

MANCHESTER 17 MCC DEAD EASY TRIAL SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2013

REPORT : Roger Townsend

Where has the time gone? No sooner had the first of the Dead Easy trials of the year been held back on a cold day in February than we arrived at the last one for this year on a fine autumn day in October.

Due to a clash with other trials in the area the trial was switched to Saturday afternoon but still attracted a healthy entry of 58 riders.

The venue was Haslins situated above Buxton in the Peak District and comprised the normal route of ten sections to be lapped four times. The course plotters tried to find new routes and locations on the limestone outcrops and grassy climbs and this probably meant the trial was a little harder than the usual Dead Easy format. Plus of course at this time of the year, dampness prevails and grip can be hard to find.

A 50/50 route was introduced at this event which attracted the attention of six riders. John Critchlow on his big, well prepared Triumph twin had a cracking ride to only lose three marks, all in the form of the odd dab. He was followed home on this route by young George Lees on his Beta who dropped nine.

Twenty nine riders competed on the harder route including some very experienced riders and competition was going to be stiff. Steve Thomas really got his act together on the day and piloted his lovely little Bantam round without dropping a mark. No mean feat in the slippery conditions. Colin Fray on his standard Dot was next with a loss of seven, with another Bantam ridden by Peter Elvidge in third place. A change of bike to a four stroke Montesa is clearly suiting Andy Atkinson who was next on thirteen tying with Sherco mounted Aaron Boundy.

Nigel Rigg led the runners home on the easy route suffering a five on the twists and turns of the penultimate section. Stephen Hoyland was next dropping a mark more to finish on six with Stephen Simpson third on thirteen.

Overall another good year for these popular trials. A huge thank you goes to all who have helped put the trials on, the land owners for the use of the land, and the observers without whom it makes life very difficult on the day of the event. Plus of course all the riders who have turned out and supported the trials.

It all starts again next February, watch TMX nearer the time for details.

RESULTS

HARDER ROUTE

Steve Thomas (Bantam) clean, Colin Fray (Dot) 7, Peter Elvidge (Bantam)11, Andy Atkinson (Montesa)13, Aaron Boundy (Sherco) 13

50/50 ROUTE

John Critchlow (Triumph) 3, George Lees (Beta) 9

EASY ROUTE

Nigel Rigg (Gas Gas) 5, Stephen Hoyland (Sherco) 6, Stephen Simpson (Montesa) 13, Michael Fletcher (Yamaha) 16, Sam Wilson (Beta) 16