

Gisburn Forest Bike Trails

"When will the bike trails be finished?".... I wish I had a pound for every time I've been asked this question recently. "Oh, pretty soon" I'd reply.

Last year I was beginning to doubt that we'd ever get past the planning and fund raising stage. But thanks to generous contributions from a variety of partners and a healthy grant from Sport England we're very nearly there.

The new trails will be a great asset for the area providing an opportunity for locals and visitors to participate in healthy outdoor activity. The new "blue" trail (no name yet!) will be a moderate



grade and has been designed to be accessible and fun for novice riders. In addition to a peaceful trundle along the old rail bed at Bottoms Beck the blue trail includes some sections that swoop around banked corners. Though nothing is too tricky, this style of trail is great fun to ride and should also provide enjoyment for all riders.

The new red trail is formed as a figure of eight and takes riders up towards Whelpstone Crag and the northern end of the forest. A walking excavator, capable of traversing steep slopes and climbing over boulders was used

near to the Crag. This enabled the construction of a fantastic section of trail while minimising disturbance to the wider site. The



red route includes climbs and descents over boulders, fast swooping corners and sections of elevated wooden trail. Should provide a very entertaining and challenging ride.

A notable contribution to the new facility has come from a team of very capable volunteers. The valued contributions of many local riders, Settle Scouts, staff from 3M Health Care and others has enabled the construction of over 1000 metres of new trail. All it took was a trailer full of hand tools, wheelbarrows a few gallons of tea and several hundred chocolate biscuits. A really great effort.



The current phase of construction should be completed in a couple of weeks. We then need to safety check and test ride the new trails before erecting way-markers and publishing a guide map.

I'm sure we'll have teething troubles as the new trails bed in and riders find weak points in the trail surface. Fixing these will be easy. I'm just so chuffed we've finally got something built.

Martin Colledge
May 2009



Tosside Indoor Bowling Club Presentation Night

Tosside Indoor Bowling Club held their annual dinner and presentation night at Tosside Community Hall on Tuesday April 28th.

Members had a splendid meal provided by Pam Breaks and Linda Brennand. This was followed by an amusing and informative talk about husky racing from Roy Monk. The evening concluded with the presentation of trophies for the 2008/2009 season.

The winners were:

The Sagar Shield Singles Trophy
Olive Holgate

The Calder Cup Ladies Trophy
Olive Holgate

The Kenyon Cup Doubles Trophy
D. Lawson & W. Towler

Pendle Witch Summer Trophy
Jim Simpson

Summer Doubles Trophy
Kathleen Hanson & John Whipp

Harry Sharples League Trophy
Val Towler

Norman Elliot League Trophy
Olive Holgate



Blackpool Big Mat Trophy 2008
Roy Akrigg, Jim Simpson & Betty Peel