

MANCHESTER 17 MCC LTD DEAD EASY TRIAL, SATURDAY 13th
SEPTEMBER 2014 , HARRATT GRANGE FARM, PEAK FOREST

REPORT : Roger Townsend

A busy double header weekend for Manchester 17 MCC started with another in the Dead Easy series, this time at Harratt Grange Farm near Peak Forest. This is a great venue for a trial of this type, plenty of variety without being too taxing, and with a decent ride round between sections. The venue has not been used for a couple of years and the section plotting team were able to take a fresh look at the terrain and introduce some new sections.

A healthy entry of sixty eight riders turned up to do battle with four laps of ten sections on a perfect day for trials riding, cloudy but dry and cool.

The first three sections were tight turns and twists on banks with the odd rock thrown in and didn't cause too many problems on either route.

The riders then headed off down the fields to sections four to seven in the old disused quarry. You had to be on your guard here, particularly with a couple of rock steps to tackle. Nothing fearsome but get them wrong and down came the feet.

A ride back up the far side of the farm took in section eight which was a series of swoops and turns up and down steep banks. Not many marks lost on this but big grins as riders sped out up the last climb.

The last two sections were back towards the start, and section nine in particular had to be ridden carefully as the rutted path which had to be crossed took a few marks from the unwary.

On the Easy route, a great ride from the oldest rider in the trial on the oldest machine. Alan Critchlow on his genuine old James had a superb clean ride. The only other rider to match this feat was Youth A rider Hannah Abraham. How superb that two riders at differing points of their riding careers could turn in such performances.

And how good to see Garry Shaw out on his 1959 AJS and riding well amongst the plethora of modern machines, twin shocks, and electrics. These trials really do cater for everybody.

On the Harder route, three riders managed clean rides. Peter Austin on his rare Aprilia, Youth rider Tom Shepherd on his Beta, and Andy Abraham. Peter Kirkman was close behind on a dab, forsaking his normal big Enfield for a nice little 125 Honda. Graham Harvey on a modern Beta also went round for a dab.

All this preceded the club's next days fun which was the popular Hipwell Road Trial also in the same area of Derbyshire.

Thanks to the Observers and all who helped run the trial.

Next event, Dead Easy trial Saturday 4th October. See TMX for details.

RESULTS

HARDER ROUTE

Peter Austin (Aprilia) Tom Shepherd (Beta) Andy Abraham (Beta) all clean, Peter Kirkman (Honda) Graham Harvey (Beta) both one mark lost, Mike Kelly (Gas Gas) Will Tyler(Beta) Lee Moore (Montesa) all two marks lost

EASY ROUTE

Alan Critchlow (James) Hannah Abraham (Beta) both clean, Andrew Renshaw (Beta) one mark lost, Howard Peake (Yamaha) Jonathan Moores (Gas Gas) both two marks lost, Ian Dommett (Bantam) 4