

# howies®



- **When?** - Sunday May 3<sup>th</sup> 2009. Compulsory rider safety briefing 10.40. Start time 11.00
- **Where?** - Machynlleth, mid-Wales. Use the main car park off of Maengwyn Street at SY20 8DZ. Please do not leave empty parking spaces between cars, we will need every space.
- **Where do I get my number?** – They can be collected from 12.00 on Saturday, when you sign-on at the event HQ. Signing-on will also be open from 08.00 to 10.00 on Sunday morning. Please ensure you know your number when you come to sign-on.
- **Will I get lost?** - We hope not, just follow the yellow arrows, they will be placed at every junction.
- **Is it a race?** - No, its a endurance challenge, to be completed in your own time. The route follows everything from A-roads, to 6" wide forest single-track. Its all public access, while we do our best to keep other forest users away from the route you may meet horses, motorcycles or 4x4s, so ride aware.
- **Where is the start?** - The start will be 200m from the main car park, in the camping and HQ field.
- **Why are there 2 finishes?** - You will be signed off the course, and time of day noted, as you leave the forest. This is a closed area, we ask that supporters cars do not drive up the forest road to the finish. You will then have a 4 mile ride back to event HQ on way-marked back lanes. The official finish is back where you started at event HQ, this is where prizes are handed out, so please make sure you come back in under the banner.
- **What happens on the road section?** - There will be a lead car & motorcycles , controlling the pace from the start, and a sweeper car at the rear, we aim to keep everybody grouped together, occupying only the left side of the road for the 4 miles to the start of the forest trail. We are lucky to be able to do this on a major A-road, and it will only continue if you, the riders, follow two basic rules. Keep inside the white line at all times. Do not use the pavement.
- **Do you publish results?** - We will publish a list of riders, in the order that they crossed the line, we will also list the time of day when they cleared the course, this will also indicate if they took the longer or shorter route.
- **Where can I stay?** - There is a list of accommodation on the enduro website, Machynlleth TIC can be contacted on 01654 702401. We advise you book early.
- **What about camping?** - Its free, turn up from 17.00 on Friday, There will be toilets in the field, and showers will be available in the rugby club next to the event field. You are welcome to stay until mid day Monday.
- **Where's the hospitality?** - There will be a well stocked free food and drink station at around half distance.
- **What if I fall off?** - There will be at least one ambulance in the forest while the event is in progress, and one mobile doctor on a quad bike, there will also be first aid staff at the event HQ. Local Hospitals are Machynlleth and Aberystwyth. If you see an injured rider please inform the next event marshal you see.
- **What if my bike breaks?** - You are expected to carry basic tools and a couple of spare tubes, some course marshals will have spare tubes, which they will swap for punctured ones. There will also be a sweeper van following the closing motorcycles, they will transport damaged bikes and riders back the event HQ.
- **What about under 16's?** - We have safety obligations to our insurers, and Forest Enterprise, this means that under16's can not take part in the event. That includes riding 'unofficially' with a parent but without a number.
- **Can I come back & ride the course?** - Yes, by all means, but please be aware that the top section through the field is private land, and open to us only on the day of the event by prior agreement with the landowner.
- **Can I ride a funny bike?** - You can ride a mountain bike with 24", 26" or 29" (but only if you have a beard) wheels, if you are sure you are capable you can ride a unicycle or tandem. We do not allow cyclocross, touring, or hybrid bikes. Your bike must be safe, and in good mechanical condition.
- **Do I need a helmet?** - Yes, absolutely no exceptions.
- **Can I ride in a leather thong?** - As long as the police don't mind you can wear what you like, but, expect anything from warmish sunshine, to hail and rain, so ensure you bring adequate clothing for nasty weather. Remember if you break your bike you could be waiting around to be picked up.
- **I have entered, but can't ride, can I give my place to a mate?** - Yes, email your mates details, we will assign him your number. This will be done once entries have closed, so don't worry if you don't hear straight back.
- **I didn't get in, can I turn up on Sunday and bribe you?** - Sorry, but we will not be taking entries on the day.
- **Why the entry cost increase?** - To pay for the new venue, and a bar and band for Saturday evening. Please come and make the most of it.
- **What do you do with all the money?** - We normally squander it on pole dancers and big game hunting trips to obscure Eastern European countries.
- **No really?** - The truth is, once we have paid for the infrastructure surrounding the event, along with other essentials like insurance, administration and so on, there is not a huge amount left. Some is retained, to cover costs in case only 25 people turn up next year, and the remainder is used to support worthy causes. The event has helped extend the Climax trail in the Dyfi forest, and has donated money to several charities and events. The organisers do not benefit financially from the event.