



## Wentwood Forest XC Extravaganza!

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## Wentwood 50km Mountain Bike Event, Sunday 13th March 2016

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.

### Wentwood50 2014 Event Feedback

Here's a ride feature from Paul Trimble. His bikemagic.com article can be found at [http://bikemagic.com/wentwood50\\_2014.html](http://bikemagic.com/wentwood50_2014.html) or downloaded here [download Paul's article](#).



#### Subject: Wentwood 50

Hi Rob, A rather belated note to say what a cracking day Malcolm and I had last Sunday. The weather, course, marshalls and cakes were all superb (as they have been for the last three years). The signage was excellent despite a couple of boys saying they missed some of them - too much talking and not enough looking I think! For me, this was my favourite course and I had a fantastic day. We can't thank you enough for all your hard work and hope to see you again in 2015! Best regards, Jenn

**Reply:** Hi Jenn, Many thanks for your kind feedback which I'll pass on to everyone who helped. Amazed that you've kept coming back for more punishment, and glad you enjoyed the course this year. Kind regards

#### Subject: Thanks for organising

Hi Rob, Just a note to say thank you to all the organisers. Went wood is one of the most sociable events I've been too. I was impressed by some of the descents, only wished I'd bought my steel hardtail and flats! You totally broke me on that last tarmac hill on the 45k route. Amazing range of bikes, great cake stop and good marshalling. Hope you can order in the same weather next year and that I am fitter...not that it will help :) Many thanks Gez

**Reply:** Hi Gez, Great that you had a good day on the bike and enjoyed the riding and social climate. Of course the good weather helped too. I'll certainly pass on your appreciation to everyone who helped make it a success and am grateful that you noticed the effort involved. Yes ...that tarmac hill was intended to break a few, glad you enjoyed it! Cheers

#### Subject: Wentwood Enduro

Thanks for a great day. The event was very well organised, again. Look forward to next year. Could you tell me when the results will be published. Cheers, Ian

**Reply:** Hi Ian, Glad you enjoyed the day and thanks for your feedback which I'll pass on to everyone who helped and supported the event. Results are on the website (might need to refresh your webpage?) Cheers

#### Subject: Thank you

Hi Rob, Just a big thank you for the ride last weekend - really enjoyed it - although 25 was enough for me this year! As a 'local' I find it so pleasing to see my backyard full of MTB action and the reaction of the local residents was superb. Great organisation from you and the team - really appreciate all the time and effort - happy to help out next year. Jonathan.

**Reply:** Hi Jonathan, thanks for your kind feedback, it's very much appreciated. I agree a big thank you to the local residents for their support which has increased year on year as they come to understand better the mtb community and the local charitable causes the event supports. It was a tough one this year to organise, so may well rope you into helping in the future - thanks for offering. Cheers

#### Subject: Goshawk

Good Morning Robert. Just about fully recovered now so I thought I'd add my thanks to you and the rest of your crew. What a fantastic event! That course had very nearly everything you could ask for in an MTB event, fast bits, technical bits, tough bits, fun bits. Oh and plenty of mud! It was an easy decision for me to head for home at the 35k split, I was well & truly knackered. Big thanks to all your marshals & volunteers, all very cheery & encouraging, they were brilliant. No complaints from me on the cake!

I almost missed the turning that is mentioned, just following the wheels of the guys in front, but was called back by some more observant people behind. But the guys in front didn't return. As a race organiser I know how difficult it is to get everyone round a very complicated course without having the manpower to man every possible turning point & junction. Perhaps a small length of barrier tape on the far side of the turn, not across the track but leading the direction to take, or opposite the arrow. I'll be back next year, with a few friends I hope. Many thanks, Brian Phillips

**Reply:** Hi Brian, Thanks for the feedback, much appreciated. Barrier tape is a good idea and we use this in tricky places where it is not obvious, but perhaps more is needed methinks. Glad you had a good day out and managed the 35km route, plenty of challenges and amongst them was no doubt picking the best line - never easy in tough conditions. Will definitely pass on your appreciation to all the volunteers. Well done. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

