

The HUX Miles and Thomas Cup Meteor Group Trial – 17th April 2016



The South Midland Centre's Hillingdon and Uxbridge MC (HUX) club is one of eleven clubs belonging to the Meteor Group. This group of clubs was formed over 70 years ago with individual clubs holding their trials on the third Sunday of a particular month. The HUX club's month has traditionally been April, usually this coincides with Easter. Well Easter was very early this year and obviously a Bank Holiday, so guess what, it rained. Now, they say that the sun only shines on the righteous and of course the HUX club, for this third Sunday was an absolutely glorious day. One could be forgiven for thinking that summer had arrived, but there was an air of caution when a large group of keen club helpers turned up on Saturday morning to set out the sections in

intermittent showers of rain, which didn't help the already sodden and very slippery muddy banks at Dews Farm, Harefield. This could sadly end up as a dumping ground for HS2. (Would be good if they did dump it, HS2 somewhere). So let's enjoy it while we can.

The Meteor group has always prided its self on putting on enjoyable sporting events for all, with each participating club having the same ethos. So with this in mind the section designers, advisors and men in hard hats and high vis' did a great job in reining in the odd over enthusiastic gate positioning. The number of small working parties worked hard to cut back some little used bank sides which made for some good sweeping sections which turned out to be challenging but not dangerous. Some might have needed a route map, as the challenge for the rider was not only to keep their feet up, but to remember where the section went.

The sign of a good day swelled the entry to sixty, with all eager to start and enjoy this wonderful day. Due to the sunshine and a light chilly wind the ground dried out considerably, so after the first lap one got the feeling that the sections were becoming easy, which they were, but still a lot of marks were lost by the unwary, which is what trials are all about; concentration and riding skills, not just blasting and hoping for the best.

Section 1 with a large muddy puddle leading to a rooted step right at the beginning certainly did get worse as the bottom went in the water and the single route to the step caused frustration to most, apart from Darren Hains and overall winner Daniel Greaves managing two cleans apiece, with pot luck for most others. Sections two, three and four were tough but fair with the drying conditions helping tremendously. Section five was the first of the memory tests as the twists and turns seemed to be a never ending ribbon of markers wending into the wild green yonder. Sections six, seven and eight were real labours of love, for a lot of work had been done to cut back

undergrowth to make good sweeping, sporting and challenging sections, but for some reason towards the end of section eight the blue and easiest route, marks were being lost by all but the sharpest. Section nine was a classic Dews Farm muddy climb and camber with the odd log thrown in for good measure, was catching most riders in all classes, but still cleaned by an elite few. Section ten, a relatively straightforward twist and turn over logs and roots but with an unforgiving rut. It was a rut with a difference, as it was between two parallel fallen trees only a few metres long, but long enough to throw all best laid plans over the side for at least a dab or two, which actually made the section, for it was here that trial winner Daniel Greeves lost 3 of his 6 mark total. Best intermediate winner Tim Blackmore dropped most of his 11 marks on sections one and two, but cleaned the rut on all four attempts on section ten. Novice winner Ryan Tomkins of the Wycombe club managed to spread his total of 20 across most of the sections.

In the Meteor group championship Daniel Greeves will now be snapping at the heels of the HUX clubs Graham Haslam who was not riding as was Secretary of the meeting. Another club rider Andy Earnshaw narrowly missed out on top honours, but is now just ahead of his nearest rival Jason Clifford by piping him with 17 to 23 respectively

I believe a great day was had by all. It was a pleasure to see two long-standing club members out for the day. In that of father and son Fisher, both Davids, dad has been very ill for the last few years and this was a gentle wander into the outside world after a very long period of recuperation, with son David taking a trip out on a very nicely turned out ex Jim Susans Ariel. It is the first time he has been out for over three years and from what I saw it would only seem like his last ride was a couple of months ago, for he finished the Pre 65 hard route on a very respectable 26 - well done.

On that note it is time for me to thank all the helpers, officials and observers who put in a lot of effort to make this event possible.

Our next trial is the Sid Bullen Rose Bowl on the 5th June at this same venue. As this is the 70th anniversary of the Meteor Group the K and K club are putting on a special celebratory event at Plashes Farm, Colliers End, look out for event information, so both clubs look forward to your support, thank you.

Dave Jenkinson