

BUSHMAN BEST IN MITCHELL

DAVE ROWLAND REPEATS HIS ROCKY WIN

REPETING his victory in Yorkshire's national Allan Jefferies Trial three months ago, Dave Rowland (175 BSA) won the Mitchell Memorial Trial, at Merthyr Tydfil, in Wales, on Saturday. The connection? The BSA Bushman's liking for loose rocks, which abound on both courses.

Saturday's national event attracted a disappointing entry of just over 60 soloists from as far afield as Cornwall and Yorkshire. With British champion Sammy Miller competing in Switzerland, the event was wide open.

But Rowland rode so well that it's doubtful whether even Sam could have matched his loss of 18 marks in nearly 60 sub-sections. Big rocks, slippery mud, deep water, steep gradients—nothing seemed too much for Dave and his works BSA two-stroke.

Yet it was Peter Gaunt's screaming 118 cc Suzuki, which was the only machine to carry its rider through the first hazard without strenuous foot assistance.

Known as Outback, this particular tit-bit soon became so slimy that Mick Andrews (230 Ossa) did well to keep on the move. All other attempts met with failure in the final sub-section.

Dennis Jones, back on a 250 Sprite after a break with Greeves, conquered the first two sub-sections and might have coped with the third, but his footrest dropped off at the crucial moment!

Lawrence Telling (250 Bultaco) squandered a disastrous 13 marks, in contrast to a spirited ride by scrambler Andy Robertson (250 Cotton), who dropped six.

Deep hole

Friday's torrential rain had swollen the rocky river at Glaisbrook, so that nobody was unpenalised here on Saturday.

With single prods, John Ashcroft (250 Greeves), Gordon Farley (200 Triumph) and Rowland were best, though Lawrence Telling (250 Bultaco) and Jim Sandiford (250 Greeves) were well past the worst when their front wheels dropped into a deep hole between the boulders.

A rocky climb at Morlais penalised Rowland to the tune of three marks, but most of the other aces were untroubled.

Yet Dave's dab ascent of Abercribban was equalled only by Telling and Rob Edwards (265 Cotton).

This ever-steepening hill was littered with loose rocks, but Dave climbed it quite slowly.

"Not enough power to get wheelspin!" scoffed a jocular Dennis Jones.

In ever-brightening weather, riders went over the hills to Nant Morlais—a stream with an uncommonly awkward exit which was difficult enough to cost Derek Adsett (250 Greeves) four marks and drop him to the bottom of the first-class award winners. Even Farley had a touch, and fell off between here and Vostoc, the next hazard.

Matched

But Vostoc was innocuous, and so was Gethin's Gully. Rowland romped through these two, and likewise through the difficult sections at Duffryn. But here his performance was matched only by Farley, Edwards and Dick Hearn (200 Triumph).

The once dreaded Heol Gymro held few terrors. Riders wondered whether Perthy Bank had also lost its sting. But not so! Single prods by Sandiford and Edwards were the best on Saturday.

Each of Perthy's five sub-sections was more difficult than the last, and Peter Stirland (250 Greeves) rode brilliantly to lose only two marks.

He was again in great form on the curiously-named Dog's Dip, a rock-filled stream. One dab saw him through, and the same applied to Farley and Edwards. But Geoff Chandler (250 Wasp) and Chris Leighfield (250 Sprite) were alone in losing no marks at all. The seemingly nervous Rowland touched twice.

Only the old slag-heap climb at the finish remained.

Lined with spectators basking in the sunshine, this steep ascent started with some very artificial twists and turns: Arthur Dovey (250 Cheetah) prodded—but he went on to achieve the only clean climb of the hill.

Ian Haydon (250 Cotton) stopped where Dovey dabbed, but recovered in time to get up the hill with a dab. After a

prolonged inspection, Farley went upon his way four marks to the bad.

Rowland and Edwards each dropped three for strenuous footing on the steepest slope, and so this final hazard played no part in shaping the results.

Farley was acutely aware that only an unpenalised performance would have enabled him to overhaul Dave Rowland but six strenuous days of racing against the clock in the ISDT a week earlier seemed to have taken the edge off Gordon's usual finesse.

RESULTS

Best Performance: R. D. Rowland (175 BSA), 18 marks lost. **Runner-up:** G. J. Farley (200 Triumph), 21.

Best Team: Sunbeam MCC (G. J. Farley, P. T. Stirland, R. R. Meades), 143.

Class Awards: 200cc: R. S. Peplow (Triumph), 53. 250cc: M. J. Andrews (Ossa), 29. 350cc: R. Edwards (265 Cotton), 22.

Best Under 21: L. C. Telling (250 Bultaco), 35. **Best East South Wales Resident:** J. Hampton (250 Bultaco), 70. **Best West South Wales Resident:** I. Norris (250 Dot), 87.

First-class Awards: J. Ashcroft (250 Greeves) and J. A. Sandiford (250 Greeves), 30; L. C. Telling (250 Bultaco), 35; C. Leighfield (250 Sprite), 36; D. Jones (250 Sprite) and C. F. Dommett (250 Bultaco), 38; D. J. Adsett (250 Greeves), 44.

Second-class Awards: P. T. Stirland, 46; I. Payne, G. Chandler and A. L. Dovey, 47; J. B. Hutchinson, 52; I. K. Haydon, 54.



Winner Dave Rowland looks a trifle apprehensive as leg power assists his 13.5 bhp Bantam up Bakers—overlooking the finish near the gas works of Merthyr Tydfil. He dropped three marks there.

On top of his form, Dave Rowlands eases the factory 175 cc BSA Bushman over the rocks of Abercribban. A similar machine is to be developed by Comerfords for limited production.

