

## MANCHESTER 17 MCC DEAD EASY TRIAL MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011

REPORT : ROGER TOWNSEND

Manchester 17 MCC held the third in the series of Dead Easy trials at a rain drenched Haslins on the outskirts of Buxton on Bank Holiday Monday. A lower entry than usual of 66 riders contested the event, no doubt due to some riders not getting pass outs for what could have been a third event in three days over the Bank Holiday, and the weather forecast. Haslins is not very hospitable when the sun shines, never mind when it rains, the bleak, open hills not providing a lot of shelter.

What was set out as a "dead easy" turned out to be far from that for the majority of riders due to the incessant downpour most of the day. When the course was plotted, account was taken of there being an odd shower, but it turned out to be worse than expected. The hard route in particular suffered as a result, with the mix of water and limestone providing a heady cocktail.

In fact, there was only one clean sheet all day on this route, a superb ride by Youth B rider, young Matt Bown, who kept his feet firmly on the pegs all day.

Possibly the hardest section of the day was section seven observed by stalwart supporter Gail Critchlow. Having encountered six sections of mainly turns on limestone outcrops and grassy banks, section seven was a different kettle of fish. A very steep climb up the hillside which got progressively more slippery, following a tight right hand approach, followed by a turn and an equally steep drop back down, was the challenge. Many riders who struggled to the top found themselves losing marks in an exciting fashion on the way down. Not for the faint hearted!

Liam Robinson turned out on a very nice pre 65 James and remarkably only lost one mark all day, his final attempt at the notorious section seven.

As ever at these events there was a wide spread of machinery and due to the conditions, the older bikes were not at such a disadvantage. Not having the fierce power of the modern weapons they often just slogged their way up the sections, pulling like trains, whereas the modern super powered machines would break traction. A good example was Colin Fray who rode his very standard looking Dot, complete with leading link forks, round the hard course for a loss of only 23 marks, a tidy ride on the day.

On the easy route, no clean rides. Best was veteran rider Wilf Cauldwell, all the way from South Wales, who went round for a loss of two. It was the tight turns on rocks of section four that was the major mark stealer on this route, with the next two contenders, over 40 rider Phil Granby, and Youth C rider Harry Lyons also casting marks away here.

Well done to all for braving the weather, with a special thanks to the observers for sticking to their posts in the most miserable conditions. Your efforts were appreciated. Let's hope the next event is bathed in sunshine.

### RESULTS

#### HARD ROUTE

EXPERT : Jim Bown (Beta) 10

INTER : Liam Robinson ( James) 1 mark lost

NOVICE : Ben Townsend ( Gas Gas) 10, Richard Palfreyman ( Beta) 22

OVER 40 : Paul Wagstaff (Beta) 5 , Neil Marsh (Beta) 5

TWIN SHOCK : Colin Pickering (Montesa)11 , Derek Brookes ( Francis Barnett) 13

YOUTH A : Jess Bown ( Gas Gas) 18

YOUTH B : Matt Bown ( Gas Gas) clean , Joshua Bailey ( Gas Gas) 27

#### EASY ROUTE

OVER 40 : Wilf Cauldwell ( Beta) 2 , Phil Granby (Scorpa) 4

NOVICE : Michael Naden ( Gas Gas) 24

TWIN SHOCK : Roger Townsend ( Yamaha) 10

YOUTH A : Kevin Clowes ( Gas Gas) 56

YOUTH B : Daniel Linge (Gas Gas) 59

YOUTH C : Harry Lyons (Beta) 10

YOUTH D : Harry Bowyer ( Gas Gas) 68