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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 and we'll publish it here - good or bad.

Wentwood50 March 6th 2011 Event Feedback

Rider feedback from the 2011 event can be downloaded here: [download riders feedback](#).

Matt Lewis's article from xcracer.com can be downloaded here: [download Matt's article](#).

Wentwood50 March 11th 2012 Event Feedback

Here's a pretty good summary from the chap at Bikebrechfa.co.uk [download the bikebrechfa article](#)

11 Mar 2012 Subject: Wentwood50 feedback

Great event again ! Better than last year with a couple of minor niggles sorted. Marshals, feed stations all brilliant. Probably the best event I'll do all year. Colin

Reply: Thanks Colin, glad you had a great day out. Very much appreciated by all of us and hope to see you next year.

Subject: Wonderfull Wentwood50

Great What a fantastic day. Thank you very much for all the hard work you and all the marshals put it to make such a brilliant event. I am not sure I will be up to much for a week or so but think it was well worth it. I would like to especially thank the marshals for all their support & encouragement along the way, with out this I think I would never have made it. I was part of a group of six riders who were the last through the check point and then subsequently the last to finish, and we still received a cheer probably because every one else had gone home and the last remaining volunteers desperately wanted to lock up and get off home after a long day. But we did finish, just!!!

There is no way I or my friends will ever do such a ridiculous thing again, but just in case, when can we register for next year. If you are prepared to organize such a event the least I can do, is make sure I ride it. See you all next year. James Ernest

Reply: Hi James, many thanks for your feedback, I'll pass that onto the team. Really glad you and your mates had a good ride, and a good laugh too (I remember the banter as the cut-off time clock was ticking down). Frankly, with circa 1650m (5000ft) climbing in 50km it doesn't matter where you finish, just that you finish! ...and you did that in style! Cheers

Subject: Today

I feel I must comment on today's Enduro. I thought the course was fantastic, I only did the 25k, that's enough for me. My mates at Halfwayup mtb all thought the same, some did the 40k and 50k they said the single track got better as it went on. The marshalling was spot on, one slight criticism is that none of the marshals seemed to know how far in we were. The food stops were great. Very friendly atmosphere. Ian's burgers in the bus were fabulous. Nice to have real meat in one. We were all made to feel very welcome. The children at the end were very encouraging and very polite. Well done again, did it last year, its got better. Hopefully I will still be able to ride next year.

Many thanks for an enjoyable day out. Very well organised. Cheers, on behalf of Halfwayupmtb.co.uk Ian Morgan

Reply: Hi Ian, thanks, I'll pass that on to everyone - even the kids! Glad you enjoyed the route and have noted your suggestion to ensure marshals know how far along the route they are – good point and will tweak that for next year. Cheers.

12 Mar 2012 Subject: w'50 2012

Thanks guys, great event. Big cheers to all the friendly marshals, stewards, helpers and drink-station wallahs! Dom

Reply: Cheers Dom, will pass on your thanks to the team.

Subject: Volunteers

Hi Rob, Just catching up on the comments posted on the website. Absolutely fab, makes it all worth while. Just wanted to add a volunteers' point of view of the event. An incredible bunch of riders absolutely amazing they smiled at us at the start and they smiled at us when they finished, even if they were somewhat breathless.

The volunteers have a special "Bravery Award" for the two riders who came in without their saddles. That took dedication to finish to a whole new level. You know who you are... hope you don't have a sit down job!

See you all next year! The Registration Team

Subject: Wentwood Goshawk 50km

Never left feed back before on anything but enjoyed myself so much yesterday that I had to say something. This was my first ever event and the furthest distance I have ever ridden. It was a great day, marshals were very encouraging, even when they lied about the number of climbs in the last 10km :0) The lady at the food station who told us we were 206th in the 50km distance was very encouraging to us and she did lift our spirits. . . . until the next climb! She said there was only one hill but I'm sure we counted four!!!!

Great day, Great weather, well organised and will defo be there again next year (if I've recovered)! Well done to all who were involved in organising the event! Regards Steve (OFFAUF mbt)

Reply: Thanks Steve, for a first event you certainly chose a corker! Well done and really pleased you had a great day on the saddle. Hope to see you next year. Cheers

Subject: Wentwood

2011 was brilliant.....2012 was fantastic...all the little glitches ironed out...superb....must take your course marking team ages to set up & take down....shame about the nasty flytippers... Best Regards,The Lads from Royal Dean Foest CC

Reply: Hi Martin, great that you had a good day out and thanks for the feedback. Yeap the course marking is a big undertaking – and doesn't help when vandals strike either, in fact we discovered 8 signs had been tampered with on the morning pre-ride to point in the wrong direction or simply destroyed, and some of those were only put up on midnight Saturday! Unlikely to be the flytippers, but no doubt they share the same gene pool. Hope to see you next year. Cheers.

