



## Wentwood Forest XC Extravaganza!

[Home](#) | [Entry](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [News](#) | [Poster](#) | [Directions](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Training](#) | [Photo's](#) | [Results](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Charities](#)

### 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 2016 Event Feedback

Here's a write up from Tim Norris, one of the Swindon MTB gang, <http://www.mbswindon.co.uk/wentwood-50-aka-goshawk-challenge/> or downloaded his article here [download Tim's article](#).

**Subject:** wentwood 50 2016

Hi Robert, Fantastic event on Sunday - I grew up in Newport in the 80s and rode Wentwood roads and fireroads on my sturdy roadbike back then. It was great to come back home and enjoy a fabulous course with my teenage son. The weather helped a bit, but that was eclipsed by the quality and friendliness of the event!

Route - tough  
 Trails - brilliant (in places matched what we experienced in the Alps last summer)  
 Marshalls - wonderful, chirpy, smiley, chatty, friendly...  
 Feed stations - well placed and well stocked  
 Public we met - all positive, happy, and not phased by the riders  
 Other riders - polite, encouraging, enthusiastic  
 "Extreme" section around 40km - wow - that's really extreme, we were just too tired to ride it without crashing, but good fun nevertheless.

Please, no more sabbaticals we want to come back next year and do it all again! Cheers, Malcolm and David

**Reply:** Hi Malcolm, thank you for your kind words and really pleased you enjoyed the course, especially being able to share some of your childhood experiences with your son - magic. Thanks for the feedback, I'll share this with everyone who helped, and of course other riders like yourself who made the event special. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood50

Hi Rob, superb course, very well way marked, good to see some new tracks through the woods created for the event, (that must take some effort) to avoid wearing out existing tracks, brilliant food stop, friendly marshals. Got to be one of (if not the best) best biking events going. Really good move to reduce numbers, made the whole event more friendly and less busy. Can't fault it. Many thanks,Ian

**Reply:** Hi Ian, thanks for your feedback and really glad you enjoyed the course and the day on the bike. Yes, I think it works better with smaller numbers too. Did you check out those chocolate chip muffins? magic. Looking forward to your bmbo ride later this month. Cheers

**Subject:** 50k Thanks

Hi Rob... enjoyed goshawk yesterday it was fantastic everything was so easy to follow .Marshalls were great what a team you have made everyone's day special ..sun mud tea and cakes Goshawk 2016 was awesome.....Thanks.....Brian

**Reply:** Thanks Brian, your comments are much appreciated. I'll pass them onto everyone who helped make it a success.

**Subject:** Sunday!

Thank you. A thoroughly enjoyable day spent riding the 25 (or was that 30?) with my old school pal just like we did 40 odd years ago! Some of us were mountain biking in Wentwood long before mountain bikes were invented...but we can still do it! As always credit to you and the team. Jonathan

**Reply:** Hi Jonathan, great to hear you and your old riding buddy had a good day out - I didn't see you otherwise I would have said hello. Yes it was 30k start to finish ...sneaky, but the final 5km to the finish was all downhill - so I conveniently forgot to mention that to anyone. Would be interesting to know what tracks you used to ride, I'm sure a lot has changed in 40 years. Thanks for your feedback, I'll pass it onto the others. Much appreciated.

**Subject:** Wentwood

Hi Rob, Just wanted to say thanks again for supporting both myself and velindre. Even though it's always a great day the event was even better again than previous years. Signage was amazing and so were the marshals. The course itself was just as brutal lol. An amazing day all in all. Gareth

**Reply:** Hi Gareth, a pleasure to support your charity. Thanks for the feedback and glad you enjoyed the day. All the best in raising your target funding. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood Goshawk 50k Fan Club!

I just wanted to say a big thank you to yourself and everyone who contributed to Sunday's ride, it was a great event and my experience of my first ever XC race will be memorable. The course was very well planned and the directions spot on, the marshalls were great support. I normally do Enduro and DH so to be honest I was pretty nervous with the distance having heard how hard it was and believe me it didn't disappoint, I was also pleasantly surprised how much fun it was. I even managed King Of The Mountain for The 100 Drop! Clearly I'm far better at descending than ascending lol, either way im looking forward to next year already, cheers, Matt B

**Reply:** Hi Matt, well - you picked a corker for your first XC event, I can understand the trepidation and glad we didn't disappoint. Even better is that you had fun - that's got to be a bonus. Some decent downhill stuff in Wentwood by the way, nothing I can really use though, so if you're local let me know and I'll put you in touch with the gravity boys. All the best, Cheers

**Subject:** Today

Just home from today's event. Great day and great weather. Just emailing to say how good the signage was. I had looked at the map and was a bit confused by the route but the marshal doing the first tag reassured me and otherwise there was always an arrow or piece of tape to confirm I was still on course. That's not always the case so thank you. Cheers, Neil (029)

**Reply:** Hi Neil, glad you enjoyed the day and thanks for the comments. We have suffered sign vandalism in the past and even on today's event, but managed to catch it in time. Being a relatively small forest with so many turnings and crossings we put a lot of effort into signage so your feedback is really appreciated.