Hi Rob. Well done and thanks to yourself and all involved in the event. You have clearly put a lot of time and effort into the planning and organising everything. Well worth it!!!! The course was great fun and well set out. Even the last section on the 50 :-). After how tuff it was last year I said I wouldn't do it again..... So I came back for more punishment anyway... We all had a fantastic day. Thanks again. Don't stop doing it. Cheers Joe

**Reply:** Hi Joe, thanks for your comments, everyone will be pleased that you noticed all the effort involved - this year especially. Glad you liked the route and had a good day out on the bike. Last year was tough because we took everyone over to the west side first, this year we swapped back to the east side so that everyone still had the legs for the westside and it looks like it paid off because more riders did the full route than any other year. ...I say the same thing every year too. Cheers

**Subject:** Goshawk Challenge 2014

Hello Robert, First congrats on the ride on Sunday, really enjoyed the whole thing, of course the weather helped but was one of the best endurance style events i have ever attended. I am planning on writing up a short article on the event, plus my attempts at training for it for a website called Bike Magic, I have done a few in the past they kindly publish, Would you be able to send me any images of the route, i am unable to get them off my Strava account in a decent format. And any images or logos etc you would like dropped in. Have spoken to Huw who took some photos and he is happy for me to use the photos of me in the article. Cheers and great event, Paul Trimble

**Reply:** Hi Paul, Really pleased that you enjoyed the event and had a good day out on the bike, of course the weather made it that much more enjoyable, but glad you liked the route too. Not a problem will drop you some images shortly and look forward to reading your article.

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

Hi, Cheers for a very enjoyable event. I've just compared my friends Stava details for today and notice I have cut a massive (2.5 mile) loop off the course [appears I carried on straight ahead when I should have descended towards Grey Hill] - somebody must have moved the signs I guess. Could you please make my result null and void for the sake of other rider. Thanks. I'd be grateful for my time to still be visible though so I can see how I got on. Cheers. I was rider 268

**Reply:** Hi Mostyn, yes it looks like a few of the lead riders missed the double arrow right turn towards Gray Hill. Difficult because it was smack in the middle of the bloody track and looking at the tyre marks everyone else clocked it. It's happened to me before, rode right over a sign marking once and only 1km later did I think oops. In Wentwood you don't have that luxury, it's such a compact forest that missing a sign is likely to bring you back onto the route at some point, so you're none the wiser until it's too late. But we learn from that - that's why we changed to double arrows for change of direction - and we'll learn from this too. Cheers

**Subject:** Feedback

Another superb one! Like the way you sorted the sunshine. Well planned especially considering the mud, rain, massive felling etc. Good route signage, well placed and spaced in the wooded sections where there was no obvious route. Just look up and spot the yellow. Most friendly and helpful marshals on any event I've done. Slight reservation about the road drop then k2 (appropriately named). Can see the logic to add a bit of distance on a dry surface but not many smiley faces around pushing up there. Small gripe on an otherwise fantastic event. Did I mention good food stations too. First time I've had a cup of tea mid enduro. Well done and thanks for all your efforts. Looking forward to next year. PS My trip computer recorded 49km, Ian

**Reply:** Hi Ian, thanks for your email - not sure we can take credit for the sunshine. Some really constructive feedback in your comments, so thanks for that, much appreciated. Agree about the road drop - not ideal, but the fireroad leading to midpoint was a mess so had to take you up to the top before dropping down again. Smiley faces ...whenever I ride K2 I always hate whoever it was that made me ride it - you just want to blow up their car or something - great fun! Cheers

**Subject:** wentwood50 - 2014

Hi Rob, Wow - thanks again for sorting an excellent event out - it's my 3rd time back and its still my favourite race which I enter each year Fair play coming up with the course considering the felling and storm damage. Some of the singletrack sections were simply fantastic - scared the life out of myself - which is a good thing. A massive thank you to all the volunteers as well - the food & water stops dotted around the course are a god send. I also thought the coffee and food stalls in the main field were very good - particularly the beef rolls - yum yum! One thing though - THAT tarmac climb?? You nutter!! I went 1 x 10 six months ago - that really took it out of me!! Looking forward to next year already, Jon

