



**Wentwood Forest X**

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## Wentwood 50km Mountain Bike Enduro, Sunday 11th March 2012

Feedback is important to us and we really appreciate your constructive comments to make the event the best that it can possibly be (please do remember that it's all in aid of charity, so we're trying to achieve a pragmatic balance between cost overheads and the donations we hope to make, without compromising your enjoyment). Just ping an email to [robert.storey@wentwood50.co.uk](mailto:robert.storey@wentwood50.co.uk) and we'll publish it here - good or bad.

For starters, have a read of the article published by Matt Lewis for xcracer.com. You can [download Matt's article here](#).

### Wentwood50 March 6th 2011 Event Feedback

**06 Mar 2011 Subject:** Wentwood 50 - OUTSTANDING

Rob, Just a quick email to say thanks for an OUTSTANDING event today - from a rider perspective, it was flawless. Great organisation, trails and conditions (that was lucky eh?). I've not done many events, but the Wentwood 50 was better than the Rough Ride and the Newnham 60. A big thanks to all of the marshalls, support crew and anyone else who did something to make it happen. I'm pretty knackered now, and no doubt so are you. Best Wishes, Leighton Rees

**Reply:** Thanks Leighton much appreciated. Yeap knackered too, and we've learned a few things that we'll tweak for next year to make it even better.

**07 Mar 2011 Subject:** Wentwood50

Hey Rob, Just to let you know yesterday's event was the best I have been on. There was nothing to find fault with as far as I could see. Many other contestants said the same to me. I know you had help from friends and family and you should all be very pleased with yourselves. I hope it all went well for you and you meet your targets. The ride was amazing. Regards, Derek Murden

**Reply:** Hi Derek, fantastic and glad you enjoyed it, really appreciate your feedback. I'll pass it across to everyone involved as I know they will be chuffed to see the impact of all their efforts, Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood MTB

That was a great event yesterday. Could you say a big thank you to all the event organisers, route setters and helpers for a superbly organised event. It was some of the best natural single track I've done. Shame about those nasty up hill bits! The section from the 40km food station to the 50k was the longest and hardest 10k section I have had to endure. The food stations were top notch as well. Surprisingly I don't feel too bad today. Bit of a sore knee, but it was sore before I started!, Cheers, Steve

**Reply:** Many thanks Steve - it's really great to get this kind of feedback.

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

I just want to say big thanks for a great event and I thought all the marshals and volunteers did a magnificent job throughout, I also thought the route was spot on, a real mountain biker's route with some great technical descents. My legs certainly feel like they've had a good workout and I'll definitely be putting my entry in for next years event. Congratulations to you all. Kind regards, Paul Hallett

**Reply:** Thanks Paul, really pleased that you enjoyed the route and that you're planning on entering again next year.

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

That was an excellent inaugural event. I'm a local boy and have never really ridden around most of those trails before. The course was excellent, thank goodness it was dry, it would've been very tough in the wet. I made the mistake of not paying attention at about the 40km and took a wrong turn and got lost which was a shame since I was in 9th at the time. Never mind! It was an excellent event and I think that you may have the makings of an annual, season-opening classic! Cheers, Matt Lewis, Xcracer.com

**Reply:** Hi Matt, Really pleased that you enjoyed the forest and trails ...and you're right in the wet it's a killer!, but completely do'able - just adds another complete layer of mental fatigue. There's a few things that we're already talking about tweaking for next year to make it even better - registration process, etc. but also some aspects of the route marking (e.g. we learned that neon yellow is great for overcast weather, but not so good in sunlight, also standardising on marking junctions, etc.), so hopefully even less likely of making a wrong turn!

**Subject:** Thank You

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to yourself and everyone involved from 5 of us who took part in Sundays event. The marshals did a great job, were very friendly and had words of encouragement and something cheerful to say whenever we passed by. The food station was like a forest wedding buffet! didn't want to leave there once we had stopped!! It was the hardest 50k but also the most enjoyable we have ever done. We all agreed we would be back next year. See you in 2012, Thanks again, Ian Tough

**Reply:** Fantastic Ian, much appreciated and glad you and your mates had a great day out riding... Look forward to seeing you next year at the feed station Cheers, Robert