**Subject:** Thanks

Hi Rob. Thank you and the team once again for all the hard work put in to create a great day. Weather was fantastic and the course worked well taking in to consideration the recent awful weather. 25k was enough for me this year due to lack of training. I thoroughly enjoyed it though. I hope to complete the full 50 next time. Cheers Joe

**Reply:** Thanks Joe, really glad you enjoyed the course - yes the weather was kind (always a bonus) and a lot of planning this year on route selection for a bunch of reasons, so thank you for your kind words. The second 25km was a gear harder than the first 25km IMO, so a good call on the day methinks. Hope to see you at the next event with the 50km firmly in your sights.

**Subject:** Thank you Robert - the best course / race I have done so far

Hi Rob, That event today was fantastic - obviously the weather helped - it wasn't easy. Thanks Again, John P

**Reply:** Cheers John, yes I thought it was testing, so hopefully it hit just the right balance for you too. Thanks for the feedback.

**Subject:** Goshawk Challenge Event

just wanted to add my plaudit. I've ridden the event a few times and shall be back if there is a 2017!. This year was the best yet - blessed by the weather for sure (I felt like I was riding over the threshold from our disgusting wet winter into a glorious dry green spring) but as an event organizer I could see how much effort you must have put into getting the course down. You have set the bar too high! The course really delivered... skillfully and imaginatively designed and unstintingly constructed! Your efforts were not lost on me! Kudos Kudos Kudos. Regards - John L

**Reply:** Hi John, geez I don't know what to say, other than thanks. Yes there is a lot of thought and work that goes into it as you well appreciated. Really glad that the effort paid off and you enjoyed the course. Thank you for your compliments ...and yes how fortunate we were with the weather, what a grand day out. Cheers

**Subject:** Wentwood

Another cracking event the only down side being the wrong end of the season for my old legs J. Thanks to all your cheery marshals who were in great spirits we had some good banter. Signage was good and took some concentration through the trees. Consensus was that this was the best course so far. Excellent day and thanks for the good weather.

**Reply:** Hi Joe, great to have you again this year and thanks for the feedback. Glad you enjoyed the route and still had enough gas in the tank to banter with the marshalls. I pass on your kind words. Cheers

**Subject:**

Thanks for organising such an excellent event yesterday, completely underestimated how tough 50K was going to be this early in the season and thank god the weather was so good. I noticed lots of photographers out on the course, do you know where the photos will be hosted?

Thanks again, will definitely be back next year having done a little more training !!!

**Reply:** Hi Dan, Great - glad you enjoyed it and had a good day on the bike. Yes, a few photographers this year, all of them I believe are hobbyist who just enjoy taking shots. I'm hoping to have details and links published on the website shortly. Cheers

**Subject:** 13/03/16

Rob, Can I say a huge thank you for today's event. Having completed 3 Wentwood events, I have to say that I thought this was the best course yet. On reflection it's clear that a great deal of thought and planning must have been given to the route as regards to environmental damage, rideability, and riders safety when taking into account the weather we've had this winter.

As usual the marshals were not only helpful but very encouraging and friendly, making the day feel as if I was their guest for the day. I've said it before and will say it again. The event is too cheap and I think you sell yourself short. Why have early entry discount when the event is so well established that it's bound to sell out every year. The package you offer of superb riding, quality signing, and brilliant marshals, set at all the right places is a package second to none. I could go on to say about the weather you organised for the day, but perhaps that would be giving you too much praise? Hope to see you next yearm Rgds, Keith

**Reply:** Hi Keith, Wow thanks for the feedback, much appreciated by everyone involved. re: entry fee - I take your point, but I guess I'm just old school and as long as its a fair price and means we're still able to make sizeable donations to the supported charity, then that's gotta be win/win for everyone. Nope can't take credit for the sunshine, but what a super day it turned out to be. Cheers

#### Wentwood50 2014 Event Feedback

Here's a ride feature from Paul Trimble. His bikemagic.com article can be downloaded here [download Paul's article](#).

Rider feedback from the 2014 event can be downloaded here: [download riders feedback](#)

#### 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](#)