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From the editor

Earlier this year, I rode my first mountain bike enduro: Yorkshire's Boltby Bash. It was great fun, feeling more like day out riding new trails than a competitive event. I was nevertheless pleased to win my category.

Admittedly, that category existed only in my head. There was no prize for the fastest rider on a fully rigid bike. In fact, there was no one else there on a rigid bike. The actual podiums were populated exclusively by far more skilled riders on full-suspension bikes. I was never going to challenge them, but then nor were the vast majority of entrants.

The solution, in this as in many cycling endeavours, is to set your own victory conditions. Mine were: complete the event on my Jones Plus LWB; enjoy it. Tick, tick.

Most mountain bike racers ride full-suspension bikes because in race situations they're faster. But most of us don't race (or not to win). There are far more important things than having the fastest, lightest or objectively optimal bike. Starting with: a bike that suits your riding; a bike that you enjoy riding.

Hardtail mountain bikes, like the two in this issue, remain popular in the UK because they suit UK conditions, where descents are fairly short, trails are often tight and weather conditions can be challenging. They're cheaper. They can be more engaging, turning red-graded trails into black. You get more bang for your buck.

The moral of the story? Whatever kind of cyclist you are, you don't need to have the optimal bike. You just need a bike. If it does what you want and you enjoy riding it, you're winning.



DAN JOYCE
Editor



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