Espoir” NGO; IT initiation; youth monitoring via the “Duke of Edinburgh International Award” programme, participation of regional sports clubs in the organisation of the Beachcomber UTRB Trail 2015

*Social responsibility – Local Hands*

Programme launched in 2006 to support small local artisans by providing them with training and guidance as they embark upon the process of creation, production, marketing and sales.

*Sustainable development – our environmental actions – EarthCheck label*

Sustainable development and environmental protection constitute real considerations within the Group, which has set up, amongst other initiatives, practices that ensure energy savings and favour renewable energy sources. These initiatives in favour of sustainable development have been recognised and rewarded, with two of our hotels recently obtaining the EarthCheck Benchmarked Bronze accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices.