

**MANCHESTER 17 MCC Ltd, DEAD EASY TRIAL, HEATON HOUSE FARM, RUSHTON SPENCER,
SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2021**

REPORT: Roger Townsend

Last Sunday was the last of the Manchester 17 MCC Dead Easy Trials for this year, at Heaton House Farm, Rushton Spencer. Another bumper entry saw ninety three solos and five sidecars set off to do battle over four laps of ten sections on a fine but bitterly cold day.

The first five sections were all in the wood at the back of the farm buildings and were variations of tight turns, climbs and drops around trees which got greasier as the day wore on but generally didn't cause too many problems.

Section six was a ride down the fields to the "duck pond" which was set on the banks around a pond, with a tricky mud slot and stream for good measure. This was the trickiest section of the trial particularly on the harder route.

Riders then rode back up the field to sections seven, eight and nine which were turns along a broken wall around trees, and were easy to lose marks on if concentration lapsed.

The final section was in a small wood and was a climb up and around trees on leaf mould.

Because it's not a particularly long course, there was a worry that with such a large entry there could be queues. Although there was some queuing it didn't turn out as feared and the riders coped with it very well.

On the easier route, it was nice to see two of our more veteran riders top the list on one mark lost each. Ray Critchlow on his Comerford Cub had a dab on the infamous duck pond while Arthur Austin, on his immaculate Honda he has owned from new had a dab on the final lap on the broken wall and turns of section seven.

This trial saw the latest member of the Roberts family make his entrance to the world of trials! Young Nathan Manzano, grandson of Club President Ken, and nephew of Trials Secretary Mike, made his debut and rode very well indeed. Watch this space!

On the harder route, three riders went clean. John Wilson on his tidy Bultaco, Andrew Longden on the trusty Yam, and George Baker on the Mont. The next six riders had a dab each at various sections, with Daniel Bradford, a newcomer to trials this year, having his best ride to date to lose three.

It would be easy to think that this was almost too easy but a glance down the score sheet would prove otherwise. The conditions and the sections meant it was very easy to lose marks.

Four charioteers joined the fun. National winner Lee Granby completed his birthday weekend with an outing but unfortunately didn't complete the sidecar course.

Stu Riches and Sophie Hall won the harder route with a good ride to lose fifteen with Joe Waldron and Laura Gillie on the easy route dropping eighteen. As ever, they really enjoyed their day.

Well that's it for another year. Thank you to all the riders for supporting the series and giving us superb entries at every trial. Hope to see you next year.

Finally, a special thank you must go to the brave Observers who stood at their posts on a bitterly cold day. Without you, we cannot function.

RESULTS

HARDER ROUTE

John Wilson (Bultaco), Andrew Longden (Yamaha), George Baker (Montesa) all clean, Trevor Clark (Greeves), Max Elledge (Sherco), Neil Muir (Gas Gas), William Tyler (Francis Barnett), Dougie Greenall (Bitsa), Peter Hallam (BSA) all one mark lost.

EASY ROUTE

Ray Critchlow (Cub), Arthur Austin (Honda) both one mark lost, Edwin Wooliscroft (BSA), James Gyte (Gas Gas) both three marks lost, Harry Craig (Oset) 5, Anthony Hitchinson (Beta), Jake Hitchinson (Gas Gas) both six marks lost

SIDECARS

HARDER ROUTE

Stu Riches/Sophie Hall (Gas Gas) 15

EASY ROUTE

Joe Waldron/Laurie Gillie (Montesa) 18