

DEAD EASY CHARITY TRIAL, HEATON HOUSE FARM, RUSHTON SPENCER, BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY.

REPORT: Roger Townsend

Last Bank Holiday Monday a Dead Easy trial was run at Heaton House Farm, Rushton Spencer in conjunction with the Rushton Spencer Country Fayre. This has become an annual event in the calendar and is organised by Manchester 17 MCC, Macclesfield Trials Club, Winsford MC, Staffordshire Moorlands, and Congleton MC, with money raised profiting local charities in the community.

The trial attracted a healthy entry of 74 riders on a cool overcast morning. Apart from a couple of very light showers this was the pattern for the day but several observers were seen adding an extra layer of clothing before taking up their stations, which proved to be a wise move.

This venue is not the easiest on which to lay out a trial as it is basically a steep grassy hillside with a few trees and the odd rock. Trying to come up with something different provides a stern challenge for the course plotters but the team, led by Steve Cocker, produced ten sections to be covered four times which seemed to get the approval of the vast majority of the entry. The emphasis with these trials is enjoyment, not a replica of a world round.

When the trial started the longish grass was quite damp and if you weren't concentrating it was very easy to cast away marks.

On the harder of the two routes six riders actually remained clean all day. Steve Thomas out on his latest project, a TY 175 Yamaha, left his trusty Bantam at home but kept his feet firmly on the pegs all day. Similarly, so did Youth B rider Matt Brown, Over 40 rider Bob Gregory, Robert Mycock on his twin shock Bultaco, Graham White, and Gas Gas man Andy Hipwell, out for a change on a nice TY monoshock Yamaha.

On this route, the first section, tight turns on a bank around trees, took many marks from a lot of the entry. Further round the course, section eight which was a steep grassy climb up the hillside with turns over a broken down wall, also caused many to get their feet down and even in some cases come to a halt.

The final section was located just over the wall from the car park and comprised of tight turns around trees. The idea was that visitors from the Country Fayre could wander over and without getting too muddy see what this crazy sport of motorcycle trials was all about. Unlike world rounds, it may persuade one or two to have a go! Surprisingly on the easy route there were no clean rides for once. Best was Youth C rider Harry Lyons on his little 80cc Beta who cast away a dab. This was on the second section which was possibly the hardest on this route. A longish section it comprised tight turns over rocks and on banks and took quite a few marks.

Wilf Cauldwell was unlucky. Travelling all the way up from South Wales the plucky veteran incurred five marks for going the wrong side of a marker. Otherwise there would have been a clean ride but Wilf still had the consolation of being best over 40 rider.

John Critchlow was best twin shock on his lovely sorted 350 Triumph twin. John rode in some discomfort after injuring his ankle in a recent prang on a quad. Stick to two wheels John!

There was quite a gaggle of youngsters in the trial and it was good so see them riding round together having a lot of fun at one another's expense and really enjoying themselves.

Another successful day with smiles all round at the finish with hopefully the added bonus of a substantial sum of money benefiting local charities.
Thanks to the course plotters who seemed to have got it spot on again and to all who helped on the day. Special thanks to the Observers without whom we could not run trials.

RESULTS

HARD ROUTE

NOVICE : Graham White (Beta) clean, Chris Beech (Gas Gas) 1 mark lost,
INTER : Ioan Ritchie (Gas Gas) 6
TWIN SHOCK : Steve Thomas (Yamaha) clean, Robert Mycock (Bultaco) clean,
OVER 40 : Bob Gregory (Beta) clean, Andy Hipwell (Yamaha) clean,
YOUTH B ; Matt Brown (Gas Gas) clean, Callum Cocker (Gas Gas) 11

EASY ROUTE

NOVICE ; Andy Abraham (Gas Gas) 3, Stephen Simpson (Montesa) 4
OVER 40 ; Wilf Caudwell (Beta) 5, Ray Critchlow (Cub) 7
TWIN SHOCK ; John Critchlow (Triumph) 13, Peter Cottrell (Bantam) 21
YOUTH A ; Kieran Clowes (Yamaha)23, Connor Abraham (Beta) 25
YOUTH B ; Anthony Sugden (Gas Gas) 2 , Daniel Linge (Gas Gas) 13
YOUTH C ; Harry Lyons (Beta) 1, James Frost (Beta) 6