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

I have never emailed anybody after riding an enduro but enjoyed your ride so much that I felt compelled to give you some feedback! You have all worked very hard to design a really testing course with some fantastic up and downhill sections. The course was very well marked out with sufficient marshals, the feed stations were well supplied with a good variety of drinks on offer. I am sure some people will say the road section at the start was too long but I thought it was fine, it allowed the pack to thin out sufficiently before we hit the off-road sections. A big thank you to the organisers, volunteers and landowners for a very gruelling but enjoyable Sunday morning! I will be back next year. Cheers, Simon Kelly

**Reply:** Thanks for the feedback and really pleased that you enjoyed the event. I'll pass it on to everyone involved and look forward to seeing you next year. Cheers

**Subject:** Goshawk 50

First mountain bike event i have entered. Course great [so much variety], marshals first class and way-markers easy to follow. Big crash ,down hill last 10k. I will be back next year , Ray Purnell.

**Reply:** Thanks for that, glad you enjoyed the course and hope the crash wasn't too scary and all is ok.

**Subject:** Wentwood50

I really enjoyed the 25km course yesterday and wish to thank the marshall who helped me get through the course. I also would like to thank the guy at the event that helped me put on my front wheel on my bike. It was challenging ride but enjoyable and I'm glad that I had the experience of doing it. Kind Regards, Jane Croydon

**Reply:** I'm really pleased that you did the 25km route. It was a tough one and for your first event you've definitely challenged yourself. Well done for sticking it out, I'll pass on your thanks to the team and hope to see you next year.

**Subject:** wentwood 50

Thanks for organising what was probably the best of its kind I've ridden (admittedly a total of only 5 so far). The route was terrific, with such variety and clearly marked and to have one cake station that you could visit 3 times was a masterstroke. Please pass on my thanks to all the volunteers who did such a grand job with such good humour and efficiency. Pete Dixon

**Reply:** ...I like my cakes too. :-)

**Subject:** Wentwood

Just to say thanks, it was obvious that the organisers, marshals etc, all put a huge effort in and produced a great event. Cheers, Graham

**Reply:** Thanks Graham, much appreciated. Glad you enjoyed it. Cheers

**Subject:** superb route in wentwood

Congratulations on putting together a superb route in Wentwood. I have ridden there regularly for the last 18 years and thought it would be difficult to get a good 50k course. You and your team really came up with the goods on Sunday. Excellent course with loads of singletrack , downhill & technical sections. (tea stop was well appreciated on a cold day!) In my opinion it ranks with some of the bigger, well known, Mid Wales events. Well Done!! Richie Wyson

**Reply:** Thanks for that. We worked at trying to get the right mix of tracks that could holdup if the weather was nasty, and of course a different set of trails than if we had arranged it during the summer. Really glad you enjoyed it and pleased that even with your years of forest knowledge you found it rewarding, Cheers

**Subject:** feedback

Just a quick email to say thank you and well done to you and your team for organising a great event on the weekend. It was harder than I expected which is testament to it being a good route. The route had a good mix of technical climbs and muddy down hills, which in some places were far deeper than expected! but that just added to the enjoyment. It was well marked and equally well marshalled. You should give yourselves and team a pat on the back for delivering a quality event that, whilst still maintaining a friendly atmosphere, managed to pack hell of a punch in terms of the route. Well done. See you again next year. Cheers, Stu (Caerphilly)

**Reply:** Cheers Stu, glad you had a good day out and enjoyed the route. It does pack nasty punch – our kind of route ;- )

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

Aghhh!!! My legs ache... But what a fantastic day; well organised and fun. Tea and cakes anyone? Cheers, Rob Morgan

**Reply:** Great stuff, and nailed the sweet spot of our objectives!

**Subject:** Wentwood50

Great event. Great sections of trail riding. Organization was excellent and I am glad to have taken part. Well done to all the organisers and marshalls etc. Not a moan but did take a wrong trail because of signage. Met 2 riders on route who had done same and my mate whom I spoke with later also had similar troubles. Mark James

**Reply:** Thanks Mark, will pass on the appreciation. We've noted a couple of tweaks for route marking next year from yours and others feedback which we'll implement. We pretty sure we know the where, what, and why of it so will get it sorted for next year. Glad you had a great day out. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

