

Manchester 17 Club Championship – Final Round Report

The 3rd and final round of the Manchester 17 Club Championship took place late Saturday afternoon at the famous Hawks Nest trial site in the High Peak, near Buxton, Derbyshire.

Run with two routes, experts and clubman's the competition on both routes was intense with low and very close scores covering the first few finishes in both classes.

On the hard route it definitely was good idea to be young, live locally and have the name of Robinson. Out on top, making no mistakes all evening, was Craig Robinson with Iain Robinson [no relation] finishing second on two and brother of Craig, Liam finishing third on five. Upholding the honour of the oldies was over 40 rider 'Factory Kev Hipwell' in fourth place on eight.

On the clubman's course only four marks covered the first four finishers and coming out on top, with a first win, was Matthew Thorpe who admittedly has been knocking on the door for some time, Matthew losing his only mark on section ten which was a relatively easy hill climb. Second also on one but losing out because of the furthest clean rule was over 40 rider Andy Hipwell who lost his one and only mark on section one on the first lap. Third on three was often trials organiser Adrian Mellor making a rare appearance riding rather than organising.

On the experts route no one section caused particular difficulty with marks spread across the sections evenly but this was not the case for the clubman's route with who could master section one, a twisting climb over sandy boulders, deciding the top place positions.

A novel innovation was graded rocky hill climb. The experts had little difficulty but spectators had good fun watching some desperate do or die efforts from the clubman.

So a good evening was had by all, perhaps easier than intended but no injuries and only one broken bike.