

MANCHESTER 17 MCC. DEAD EASY TRIAL. SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2014
HEATON HOUSE FARM RUSHTON SPENCER

What a difference twenty four hours can make. When the course plotters met to mark out the first of the Manchester 17's Dead Easy trials for this year, the wind chill factor made it feel like the Arctic! The ground was very wet and just as section setting was complete, down came the sleet.

The next day, when a splendid turn out of eighty riders met at Heaton House farm, with great views over the Cheshire plain, to ride the four laps of ten sections, the sun was out, ground conditions were a lot better, and although it was still cool, it was a perfect day for riding a trial.

Because of the wet conditions the field could not be used for parking and the organisers would like to thank the riders for their patience and co operation with being shoe horned in to a tight area for parking.

The first five sections were set out in the wood and consisted of a variety of tight turns around trees and over roots. Remarkably the wood dried out very quickly in the breeze, and few marks were lost on these sections. Section five at the top of the wood had the added interest of a couple of greasy logs which if not attacked at the right speed would catch the rider out.

The next three sections were a different kettle of fish. "Old fashioned mud plug" comes to mind when describing them. Sections six and eight were turns through mud with a couple of bankings thrown in for interest. Section seven on the hard route, observed by Scott Ellis, turned out to be the hardest in the trial. Entering through mud, a tight turn round a tree was followed by a steep climb up a bank that got very slippery as the trial wore on. Only four riders managed to clean it every lap. The winner Graham White, Terry Harvey, Paul Clowes on his immaculate Cub, and Mitchell Needham..

The next section was a winding climb through a copse, with the final section over a pile of rocks.

On the harder route there was only one clean ride all day, Graham White, closely followed on two marks lost by David Pattison.

Matthew Hopkins ran out the winner on the easy route with just a stray dab, followed by Ady Jones on two, and Paul Bentley on four.

At the end of the trial, the general feeling was of a very enjoyable event, with many smiles all round.

A big thank you to all who helped organise the trial, and particularly to the full complement of Observers, your contribution made a huge difference and was greatly appreciated.

RESULTS

HARDER ROUTE

Graham White (Beta) clean, David Pattison (Gas Gas) 2, Andy Abraham (Ossa) 5, Mick Renshaw (Gas Gas) 6, Steve Cocker (Gas Gas) 6, Roger Christopher (Honda) 7,

EASY ROUTE

Matthew Hopkins (Yamaha) 1 mark lost, Ady Jones, (Montesa) 2, Paul Bentley (Gas Gas) 4, Stephen Simpson (Montesa) 5, Michael Jones (Yamaha) 7, Ant Harris (Montesa) 16,