



Wentwood Forest XC Extravaganza

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Wentwood 50km Mountain Bike Enduro, Sunday 10th March 2013

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 2013 Event Feedback

Here's a pretty good ride summary from one of the riders <http://pickled-hedgehog.com/?p=2845>

Subject: Wentwood 50 - superb event..

Hi Just wanted to provide some feedback on my first - but not last - Wentwood50. Fantastic course, great atmosphere, lovely marshalls and awesome cake! Had a fantastic time - other than one soul destroying muddy section after the split - even in the cold and snow. Some of those singletrack descents were proper fun, I ride a lot in FoD and it was like that only way better.

And for such great causes as well. I know how much effort these things take to organise, so I wanted to say thank you for doing such a great job. I'll be back next year. Cheers, Alex

Reply: Hi Alex, Glad you enjoyed the course and atmosphere. We really appreciate your feedback, thanks I'll pass it on to everyone. Cheers

Subject: The ride

Thanks for another great event-it was a beast! You all did a brilliant job ensuring things ran smoothly, and i'm sure most of us appreciate the work you put into it. If you run an event next year, i'll BEG Jane not to divorce you! Ian the very tired postie

Reply: Excellent Ian thanks ...I'll need all the support I can get! Catch you soon, Cheers

Subject: missing t-shirt

Firstly I would like yo thank you and your team for a fantastic event this year, the ride was very challenging and was one of the hardest I have entered. The single track was superb, even though it seemed like it was always going up hill! Unfortunately when I got home I was sad to find I had no T-shirt in my bag which I had paid extra for when I booked my entry back on the 7th November 2012 (the size was medium). I hope this issue can be resolved as I really wanted the T-shirt for a memento. Once again thank you for a memorable day, Wayne.

Reply: Hi Wayne, glad you enjoyed the event and thanks for the feedback, I'll pass that on to everyone who helped out. Yes, you should have had a black t-shirt size medium in your bag - I'll sort it and get one to you this week. Cheers

Subject: A big thank you

I just thought I'd drop you a line on behalf of my husband and I and our fellow Cardiff Ajax Riders. It's the first time I've completed the Wentwood Challenge and I was really impressed by the whole event. From the marshalls parking cars, kids sorting out straw for the mud, to the super efficient signing in - the start was great and we hadn't even started riding yet. The marshalling on the course was great and they were all friendly and encouraging and we loved the refreshment stops too. There was plenty of food, a good choice, great to have energy drinks and the options of a warm drink given that it was so cold. All in all a great event and I thought that you ought to know we think you did a great job. Too many people are quick to criticise and I don't think enough people give credit where it's due. Thanks, Suzie

Reply: Hi Suzie, That's excellent, thanks very much - I'll pass it on. All the marshals and the kids helping with the straw will really appreciate that you noticed. Cheers

Subject: A huge thank you to all the volunteers/mashals

This was my third Wentwood 50 and it just seems to get tougher every year. Obviously you must have done a lot of work planning the route this year due to the terrible winter we've just had. As hard as it was today though. It must have been harder for all the volunteers to keep warm and as happy as they were. I thought they were superb. Yours, and their enthusiasm is what will keep me coming back every year for as long as I can. The only advise I would suggest is to stop the early entry discount because I'm sure that this event is so well established it will sell out every year. Best wishes and many thanks, Keith

Reply: Hi Keith, great feedback thanks. Yes the route was tricky this year because of the wet winter and logging operations - we had to cut out a couple of sweet singletrack sections (about 3km) which we would have used if the weather had stayed dry in the week before, and this year we didn't use Gray Hill, just because it's in a terrible state from all the hill walking traffic. Glad to hear that you keep coming back for more punishment! Cheers

Subject: Sunday

Just a note to say firstly thank you for sorting me with a ride yesterday but mainly to say a big thank you for a great, well organised event. We could see that a lot of work had gone into coming up with that course as it didn't just use established tracks and linking up the single track in a good rideable order can't have been easy. It was nice that the hard part was the first half of the ride as it certainly lived up to it's billing as a hard day out (especially on my singlespeed!). Can you pass on our thank's to the Marshall's who did a sterling job staying cheerful throughout the day in spite of the fact they must have been freezing, especially the girl's at the finish who greeted us with a smile and a cheer even though that was the coldest place on the course!! Thank's again, Yours in sport, Ian

Reply: Hi Ian, Thanks for the feedback - glad to hear that you enjoyed the course and linking sections. The marshals were heroic on the day and yes I thought it was cold in the forest too ...until I got back to the start/finish venue! Everyone will really appreciate your comments. Cheers

Subject: Event Feedback

Wow - what an event!! This was my second go at it and it was superb! I do anywhere from 7 to 10 big events around the country each year and this is, by far and away, is the most challenging and enjoyable event of the lot!. Then, to top it all off, the organisation is fantastic, the marshals helpful & very friendly and the cake is super – and the whole event is also cracking value. I brought four Wentwood50 virgins down from Berkshire this year and they all loved it to – it nearly killed two of them (I warned them it was brutal) – but they'll all be back. That course was something else – the most enjoyable riding I've done for a few months. The downhill sections were incredible – trying to thread your way down past slower riders was the most fun I've had downhill since the Alps last summer. Thanks so much and we'll look forward to coming again next year!! Jon

