

MANCHESTER 17 MCC LTD : DEAD EASY TRIAL SUNDAY 10th OCTOBER 2010.

REPORT : ROGER TOWNSEND

A bumper entry of 114 riders assembled last Sunday morning at Haslin on the outskirts of Buxton to ride in the Manchester 17 MCC's last Dead Easy trial of the season. These trials continue to attract a very high entry level proving that there is definitely a niche in the trials world for these type of easier events.

Haslin is renowned for its bleakness and exposure to the elements but for once the Gods smiled down and the weather was superb for the time of year.

So, good weather, a none too challenging course, plus a good long ride round, and all was set fair to bring this years Dead Easy series to a close.

It was inevitable with the large entry that there would be some queuing at the sections but riders seemed to enjoy some merry banter with their mates sat in the late autumn sunshine.

73 riders tackled the Harder of the two routes with a three way tie for top spot. Interestingly, the machinery ridden by the winners could not have been more varied. Over 40 rider Chris Roberts went clean on a modern Scorpa, equalled by best twin shock rider Dale Shaw on his immaculate Majesty. They were joined on no marks lost by Pre 65 rider Steve Thomas on his very tidy Bantam.

As to the course, section eight was the one on the hard route that required some thinking about. Straight after the start, riders had to drop down a sharp bank with an immediate angled climb out with hardly room for a front wheel in the bottom. If you were slightly off line, a dab or worse, was inevitable. A further drop and cambered climb added to the fun. In fact, it was this section that caught best Youth A rider Alex Strachan for his only marks lost, three dabs.

On the Easy route, tackled by 41 riders, although again generally low scoring, there were only two clean rides. Vincent Price piloted his Royal Enfield round without loss, as did Youth A rider, young Sam Wheelhouse on his Gas Gas . This fulfilled one of Sam's ambitions as it was the first time he had gone totally clean. No doubt Sam is now eying up the harder route for next year!

On this route, section five, observed by the legendary Scott Ellis, was one that required concentration. A series of dragon's teeth rocks across a cambered hillside could soon catch the unwary if they were just not on the ball.

A good end to what has been a good series of trials and it all kicks off again next February.

Thank you to all who helped on the day and the team of course plotters led by Steve Cocker. A special thanks must go to those who without whose support the events could not run, the Observers, who stood at their posts throughout a long day. Hope to see you all again next February!

RESULTS

HARD ROUTE

NOVICE : Richard Palfreyman (Beta) 2

OVER 40 : Chris Roberts (Scorpa) clean

TWIN SHOCK : Dale Shaw (Majesty) clean

PRE 65 : Steve Thomas (Bantam) clean
YOUTH A : Alex Strachan (Gas Gas) 3
YOUTH B : Jack Wormald (Gas Gas) 8
YOUTH C: Callum Cocker (Gas Gas) 38

EASY ROUTE

NOVICE : Simon Clarke (Scorpa) 4
OVER 40 : Phil Granby (Gas Gas) 1 mark lost
TWIN SHOCK : Steve Bower (Bultaco)
PRE 65 : Vincent Price (Royal Enfield) clean
YOUTH A : Sam Wheelhouse (Gas Gas) clean
YOUTH B :Ben Smith (Gas Gas) 14
YOUTH C : Jordan Frost (Beta) 5
YOUTH D : Henry Lyons (Beta)13