Much harder and challenging 50km than I thought and just the type of event needed to blow away the winter weariness. Great overall BUT I thought the waymarking was vague at a number of junctions, particularly if you're using virgin woodland trails and also approaching a speed. Next year may be some additional marking so you know what gap to follow through. Owen Davies

**Reply:** Thanks Owen. Glad to hear it turned out to be tougher than you thought it would be. We're pretty sure we know where you're referring to, and where a few riders went astray esp. if travelling at speed, hence with a few small tweaks we're confident we'll sort it for next year and minimise the chance of missed arrows. Cheers

**Subject:** Fantastic

What a fantastic day you and your team put together. This was my first ride over at wentwood but not my last. The course was well marshalled and great that you provided free food and drinks (personally I would have paid extra for this as it was for charity) If I was to be highly critical I would say the start could have been split into groups (age, distance etc) as we spent the first hour or so trying to get past fellow riders and we weren't racing but just riding at a slightly quicker pace and started at the back. Thank you all for all your hard work and support you have put in to make the day such a success for all of us who had the privilege to ride. Many Thanks, Jerry

**Reply:** Thanks Jerry, excellent that you enjoyed Wentwood and hope to see you again next year. Not sure about splitting the start – most including me like the mass start, just need to be near the front if you think you'll be a bit quicker than some. Also not sure that splitting by age, distance etc. would work, and I'm keen to keep the same entry fee for everyone regardless of what distance they do, or register for. That way riders can keep going if they're having a great time...just ride until your legs fall off. Cheers

**08 Mar 2011 Subject:** Goshawk Challenge

A massive thank you for all your efforts and those of the whole team. I would like to have some constructive criticism to help you improve the event for next year. I enjoyed myself so much however, that I have no such suggestion. I had a brilliant weekend. What is more I have bananas in my lunchbox to prove it! My body still aches and as you said in the literature the event ticked all the boxes. Brian Murden

**Reply:** Thanks for the feedback and glad that you had a great day out riding. PS we donated a spare full box of bananas to the local primary school afterwards – so you could have stocked up for a few lunches yet!

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

I just wanted to thank you guys for a fantastic event on Sunday, by far one of the best MTB events I've attended. I loved, loved, loved the course a proper MTB course and great fun to ride. Also the feed station was by far the best I've ever seen and a welcome break during the event. The marshals too were fantastic, cheery and encouraging just what you need. All in all a fantastic event and a great effort for your first enduro, I will definitely be back next year :o), Mugs

**Reply:** Thanks Mugs, glad you had a great ride. We thought / hoped that others would like the forest as much as we do. Seems we were right! Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood Goshawk 50

First time I have entered anything like this, I thought it was superb, well organised, well marshalled and a very well planned route. I would like to thank all who volunteered help on the day, I will definitely be back for more. Paul Tappin

**Reply:** Excellent Paul, thanks for the feedback. Look forward to seeing you at next years event. Cheers

**Subject:** W50 – Feedback

Top marks on Sunday's event. Can't have been easy to organise for the first time in Wentwood. I ride there a lot anyway but there were still loads of areas I had no idea about! Did the full 50K and, man was it tough, but felt a real accomplishment when I'd (eventually) crossed the line! - As you've already noted the registration was a bit messy. We were instructed to queue on the right as we were not acquiring t-shirts, yet with mine and my brothers surname beginning with 'D' we had to squeeze through people to get to the left hand side of the desk to fill out our details and get our number. A wider, taller tent is definitely in order for next year. A P.A system would be a good addition too. - Some of the sign posting was a bit unclear. We encountered several riders who'd taken wrong turns as did we! But these minor points were overshadowed by an excellent event which I hope continues on for years to come. Having tea/coffee and cake at the water stops is a first for me at this sort of event and a much welcome touch!

The route itself was brilliant, and I'll be re-visiting it a lot from now on. (Apart from the private land of course!) Well done to you and all involved. Tim Day

**Reply:** Thanks Tim, great feedback and some good lessons learned for next years event. We'll sort the registration process easy enough, and the route marking too, so next year should be no wrong turns - even if we have to put arrows on front tyres! Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood50

Superb days riding. The event was a real hard challenge, and superbly organised. Considering a very large part of the 50k was through the forestry singletrack and fire roads, there was never anytime that we looked to get lost. It was very well sign posted, just a quick look about and there was always a bright arrow to be seen pointing the way not too far away. I hope you can increase the numbers of riders allowed for next year, because I shall be talking even more of my friends into ride it next year. Thanks again to all involved....and the flap-jacks were delicious - my only regret is not having bigger pockets, and maybe better fitness! Anthony Evans

**Reply:** Excellent, thanks. We noted the flapjacks were the first to go, so methinks we'll be ordering more for next year, and hopefully increasing rider numbers too. fyi, before and after pictures of the singletrack showed more damage from a single horse afterwards (on top of our 300 rider wheels) that the landowner thought that only a few dozen riders had shown up and the event must have been a disappointment!