Reply: Hi Jon, Thanks for the feedback. Really glad that you came back for more punishment and enjoyed the day out, along with your mates ...are you still friends! Cheers

Subject: Yesterday's Event

Just wanted to say a big thanks for the event yesterday. Was really well organised and marshalled, I had a great time despite the fact my legs feel like they have been pulled off. I'm ready to sign up for next year already! Rgds, Neil

Reply: Hi Neil, Thanks, glad you had a good ride. I'll pass your feedback to all the marshals and everyone who helped out. Cheers

Subject: Wentwood 50

Great event yesterday – very hard but really enjoyed it. When should we expect the results to be online? Thanks, Dean

Reply: Hi Dean, Glad you enjoyed it. Paul tells me you were flying – sounds like your winter training has paid off. Aiming to get the results online Wednesday evening, other work commitments permitting, so keep an eye out. Cheers

Subject: Wentwood 50

Hi Guys, Great ride yesterday, although I didn't reach the cut off point in time I had a thoroughly tough, testing and fun time. Tell me something is a Welsh kilometre longer than anybody else's, sure does feel like it this morning. That was my third time of doing this event and I look forward to seeing you all next year. Regards, Gary

Reply: Hi Gary, ha ha good one ...yeap welsh kilometres are longer in Wentwood! Cheers

Subject: Wentwood 2013

I would just like to say that yesterday's ride was absolutely brilliant! It was challenging, hard work and exhausting at times, but after last years ride I knew what to expect and thoroughly enjoyed it. The signage was superb (I lost my way last year) and the the marshals were everywhere they needed to be, encouraging us onwards and upwards (mostly). The addition of the two very steep EXTREME CAUTION runs was fantastic for those of use who like the thrill too. I'm already looking forward to next year. Thank you very much for arranging such a well organised event. Craig

Reply: Hi Craig, thanks for the feedback. Putting the signs up in the forest is no easy undertaking, so will pass that onto the guys, and all the marshals too. Glad you enjoyed this year's route with the additional challenges. Cheers

Subject: Thanks for a great event

I just thought I'd write a quick mail to say thanks for once again organising a great event. I've now done the event 3 times and each year it has improved on the last. The signage this year was excellent, and I was very surprised at how well the course rode despite the recent rain. I also think that the course changes this year worked really well, and made the event more enjoyable by having the longer climbs in the first half (or that's how it felt at least!). Thanks again, Gordon

Reply: Hi Gordon, Thanks, glad to hear that the signs were all good this year. Last year we had vandalism, but captured it on the pre-ride. This year we had vandalism to the tracks just before the signs went up, but nothing once all signed – probably because the weather kept most people out of the forest immediately before the event. I also wanted to bring the 25km riders over to the westside this year, having done the eastside in previous years, and I thought it would work better all round because you'd have more gas in the tank to manage the longer climbs earlier on. Great feedback, Cheers

Subject: Yesterday's Fantastic Event

Just wanted to drop you a line and thank you for an excellent event. As a 'flock' of birds we did our second Wentwood challenge introducing the youngest member of our cycling flock Thomas (aged 12). We loved it again and are grateful to the superb stewards and the welcoming group of cyclist we met and cycled with yesterday. Just one request, could we have slightly warmer weather next time, still haven't thawed out! Thanks again Allen, Paul and Thomas Bird

Reply: Hi Allen, thanks for the positive feedback, very much appreciated. Really glad you enjoyed it, ...and that you came back a second time. You must be mad! Yes warmer weather next time please. Cheers

Subject: Another thank you

Just to say that this was my first Wentwood 50 and I had a great and challenging day! The course was tuff, steep and fun. It seemed somebody filled my legs with lead on Monday morningha. I'm sure everybody appreciates the amount of time, effort and hard work that you and all the marshals put in to organising and running this whole event! You all did a great job. Hope it all goes ahead next year so I can come back and have another go at punishing myself! Thanks to all involved, Joe

Reply: Hi Joe, really glad you enjoyed the ride, especially that it was your first Wentwood50. I'll pass on your appreciation to the marshals and everyone who helped out on the day.

Subject: feedback

Well done, great event. Good route, despite rain very rideable, friendly positive marshalls, hot drinks very welcome. Nice to see a good deal of thinking in planning. Virtually the reverse of last years route. I was expecting to know roughly where I was going but soon realised that was not the case! Keeps the brain awake. Many thanks, Ian

Reply: Thanks Ian, appreciate your comments and that you picked up on the detail of the effort in the planning. Cheers

Subject: tough day, but course held up well & marshalls did a great job in the bitter conditions. both my son & i managed to complete the 50k. is there any chance of ordering a tee shirt post event as error in booking we both failed to order 1. thanks again for a true test of endurance. steve

Reply: Thanks Steve, quite a few requests for t-shirts coming in, so may sort something out next week. Will log your request and let you know. PS what size & colour?

Wentwood50 2012 Event Feedback

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

Rider feedback from the 2012 event can be downloaded here: [download riders feedback](#)

Wentwood50 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](#)