

Dyfi Mountain Biking

Mach 1 • Mach 2 • Mach 3 • cli-machx

News from Dyfi Mountain Biking

Spring 2007

Rock hard

Following the surfacing work last year, the cli-machx trail has been riding well all winter, according to local riders - despite one of the wettest seasons on record!

Judith Thornton, the local ranger tells us more:

“There was almost a metre of rain in October to December last year, which was 37% higher than the same period in 2005. This amount of rainfall takes its toll on

natural trails such as bridleways, which can turn your favourite summer descent into a boggy unrideable mess. Manmade trails are carefully designed to shed water using a slight side slope and avoiding steep descents that tend to turn into eroded gullies. Combined with the new surfacing material that we’ve laid, the trail has remained really firm. Riders have been heading to the cli-machx for a quick blast in between torrential downpours, knowing that the conditions are remaining rideable.”

The trail surfacing project was funded by Powys County Council, the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. 8 unemployed local people undertook training in trail building and maintenance and built some terrific trail in the process.



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New routes for Machynlleth

Following the success of the Mach 1, 2 and 3 cross-country routes, Dyfi Mountain Biking are planning to add some new options.

These will include a short route and a family route, as well as some real epics, taking riders right out into the wilderness. David Perrott, Chair of the Dyfi Mountain Biking committee explains;

“The existing Mach 1, 2 and 3 routes have proved incredibly popular.

Mountain bikers enjoy cross-country rides for the views and the variety of terrain, and the Dyfi Valley has got both in abundance. We’re planning to broaden the appeal of our trails by including a family friendly route which doesn’t involve too much climbing and will give people a taste of what’s available in the area. At the same time, there are always people who want to push themselves further, so we’re developing a day-long route with some real lung busters and immense views. We’ll also be way-marking a route that goes as far south as the neighbouring mountain biking centre at Nant yr Arian.”



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Big brother is counting you

A counter has been embedded into the cli-machx trail to give Dyfi Mountain Biking more information on when the trail is used and by how many people. Committee Member Tegid Humphreys, who also runs the Holey Trail bike shop and Reditreks, the mountain-biking specific bunkhouse, explains:

“There’s a lot of anecdotal evidence that there have been masses more mountain bikers in the area in recent years, but how do we really know? Actually counting the number using the cli-machx gives us the type of evidence we need to demonstrate the increase - and the impact of mountain biking in the area. It might also help us if we are fund-raising to create new trails”.

The data we’ve had so far is very encouraging in terms of overall numbers. It also shows that we’ve got some hardcore riders – probably locals - who are out all year and at odd times of day, including during the night in winter. The overall use peaks in July and August as we’d expected.

Combining this data with survey data on where people are travelling from to use the trails, and on how much mountain bikers spend while away from home, we can get a much more accurate idea of how much mountain biking is contributing to the local economy. It also allows comparison with other trail centres at FC sites, all of which have these counters installed.

To make sure the data is accurate, we’re not going to tell you where the counter is situated, in case well-meaning mountain bikers bounce up and down on it to ‘adjust’ our figures! The sensor is thanks to a grant from Tourism Partnership Mid Wales, and was provided by Linetop (www.linetop.co.uk).



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Who we are and what we do

Dyfi Mountain Biking are a local community group based in Machynlleth. We are made up of mountain biking enthusiasts, business people and whoever else we can press gang into helping us. We fundraise for, build and maintain mountain bike trails in the Dyfi Valley. It's a great area for mountain biking and we'd like to share it with you!