Cheers

**Subject:** Brilliant.

What a Brilliant day, I can say that now it's over. Harder than I thought. You and your team delivered a top notch event. Food station at 25k was definitely in the right place. Thanks Darren Jones

**Reply:** Thanks Darren, glad you had a good day in the saddle. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

Great job on the course and to the whole crew on the organisation! I have rode in Wentwood for over 15 years and it is where I first started mountain biking, (we organised a mates downhill race back in the mid 90's and later went on to build where the current downhill track is) though in recent years I have rode there less and less as it's always been difficult to piece everything together and this is where I think you did an exceptional job.

A few times I thought 'oh your missing out a good bit here' but sure enough it looped back round and took it in later on from another approach - well done, as I had wondered how a 50km loop would have worked out but the split and crossover points were all managed really well. Having noticed a tear in my sidewall on the start line with the tube bulging out and that my front mech was broken from the downhill race on the same bike the day before, I was happy to get around the course with no blow out and I really enjoyed riding the course as did the guys I did it with. Finally, I am eternally grateful to the sun, as I know exactly how hard that would be if it had been wet!! Rowan Sorrell

**Reply:** Hi Rowan, great to see you back in your home woods!

Thanks for the feedback, everyone will be well chuffed with your comments. Still some sweet tracks in there (as you know) that we wanted to use, but just couldn't risk / use at this time of year, likewise some of the tracks we did use will get overgrown with brambles later on, so we picked our slot as pre-season tune-up and built it around that. Really pleased that the sun came out too, coz it showed the forest in the best possible light, and that's exactly what we hoped to achieve. Yeap, it's a killer in the wet...:-) Hope you can make it to next years event too. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood50

Loved the event. It was great to ride up Wentwood. I am local and had forgotten how good the forest was. I thought the event was excellent from start to finish. I missed a few of the signs passing them somehow. Then when I went back and saw it I wondered how on earth did I miss it. A bit confused with regard to the results. Any chance you could put them in the order that people finished in the 3 different lengths? I know it was not a race but it's nice to have a placing as such. Will be back next year! Jase

**Reply:** Really pleased that you managed to sort out an entry and had a good ride. If you're enjoying yourself, its easy to miss them - I was out yesterday and today taking route signs down, but kept forgetting I was supposed to stop because I was having such fun, then had to hit the brakes and go back again when I realized! No can do on the results I'm afraid, all to do with keeping our insurers happy. Cheers Rob

**Subject:** Wentwood50

Great event - well organised, marshaled an sign posted. This was my first event - I think other events have a lot to live up to! The rout provided a huge variety (including the long road section at the beginning - necessary i guess to split the field and be near a large enough area for parking, facilities etc). Riding Wentwood weekly, i think you showed off some of the best bits. Please make this an annual event :-)), lan

**Reply:** Thanks lan, we hope that we'll be able to run it next year too. Yes the road section at the start has a twofold purpose, as a great warm-up, and to line everyone up in pecking order for the singletrack. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

Thought I would congratulate you, and all those involved in organising Sunday's event, a great day! The course was challenging and tough in places, but exciting, with some great fast sections, glad to have taken part and chuffed to finish (eventually)!! This definitely needs to be an annual event! Cheers, Lewis

**Reply:** Hey Lewis, you did it! Excellent! ...and you were the very first person to register for the very first Wentwood50 event! Now you've proven you have the mental fitness, next year you'll do even better! Cheers

