

MANCHESTER 17 MCC LTD DEAD EASY TRIAL SUNDAY 7 FEB 2010

REPORT : ROGER TOWNSEND

A clear, cool day greeted the one hundred riders who turned out to tackle the first of this years Manchester 17's Dead Easy trials at the popular Haslins venue near Buxton in the High Peak. How that was to change. Within an hour of the start, a thick mist swirled in with visibility down to ten yards. The course plotters had set out a big lap which gave riders a really good blast round but at times a sat nav would have been useful to find the sections at the top of the course!

You normally associate Haslins with limestone outcrops and grassy banks but this time to add a bit of variety the course plotters had discovered some mud. The trial turned into a bit of an old fashioned mud plug and this was reflected in the scores being somewhat higher than a normal dead easy, but the spirit of these events was maintained with all the sections being rideable without damage to rider or machine. The real fun started as early as section two observed by Alan Turner. Riders had to traverse a hollow filled with a foot of snow before turning out up a grassy bank. Only the overall winner on the hard route Danny Butler, and Andy Foot remained clean all day, with no one managing to remain clean on the easier route.

Ken Roberts was in charge of an interesting little number half way round the course. Starting with a turn over slippery rocks it ended with a climb out of a muddy gully which got progressively more slippery. This time Andrew Bray joined Danny Butler as the only un penalised riders all day with Ray Critchlow performing a similar feat on the easy route.

The last section was a real sting in the tail. It was set out as a fairly innocuous meander through a bog with a few turns on the bank thrown in for good measure on the harder route. After a couple of laps, as the mud got deeper and carried on to the banks, the pen of Gail Critchlow got hotter as scores rocketed. No one on either route mastered the section on all four laps.

Andy Downham tied with Danny Butler as best overall on the harder route, both dropping nine marks.

Nigel Rigg was the clear winner on the easy route with a loss of sixteen followed home by Ant Harris on twenty two.

Although scores were higher than normal, conditions played a big part. In spite of this comments at the end of the trial were favourable with riders rushing home to play with the power washers!

Next Dead Easy is on Bank Holiday Monday 3 May when of course the sun will be shining and all the mud long forgotten.

Thanks to all the Observers, the land owners and the course plotters and helpers on the day without whom the event would not run.

RESULTS

HARD ROUTE

Expert: Danny Butler (Beta) 9

Int : Simon Wright (Sherco) 69

Over 40 : Andy Downham (Gas Gas) 9, Andy Foot (Montesa) 11

T/S : Robert Mycock (Bultaco) 15 Andrew Yates (Yamaha) 19

Pre 65 : Derek Brooks (BSA) 23, Clive Tomkinson (Greeves)28
Youth A Alex Strachan (Gas Gas) 45, Daniel Jones (Gas Gas)77
Youth B : Ben Francis (Gas Gas) 69, Adam Swift (Beta)87
Youth C : Callum Cocker (Gas Gas)

EASY ROUTE

Novice : Nigel Rigg (Gas Gas) 16, Simon Sabin (Sherco) 28
Over 40 : Ant Harris (Montesa) 22, Ray Critchlow (Gas Gas)31
Pre 65 : Anthony Sabin (James) 54
Youth A :Toby Brookes (Gas Gas) 37, Lewis Edwards (Scorpa) 55
Youth C : James Frost (Beta) 74, Jordan Frost (Beta (Beta) 79