**Reply:** Hi Jon, ha good one. We're all really grateful for your feedback and glad that you keep coming back for more punishment! Tricky this year to sort the tracks considering the lead up and kept us busy, but seems to have paid off. Glad you like the food too - the new chappy with the beef sandwiches is by all accounts one of the top 10 street vendors in Wales, so will pass on your feedback. Love that tarmac climb ...but not on a 1 x 10! bet you wanted to burn my house down after that ...I did and I was on my 3 x 9. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood 2014

Hi Rob, Many thanks to you and your team for a superb event last Sunday. The trail was fantastic (apart from the near vertical tarmac bit) and the support was outstanding. I appreciate what a mammoth task it must be to organise such an event as there's a lot that the participants do not see in the preparation when coming along and enjoying such a great event. Possibly one of the most gruelling enduro I've done but certainly one of the best in the UK - put a smile on many faces. Neil B

**Reply:** Hi Neil, thanks for your comments, very much appreciated ...and yes there is a lot of prep work involved that may not be obvious to some of the riders, so all the volunteers will be grateful that you noticed. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood50 Charity Mountain Bike Event - 2014

Brilliant Rob, you've done it again, almost killed some of us. Only YOU could put that lovely little hill at the end. Thanks for all your hard work, and thanks to Jane, Tom, and Cate for making me feel special. Can't wait for next year!

**Reply:** Hi Ian, thanks. Yes I do like that 'little' hill at the end too. Glad you had a good day out on the bike and enjoyed the day. Well done. PS good photo too! Cheers Rob

**Subject:** Wentwood 2014

Great day, fabulous weather. Just a big thank you to the marshalls & volunteers who always had a smile & words of encouragement. Hope the casualties are all ok difficult day for the 1st aiders. One complaint other riders note, if you are going to use energy gels at least have the decency to take the empty wrapper home & not discard it in the forest. You will be the first to complain if events are unable to run because of the litter left behind. Rant over once again thank you for a challenging course. Spotter

**Reply:** Hi Spotter, thanks for the feedback - I'll pass it on to everyone who helped out and the 1st aiders too. Echo your view on the gel wrapper litter, more this year than all other years combined. New rules for future events methinks - any rider verified littering will be DSQ and then have their bike crushed (I think the terms and conditions allow us to do that, or we'll amend them accordingly).

**Subject:** Photos

Hi, Really enjoyed the course today, my word some of those hills were unbelievable. I saw lots of photographers on the course today, would you have any info or links for them please. Checked the website but couldn't find any. I look forward to the results, many thanks. Jamie

**Reply:** Hi Jamie, Great, glad you had a good day out. Photo's are now on the website. Results, hopefully shortly. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood 50 2014

Hi Robert, Thanks for coming back to me. I definitely remember the strava sign for the end of Prairie drive, and I don't recall seeing any riders crossing in from of me. It was a great day out all the same. Thanks again for putting on such a great event. Regards, Gordon

**Reply:** Hi Gordon - apologies for getting your first/last name wrong in my last email. Popped onto your strava which now shows a more detailed view from what you emailed me earlier and it looks good mate. All as it should be - you didn't miss anything. Well done. Cheers

**Subject:** Yesterday's Event

Rob, Firstly I would like to say thanks for a great course, I'm sure it was harder than last year, and well done for organising sunny weather too. Do you have any contact details for the photographers, I was snapped at least three times but can't find any pics anywhere on the net? Cheers Dave, P.S I'm not going through that again next year ( I said that last year)

**Reply:** Hi Dave, Thanks for the feedback - glad you enjoyed the day and the course. Wish we could take credit for the great weather, but out of our hands I'm afraid - just had to prep for the worst and hope for the best. Just had the url link to the one photographers pictures come through now, and will upload it on the website next. Looks like some good shots. Cheers. PS I say that every year too.