**Subject:** Well done!

Just wanted to say thanks to you and all those who stood for hours marshalling on what was a fairly cold day helping with the event on Sunday. It was really well organised, The route itself was superb and highly enjoyable, and made the pain worthwhile. I came across one ambiguous signpost but to be honest over a complex route of 50km through a forest it is to your immense credit that there weren't more. Thanks also to all the many riders who offered assistance when I had to stop to fix a snapped chain - there was a good spirit throughout. Additionally, we should of course pass on our gratitude to whoever ensured we didn't get any serious rain for the last couple of weeks...you clearly have friends in high places! Cheers, Allan Hodgson

**Reply:** Thanks Alan, really appreciate your kindness to the marshals and everyone else who helped in the background to make the event

**reply:** Thanks Alan, really appreciate your kindness to the marshals and everyone else who helped in the background to make the event successful. Everyone volunteered, most don't even cycle, so it's amazing that they gave a full-on day of their time to help out. Not sure I had any influence on the weather, but trust me I was on my knees! Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood50

A well organised event and the route was superb, we even had the weather on our side. Many thanks to you and all the helpers etc. See you next year. Iain

**Reply:** Thanks Iain, really glad that you enjoyed the day and are looking forward to next years event. Cheers

**Subject:** Great Day

Thanks for a really good fun and well run event. I would like to congratulate M. Mounter on posting a better time than his nemesis and arch rival I.Tough. The secret training and late night turbo sessions paid off. Well done!! Lucky

**Reply:** Excellent!

**Subject:** Wentwood50

I'd like to thank everyone involved for a brilliant day. It was lovely being able to complete the event with my son – everyone was so welcoming and encouraging. The course was incredible and must have taken a lot of effort to work out and prepare. As a relative novice I particularly appreciated the signs warning of the bits needing "extreme care". The provision of coffee and cakes at Wentwood meant that instead of feeling like an all out slog of a race, we could enjoy it more as a challenging and sociable day out. Thank you for all your excellent work. Phil Conridge

**Reply:** Really pleased you rode the 40km with your son, and had a great day out riding the natural forest tracks. Hope to see you next year

**09 Mar 2011 Subject:** WW50

Thanks to all for a great day. Plenty of good points, great tracks and fantastic food points. I only have a couple of pointers. Some of the tight switched turns meant I missed one arrow but luckily did not go too far wrong. Someone almost crashed into the back of me as we were haring downhill and a sharp turn appeared out of nowhere (maybe we shouldn't have been so bunched up) and on some of the longer climbs a couple more direction arrows just to reassure us we were on the right track still would have been nice. I followed a couple of people who were not too confident on some of the more techy descent sections. Maybe a marshall in those areas would have been a good idea in case anyone fell off and hurt themselves? I realise volunteers are hard to come by though :) It was my first event and I thoroughly enjoyed it.....my legs were not so enamoured with the climbs though! Bill

**Reply:** thanks for the feedback. Glad you enjoyed the day. We've clocked some of the route marking needed for next year, so will have that sorted. Cheers

**Subject:** Great event

This was the first time for my brother Paul and I cycling in this area and we loved it! The route was challenging and had great variety and the weather you ordered was perfect! Look forward to doing this again. Thank you to all the organisation team. Allen Bird

**Reply:** Thanks for that, really glad you had a great time on your first visit to Wentwood, and that you want to do it all again next year!

**Subject:** Wentwood50

Evening Robert, I've just posted a piece about the enduro on the [www.xcracer.com](http://www.xcracer.com) website [http://www.xcracer.com/viewblogpost.php?blog\\_id=116](http://www.xcracer.com/viewblogpost.php?blog_id=116) . I've used 2 photos that you sent me. Thank Andrew Miller for me. It was an excellent event and I'll be back next year. In fact do you reckon the course would take more than 300 since I think that there would be more willing participants next year. Thanks again, Matt

**Reply:** Hey Matt, Fantastic article, thanks. Yeap, I'm hoping next year to be able to increase the numbers. This year was all about gauging appetite for a pre-season tune-up, and testing how well the tracks stood up to the traffic. In fact, before and after pictures showed that the tracks held up so well that the main landowners thought only a few dozen riders had turned up for the event :- ) Cheers

You can download Matt's article [here](#)

**11 Mar 2011 Subject:** Enduro

I would just like to say what a cracking event this was. Congratulations to all involved, great course, great atmosphere and well organised. Looking forward to the next one. Iain Morgan

**Reply:** Hi Iain, glad you enjoyed the day. We had a great time too and looking forward to 2012 !