Subject: 25k 40k split

Good afternoon Robert, Despite the course being muddy I enjoyed the event yesterday, the course was very well marked with one exception. I intended to do the 25k only, But was very disappointed when I realised that I had missed the split and ended up on the 40k course. I have two issues with this;

1) At the 25k feed station I asked several marshal which way the 25k course went as no signage was visible, I was directed in what was clearly the wrong direction.

2) Post the 25k feed station I again asked several marshals if I was on the 25k route, they all answered yes!! At 33k I realised this was incorrect.

I have competed for the last 5 years in the Merida/Mercedes marathon serious (all rounds) where I took the honours for the grand vet at all last year's rounds, and never over the 5 years with this series have i suffered with this sort of incident. Spoilt may day. Regards, Alun. L. Harris

Reply: Hi Alun, sorry to hear that your day was spoilt. The split was marked, but possibly covered by other riders as you approached? Please be reminded that the event is not a race, although being a keen rider myself I know the frustration when mix ups happen. We'll take your feedback on board for next year and hopefully make the event even better for elite riders like yourself.

Subject: Feedback from Goshawk 50

I just thought that I would drop you a line to say what a fantastic event this was. The organisation was excellent, marshalling was good and gave much needed encouragement, the signage was first class and the food/drink stations well stocked. I have also never covered so much different terrain in such a short space of time, a great mixture of technical and non-technical ascending and descending. All I can say is keep it up for next year! Regards James

Reply: Hi James, thanks for the feedback, I'll pass that onto the team. Really pleased that you enjoyed the mixed terrain in Wentwood Forest - you're right there is a great variety. Hopefully you'll be back next year for some more! Cheers

Subject: WOOOOOOHOOOO :)

A huge thank you to Robert and everyone involved in putting together yet another fantastic and well organised event. Really good atmosphere and perfect weather. I had an awesome day ;) I have not stopped smiling since!! Congratulations to everyone who took part and finished, especially the 50k which was every bit as challenging and gruelling as last year.

A big thanks to my wife and kids, Womble for some great advise cheers butt, Cube Uk, The Bicycle Doctor, Torg energy gels, weetabix, Zeera Indian takeaway, Tesco wholemeal bread, Sainsburys chocolate muesli, Branston baked beans, Tetley tea bags, Garmin, Apple Iphone, Lynx body spray and last but by no means least my mother for having me. (thanks mam)

If I could book my place for next year right now I would jump at the chance:)

Reply: Good one Ian! Glad you had a great day out and hope to see you next year. ...are you in marketing by chance, if not you should be ;) Cheers

Subject:

What an outstanding success the 50 was this year. It has gone from strength to strength. The Marshall's were outstanding, had a chat with the scouts crew who were just superb at the first water stop. Your fuel station would put many of the top events to shame. I'm very proud to say this

is my local event, well done. For next year perhaps a more meaningful finish with some simple spot prizes for the people who have clearly turned themselves inside out on the day, Thanks again guys that was world class.

Reply: Thanks Joe, everyone will be really pleased with your feedback. Yes I' keen to give out spot prizes, just need to put the thumb screws on the sponsors! Hopefully will have a selection for next years event. Cheers

13 Mar 2012 Subject: Wonderful Wentwod

Now that I have (at least partially) recovered from Sunday's epic ride, I've managed to make it to the computer at last. Could I please second James' comments above. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all six of us, and will I'm sure be the subject of endless discussions over the coming weeks (certainly after a few beers). Thank you all to the marshals and volunteers and organisers who gave their time to support us all on the way around, and apologies if we delayed your Sunday lunch. However, we promise (if we're allowed to enter) to be at the 50km split with at least 5mins to spare next year. Can't wait for some more bananas and cake. Regards Jeff Lynn

Reply: Hi Jeff, Thanks I'll pass that onto everyone. Really glad that you and your gaggle had a great day out riding. No problems re: Sunday lunch, plenty of foodstuffs where I was :-). Hope to see you next year. Cheers.

14 Mar 2012 Subject: WW50

Just a quick note say thanks for a great event on Sunday. Brutal, tiring and wonderful ! I thought last year was brilliant, and this year was better again. Top marks for the registraton, marshalling, signage, organisation, cake/water, the teams behind the scenes - in fact, everything. The only thing I'd change for next year is to have a banner or something that says 'Finish' at the check-in tent. Thanks again for a great event. I hope it was successful from your side too. I'm looking forward to next year's already. Cheers, Leghton

Reply: Hi Leghton, Really glad you had a good day on the saddle – and glad the weather held up for us. I like the idea of the finish banner too – sounds a plan for next year. Cheers

Subject: Wentood50

Hi, Great event again this year. Perfectly organised and faultlessly sign posted throughout. The feed stations once again cost me a good few minutes .. impossible to go past, incredibly hard to move from .. loving the flap-jacks and cakes again this year!
We managed to get a few more MigglyMoos signed up this year .. will try to get a few more out of the pub and signed up for next year. Great weather - great event. Very well done to all involved. Nice Ant

