

Bedgebury MTB – 18/11/2007

It was an early start for a Sunday morning. It wasn't the most appealing idea to get up and go mountain biking, with it being a frosty 2 degrees and 6am! However we decided to go anyway.

After we arrived at the wrong place, Mum, Dad, Colin, Kate and I took a 3 mile warm up to meet Nigel, Ian and Hannah (we were 1/2 an hour late due to the D tour!)

Two groups were already on their way including:

- Becky, Jamie, Richard and Richard C.
- &
- Matt, Rob and his two friends.

There were a few incidents which caused the hold up including, forgetting to attach the brakes, a snapped chain, getting lost and a chain coming off before finally getting on course.

The single track was 12 K through Bedgebury Forest with lots of different terrain including up hill, flat and downhill mud tracks, tight bends, tough ascents and steep descents...obviously involving a few collisions with the odd tree stump, and a couple of unintentional dismounts into muddy puddles!

About 8 km into the ride we came across the bomb hole, which was a deep dyke filled with rain water at the bottom. Nigel went first, to show how it was done, followed by Kate, Colin and Ian. Unfortunately Ian emerged out the other side with a snake bite puncher which could not be fixed due to not having quick release wheels or a spanner. Ian continued the course on a flat tyre which was no doubt exhausting so after a while Colin offered to swap bikes to finish off the course. Great team work!

After a shattering ride it was a relief to get back to the tea hut, enjoy some refreshments and swap stories with the 2 other groups that went out. I look forward to the next MTB outing!

Jen