

MANCHESTER 17 MCC LTD - DEAD EASY TRIAL. SUNDAY 3rd FEB 2008

REPORT : Roger Townsend

Manchester 17 Club started its series of the popular "Dead Easy" Trials earlier than usual with the first event taking place last Sunday. An event had to be cancelled last year due to foot and mouth so, as ever wanting to provide good value for money, the club decided to put on an extra event this year.

The venue was Wright's Farm, Haslin, nr Buxton, high up on the exposed Derbyshire hills. When Karl Green and his merry band of helpers set out the trial the day before, the whole area was snow-bound. Fortunately, conditions were better on the day of the trial but section nine was overlooked by a giant snowman, no doubt a legacy from the course plotting team!

Although the snow had eased, it remained intensely cold and the true heroes were the observers who stood at their posts to enable the days sport to take place.

The course was the usual format of four laps of ten sections, a little shorter than normal due to the snow. The hard route on section two seemed to be the teaser and caught quite a few riders out. It was a drop into a gully, followed by a cambered turn on a bank, and the line had to be spot on. Like on many of the sections, spinning wheels soon turned the grass on the limestone outcrops to mud.

An entry of 80 riders was split roughly half and half between the Hard and Easy route. Overall winner on the hard route was over-40 rider Andy Foot, who went round for just a solitary dab, pipping Neil Marsh, another over-40 rider, on two marks lost, the same as John Wilson who also dropped two on his trusty twin-shock. Ben Hallam was best Adult Beginner on this route on 11 marks lost, with Cymon Buckinger best Novice on the hard route with a loss of thirteen. Samuel Atherton was best Youth B rider on forty marks lost.

On the very popular Dead Easy route, clean rides were recorded by Youth Beginners Matt Gilbert and Jordan Foot, and Best Novice, Leigh Halligan. David Lloyd had a good ride, losing only one mark to come out as best over-40 rider with Alan Boyd best Adult Beginner on eight.

It is always good to see the older machines being given an airing and Christopher Atherton was best Pre-65 with a loss of just a dab, while Edd Hibbert piloted his twin-shock round for a loss of ten marks. Finally, Josh Malone was best Youth B with another clean ride, Bradley Fuller best Youth C, and Jake Machin Best Youth D Class.

It is good to see more of the Youth C and D class riders and they always put up a spirited performance on their small machines, with parents shedding the pounds trying to keep up with them! It is hoped to put on a separate conducted route for them at the next Dead Easy in April.

Finally, a big thank-you to Karl Green and the crew for setting the course out and the unsung heroes, the Observers, for remaining cheerful despite the extreme conditions.

RESULTS

EASY ROUTE

OVER 40: David Lloyd 1 mark lost

Dion Osborne 8

ADULT BEGINNER: Alan Boyd 8 Stephen Elliot 10

YOUTH BEGINNER: Matt Gilbert clean, Jordan Foot clean,

NOVICE: Leigh Halligan clean,

PRE 65: Christopher Atherton 1, Anthony Sabin 25,

TWIN SHOCK: Edd Hibbert 10

YOUTH B: Josh Malone clean,

YOUTH C: Bradley Fuller 7,

YOUTH D: Jake Machin 27,

HARD ROUTE

OVER 40: Andy Foot 1, Neil Marsh 2,

ADULT BEGINNER: Ben Hallam 11,

NOVICE: Cymon Buckinger 13, Peter Shone 16

TWIN SHOCK: John Wilson 2, Andrew Yates 12
YOUTH B: Samual Atherton 40