

MANCHESTER 17 MCC LTD DEAD EASY TRIAL. PERRYFOOT FARM PEAK FOREST. SATURDAY 28th JULY 2018

REPORT: Roger Townsend

A brand new venue awaited the riders for the latest Manchester 17 MCC's Dead Easy Trial at Perryfoot Farm in the Peak District near to Peak Forest. Just round the corner from the start of the infamous Hipwell Trial, the ground rises steeply from the car park field up a hill to a large expanse of woodland and limestone outcrop.

A healthy entry of sixty nine solos turned out last Saturday afternoon on what is traditionally a lower entry trial due to school holidays. Only two sidecar outfits entered which was disappointing given the work entailed setting a course for them.

The first three sections were set outside the wood on limestone rock and grassy outcrops. Twists and turns up and down the banks, they didn't cause too much trouble and settled riders down early in the trial.

It was then a good long enjoyable blast down the fields to section four which was the first of the next seven sections in the wood.

In the main these tests were tight turns and drops around trees and in and out of gulleys. Section eight on the Harder Route proved tricky as the exit was over a pile of greasy rolling rocks and could easily catch you out if you weren't concentrating.

Andy Foot was the only rider to go clean on the Harder Route. First time out on his Fantic, he dashed round to finish in good time so he could ride in a Vintage Club Trial later that evening. Keen lad is Andy! Scott Hipwell was annoyed with himself at the finish as he had a slack dab on the last section and ruined his run of clean rides. Tying with Scott on this route was veteran rider Maurice Brayford on his special Dot, casting his solitary dab on the tricky section eight.

On the Easy Route, again only one clean ride. Charles Molyneux kept his concentration and feet up all afternoon. Jan Schoolden had a great afternoon, completing a trial for the first time and only losing one mark was a real achievement.

The rain held off until just after the riders set off but didn't last too long. After the long hot spell it was distinctly cooler and very windy out of the wood.

Overall some of the scores were a little higher than would be normally expected at a Dead Easy Trial but as this was a new venue it was difficult to judge how the sections would ride. May be some of the turns won't be quite as tight next time!

A full complement of Observers, great countryside, superb new venue, and plenty of smiles all round at the end.

RESULTS

HARDER ROUTE

Andy Foot (Fantic) clean, Scott Hipwell, Maurice Brayford (Dot) both one mark lost, Stephen Simpson (Montesa) 2, John Wood (Montesa) 3, Mick Sheldon (BSA) 3

EASY ROUTE

Charles Molyneux (Beta) clean, Jan Schoolden (Gas Gas) one mark lost, Sonni Callear (Gas Gas) 3, Anthony Conway (Beta) 5, Ben Shepherd (Gas Gas) 5, Chris Atherton (BSA) 6, Damien Prohett (Gas Gas) 6

SIDECARS

Bert White/ Mr Atherton (Bultaco) 5

Larry Gartside/Joe Waldron (Montesa) 22