**Subject:** Thanks SOOO much

Hi Rob, Just wanted to drop you a quick e-mail to thank you and all your helpers and marshals for a fantastic event and day out. As you know I've done them all and they've all been brilliant and this as no exception. I love the course esp the windy bits in the woods and the fun descents; all good proper mountain biking :o) I know a few people got lost and to be honest I have no idea how they did as I had no problems with the course. This is easily one of the best signed, guess people need to stop being sheep and pay attention ;o) My only real complaint is no muffins!!! I could have died out there ;o). Seriously though the rest point is always amazing. Thanks for a great day out. Love this event; please don't stop doing it, it's way too much fun; hard but fun :o) Yours Paul

**Reply:** Hi Paul, Good to see you again this year. I did have an offer to have muffins supplied, but thought I might just be pushing the voluntary bit a little too far. I will pass on your disappointment though and take full blame of course. Yes it seems like a few of the riders missed the double arrow right turn taking them towards Gray Hill at approx 5.4km into the ride and hence missed a 4.5km loop (with 3.5km of singletrack). The sign was good, and looking at the tyre tracks you would think everyone clocked the turn, but apparently not. In hindsight I wish I had put a second double arrow sign or barrier tape, but that's hindsight. Of course in such a small forest you only need to miss a turn and before long you will pick up the track again and not realise until it's too late that you've gone wrong. It's a difficult one for us to address - that's why we went with double arrows at all turn points and single arrows along the section, but more thought is needed methinks. Glad you liked the wooded sections - my favorite too, ...but I do like that K2! Cheers

**Subject:** Goshawk

Thanks for a fantastic day yesterday. After loads of road biking this was my first MTB event, and I loved every terrifying minute of it! Big shout to all the marshals and helpers, too. Cheers, Tim

**Reply:** Hi Tim, that's excellent, thanks - will pass on your feedback to the marshals and helpers, and glad we were able to help make it a memorable first event ...but hopefully not so terrifying that you won't do another. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood 50 2014

Firstly thanks again for putting on such a fantastic event yesterday. That was my 4th time and every year and I must say that I think the course was actually my favourite so far. That killer climb a few K from the end was tough, but worth the effort!

I'm not sure if you remember but myself and a couple of other riders spoke to you when we got to the feed the first time round, as we were in the leading 10 or so riders but somehow we ended up catching up with a lot of riders that we wouldn't have expected to be catching if you know what I mean! They did have the right tags on their bikes so I'm not quite sure what had gone on. You requested that I send over my Strava file, so here's a link: <http://app.strava.com/activities/119167640> Thanks again for a thoroughly enjoyable day, and I look forward to doing it again in 2015! All the best

**Reply:** Hi Marcus, absolutely remember speaking and thanks for following up. Difficult to tell because the distance indicates you did the full route, but your strava track looks a bit normalised - possibly because of the software used to import it. Looking closely it seems like you may have missed the wooded section at the end of Prairie Drive, only about 300m overall difference, but enough to juggle the order because of the effort required. If you can't recall the Strava End sign for Prairie Drive, then you would have dropped onto a fireroad and seen other riders 100m to your right going directly across the same fireroad. Thanks for your help in trying to identify where some riders missed the arrows. ...good news is that you didn't miss out on any of the lung busting stuff! Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood 50

Hello Robert, Great event, really well organized. Just turn up, sign on and start on time - just how it should be. Thought the route was really well signed and the checkpoints appropriately spread. Great route despite the recent weather wreaking havoc with all the trails. regards, HUW

**Reply:** Thanks Huw, much appreciated. We do try to keep it simple, but were definitely up against it this year with all the elements working against us in the lead up to the day. Glad you enjoyed the route and thanks for the feedback. Cheers

#### **Wentwood50 2013 Event Feedback**

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

Rider feedback from the 2013 event can be downloaded here: [download riders feedback](#)

#### **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](#)