Reply: Hi Ant, I'll pass that onto the guys, very much appreciated. You could have stocked up at the food station – we had some flapjacks and cake left over this year, I guess the warmer weather took away some appetites ...or maybe the climbing had something to do with it! Cheers

Subject: First Wentood50

Hi Robert, thanks for this superb event. Having only done CRC marathons before I hadn't expected how technical the course actually was which I love (the downhill parts at least!). I had planned on doing the 50km, but I was so enthralled with the riding I somehow missed a route marker and lost my way after the 40/50km split that I found myself following bike tracks of others who had done the same before me. I ended up riding down a steep technical descent that converged with the road with a marshal ahead. She told me I would have to go back up the hill to continue. As I didn't know at what point I went wrong, and that returning up the hill would only be achieved on hands and knees, I rode back in to the finish line. I was somewhat disappointed, but what I did ride was very enjoyable and I will be returning next year.

Reply: Hi Craig, glad you found the course challenging. I'm trying to think where after the 40/50km split you could have gone wrong, but can't put my finger on a steep technical decent that takes you onto the road as I know the marshal point you popped out on - a bit baffled I'm afraid. Oh, ...possibly just after the log with the middle section cut out you missed the double arrow right and continued straight along the path – that would drop you on to the road in question – yeap, and it's reasonably technical too.

I've missed markers in the past on events I've attended – head down vomiting over the front tyre, following the person in front, or concentrating on the technical terrain so I know it's easily done. We'll tweak a few things for next year from your feedback and others – e.g. keep the feed station away from the split to minimise any confusion caused by the volume of riders refuelling, and also eliminate any route decision making for riders travelling at speed (arrows only please). Hence yours and others feedback is really important. Look forward to seeing you next year. Kind regards, Robert

Subject: Goshawk 50

As with last year, a great day out, well worth the journey from Cornwall. There being more us and riding at the pace of the slowest slowed us down this year. That is what I would like to think rather than the lack of miles in the legs and another year going by. Once again a massive vote of thanks to you and all involved. Even better organised this year. Really great

Reply: Hi Brian, glad you could make it again this year – I think you brought the good weather with you for a second year running ...hope you can make it next year too! Appreciate your feedback and will pass that onto the guys. Cheers

Subject: Feedback

My first attempt at the Wentwood 50 and was very impressed with the slick organisation, excellent route marking and refreshment facilities. I've ridden many motorcycle events in that area, so appreciate the chance to enjoy the scenery using pedal power. Well done!! Cheers

Reply: Hey Sean, excellent thanks for the feedback. Great to hear that you enjoyed the route, especially with your knowledge from other events ...and that you swapped the wrist action for pedal powerdoes this mean you've crossed over from the dark side ;-) Cheers

Subject: Wentwood 50 Feedback

Hi, thanks for a very enjoyable and memorable event, it was great to get out of Berkshire and ride some different terrain. Your smiling stewards were brilliant too. What would make it better?

Some kind of ride share forum to help avoid so many 200mile solo drives.
Not closing the registration at 10:00

Not organizing the registration by "Christian" name. "Given" name, thanks.
Me putting on fatter tyres.

Lastly a BIG shout out to the lad riding 400 who drafted me from 15k to 25, he is going to be an awesome racer in a few short years. Cheers
Pete

Reply: Hi Pete, good one, thanks – we'll see what we can do. Will leave you to sort the fatter tyres though :-)

Subject: Wentwood

Just wanted to second Martin's comments, great event and course, really was an improvement on last year (I got lost at one point, ha ha).

Just one moan I suppose, some of the top 20 riders started cutting large sections out of the final section (blue to red tag). A guy in front of me went straight ahead instead of up the unrideable bank (you probably know where I mean) and along a new grass single track section. I couldn't fault the signing so can't really see this being a mistake by those riders, maybe they were following last years gps or knew a shortcut. I know it's not a race, but I did chat to another top 20 finisher and he was equally gutted to find riders he had dropped at the finish with all 3 tags. Perhaps you could get around this by moving the tag collection points year on year, I think they do this on the HONC.

Anyway great event, a real motivator for the rest of the season after a long winter in the saddle, Cheers, Adam

Reply: Thanks Adam, that's important feedback. I know where you're referring. Although many people may think Wentwood is a large forest, in reality it's not and to get a 50km course means there are plenty of junctions/crossings/turnings, hence the marking is a big undertaking and if you drop your guard at any point it's easy to miss one and end up going wrong. However, this also means that if you're familiar with the forest layout, it's easy to take shortcuts as it's almost impossible for us to marshal all of these points – we simply rely on a riders moral fibre to follow the course, while we marshal those points of potential hazard and/or confusion. Obviously I'm disappointed to learn of any rider cutting out a section, except as a result of injury or abandonment. It will be a tough one for us to address next year, but at least we have a heads up now that it's happened, and your suggestion of moving the tag collection points year on year is as good a starting place as any.

Much appreciated. Kind regards, Robert