

The 2nd Round of the Manchester 17 Club Championship Trials Series took place this Sunday 5th June.

This is the first time that the venue at Roman Lakes Leisure Park, Marple, Nr Stockport, Cheshire has been used in the summer, it being the usual venue for the clubs Boxing Day Trial, where the steep hillsides of the lakeside venue results in very slippery conditions.

However, all was different this time, a nice summer's day, dry conditions in a lovely parkland setting with all sorts of wild life and non-hostile walkers taking an interest in the proceedings.

The trials consisted of 4 laps of 12 mostly technical sections but in all cases featured a steep decent or ascent.

There were two choices of route; - harder, or clubman's and on both routes the winner won by a big margin.

On the hard route local man Mike Roberts came out on top with a score of 3 followed by his riding companion from New Mills, Mark Reynolds on 7 and Buxton's Liam Robinson on 9.

On the clubman's route old time veteran Mike Leddy made the trip from North Wales to show all the locals how to do it with a score of only 3 followed by 'Mr Control' himself - Ady Bellis on 9 with a tie for third between Steve Carthy Jnr and Mike King. Mike's performance was particularly notable by the fact that this is his first trial for fifteen years.

No particular section on the hard route stood out as being especially difficult, however on the easier route the most interesting and difficult section was section 7 manned by Harvey Lloyd. This section required riders to negotiate an awkward jump over a fallen tree at a 45 degree angle. It wasn't that difficult if you had the technique, then you just floated over, if not, you came to an ignominious halt.

In summary, the trial was a nice summer's jaunt around beautiful countryside, a big contrast to the arctic conditions which usually prevail at the Boxing Day trials held at the same venue