

East London MTB Association Permits

For many years East London Mountain Bikers have been riding on various mtb trails scattered around town and on farm lands, not knowing if they were actually allowed to ride on these routes or not.

As it turns out many farmers were getting a bit fed-up with chaps riding on their grounds without permission, and also not even having the decency to greet them. In some bad instances there were reports of farmers being sworn at, riders littering, breaking fences, leaving gates open or scaring horses.

Now I do not want to paint a bleak picture of East London mountain bikers, because it was most likely just an unruly few that brought about a negative vibe toward mountain bikers.

Therefore, the 3 main Mountain Biking Clubs in East London have joined forces by creating the East London Mountain Biking Association. This newly formed ELMBA will negotiate access to farms by giving the farmers peace of mind that only decent responsible mountain bikers will use their routes. And Farmers will be able to identify these riders by their "Permits" (number boards) that will be clearly displayed on their bikes for easy recognition.

The farmers will know that these riders with the "Permits" have signed a "Code of Conduct" which spells out what the conditions are of access to these routes. These riders will also have made a small monetary contribution toward the upkeep of these routes, by paying for these "permits".

In return, the farmers have allowed us to put up notifications at the entrances to the farms that are participating in this initiative, indicating that permit holders have free access to their trails.

Unfortunately, this means that if you are not in possession of one of these permits, you will not be allowed to cycle on the participating farm's trails.

If you would like to purchase one of these "Permits"/Number Boards to become a recognizable responsible Mountain Biker, contact any one of these 3 bike shops: Cycle HQ, Gumbo and Cycle Torque.

As an added bonus, these "permits" have space at their back to fill in all kinds of emergency details. So if something happens to you on the trail, even the farmers would know who to contact to come help you.

Let's work together to make the land owners happy – and in turn more routes will become available!