

MANCHESTER 17 MCC DEAD EASY TRIAL SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER 2011
HASLINS NEAR BUXTON

REPORT : Roger Townsend

Time flies when you are enjoying yourself. It doesn't seem five minutes since the first of the series of Dead Easy trials run by Manchester 17 MCC last February at a very muddy Heaton Grange Farm near Leek. Sunday saw the running of the final Dead Easy trial for this year at that windy out post high over Buxton known as Haslins. Sixty nine riders set out to do battle over a four lap, ten section course. The setting out team had really worked hard to come up with some variety from the opportunities available although the weather had been atrocious during the exercise. It had been difficult to stand upright at times particularly on the higher parts of the ground. Although it was dry and bright when the trial started, the first five sections on the higher parts of the course were very windswept and apart from affecting the riders it was no fun for the poor observers.

The remaining five sections were in the sheltered valley bottom and the weather conditions could not have been more different.

Grassy banks, tight turns, limestone rocks, and as the trial wore on, mud, were the order of the day. The conditions meant that some of the sections on the easy route turned out a little more difficult than normal but none were dangerous and riders seemed to enjoy the challenge.

A heavy shower of rain during the closing part of the trial made it even more interesting!

As for the riders, Wilf Cauldwell clearly relishes these events and made his long trip from South Wales worth it by going clean on the easy route. He was joined in this feat by Ray Critchlow on his Cub and Youth rider Harry Lyons. Spare a thought for Stephen Baker who was clean until the last section on the last lap when he cast away a dab under the watchful eye of observer Harvey Lloyd who was hoping the fresh air would blow away his heavy cold.

Yet another relatively rare machine appeared on Sunday, an Italjet ridden by Mark Capewell for a loss of only two marks, proving once again these events are suitable for all types of bike.

Section eight proved a tricky little number on this route. A tight right hand turn up a grassy bank followed by a left hand turn over rocks, which became more mud covered caught out anyone who wasn't concentrating. Jess Austin was the man on the board here and Jess has been a real stalwart observer at these events over the whole series. On the hard route, just the one clean ride by Simon Bown on the Bultaco to report. Pressing him all the way were Tony Pratt, Steve Thomas, back on his trusty Bantam, and Steve Cocker on the Gasser having one of his best rides of late. All these riders had a dab.

On this route section six observed by Jude Mellor proved a mark stealer. It comprised a series of tight turns along grassy knolls but they got ever more muddy and greasy as the trial progressed.

A 50 /50 route was included again and six riders had a go. Ian Norvil on his Fantic ran out the winner on twenty marks lost ahead of Gas Gas mounted Callum Styring who lost thirty two.

A special thank you to all the Observers who manned their posts in difficult conditions. Your efforts really are appreciated and vital to the running of these events. Thanks also to all who helped before, during, and after the event.

Well, that's it for another year. Thank you to all the riders who have supported these events and we hope to see you all again when the whole series starts again next February.

RESULTS

EASY ROUTE

OVER 40 : Wilf Caldwell (Beta) clean, Stephen Baker(Gas Gas) one mark lost

TWIN SHOCK: Ray Critchlow (Cub) clean, Mark Capewell (Italjet) 2,

NOVICE : Steve Gould (Sherco) 2, Stephen Simpson (Montesa) 6

YOUTH C : Harry Lyons (Beta) clean, Phoebe Hallam (Beta) 3

YOUTH D : George Leake (Beta) 37, Andrew Renshaw (Beta) 38

HARD ROUTE

OVER 40 : Tony Pratt (Beta) one mark lost, Pat Trafford (Gas Gas) 3

TWIN SHOCK : Simon Bown (Bultaco) clean, Steve Thomas (Bantam) one mark lost,

NOVICE : Steve Cocker (Gas Gas) one mark lost, Will Tyler (Beta) 4,

YOUTH B : Callum Cocker (Gas Gas) 30

50/50 ROUTE

Ian Norval (Fantic) 20, Callum Styring (Gas Gas) 32