

Surrey End Of Year Saturday Trial – Setheron Writes Paul Mealyer

Only 19 riders turned out at a very wet Setheron Dunsfold for Surrey's last Saturday trial on 8th December 2007. It was pity that more of the regular competitors didn't show, but it was to be their loss in what turned out to be a very satisfying day with all riders putting in very determined efforts just to finish.

It was decided because of the poor conditions that all riders, with their friends & family would move from section to section in one group, thus ensuring plenty of help on the slippery slopes.

Section 1 & the first hill climb of the day proved no problem for beginners Jack Frearson, Millie Ray, Toby Smith & Joshua Brimecombe with all the others slipping & sliding as best they could to the top. The Novices had more of a challenge up the hill over the top, down into a "bomb" hole round a berm, back up again, over a small log & out. Fraser Viner showed off his motocross skills blasting up & out for one dab, Chris Bow tip toed up for a three. Unlucky for Rachel Mealyer making it to the top only to fall at the log just before the exit gate. She together with the rest ended with fives. The intermediates realised the difficulty facing them & very kindly let Harriet Shore go first! Unfortunately it ended with a five but only Aaron Smith & Jamie Richards improved with three's. These two were the only riders in this group to record any cleans during the rest of the day, such was the difficulty that the rain had brought. Moving on to the next sections proved almost as difficult as the section themselves. David Vincent nearly didn't make it running out of fuel just before section eight. Novice George Thompson struggled riding from section six to section seven but showed "true grit" redeeming himself with a really good ride in the last section. However, he couldn't quite match a double clean here from Edward Wheeler.

Alex Bone on his little auto was given the loudest cheer with the final section set as a "graded hill climb" for the beginners. He & the others all made it to the top of the hill, quite an achievement particularly when you understand that riders like Becky Mealyer & Harry Coleman have never attempted a steep climb like this in the dry let alone the wet. The intermediates in the final section put on quite a display, James Grist & Jamie Richards battling the rocky route to the finish.

Riders & officials should be congratulated in making a very wet muddy day enjoyable.

The club look forward to seeing you all next year, first Saturday trial the 12th January at Brackendene & their presentation evening on the 26th January 2008.