

Thomspon Reel's Them In

Surrey School Boy T.C.
Round 2, Southern Tyres Championship
Report: Graham Tickner

A bitterly cold day with the prospect of snow and eight sections to be ridden in a clockwise direction of Reel-Hall Farm in Shamley Green for the brave 51, youth and adult, riders.

After the brisk hike up the hill it was smack bang into section 1, logs, concrete slabs and rubble. Matt Pelling, a new recruit to the intermediate class and now a Sherco rider, after switching from his Beta cleaned the two logs but after the concrete slab he took a dab before tackling the loose rubble then a further two steadying dabs before the big obstacles. Ian Crawley would be the best of the youth inter riders, dropping just ten marks here. Tristan Bushnell on the novice route would go clean every time, taking the log in his stride where his brother, Oliver, had a slab dab. Along to section 4, cordoned off from section 3 with marker tape. Starting up the back and dropping down over the exposed tree routes before the decent down the sandy hill. Mark Elms on the Montesa got through the second gate when his engine died, a couple of kicks and it fired back into life but it was too late and a 5 was awarded to him. His next three attempts were all cleans, in fact, he would only pick up 1 more point in the whole trial, finishing on 6 points. He would be the only rider out of the 16 intermediates on single points. The novice riders went close to the brambles at the bottom of the hill, then up to the dogleg which took many a point off the red riders. Adult rider, Richard Thompson, on coming back up the sandy hill took a slack dab but then skidded and fell off. Daniel Hornblow clipped a tree on the dogleg, lost grip, and would pick up three points after his two cleans. George Thompson lost his solitary point of the day on this section.

Section 5, the digger had been very busy on this section, digging out and putting in big concrete slabs. This caused problems with the loose soil until it settled down. Experts had one slab then the big slab, inters could have gone over this or choosing to go into the loose soil that had accumulated by the side of the slab. All experts would lose points on the slab or the awkward tree remains at the last gate.

Section 7 was the most entertaining section to watch, a long and technical section, over a high log for blues and whites, while the reds and yellows would avoid it with high banks and cambers. Josh Brown would dab on the high camber. Nigel Brimecombe, upgrading to the inters class, found this section a little hard and decided to retire gracefully. His words were "I retired due to lack of talent, but I will be back". That's the spirit Nigel! Reynard Norris on his new Beta Evo, got up the dugout climb but at the very top missed the gate to collect a 5. Experts had four sunken tyres on the hill to entertain them, Steve Rees cleaned this section well but on his last visit had a 1 - he would be the winner on the expert route by 6 marks over Steven Berryman. Richard Tickner, on his first attempt on this section, didn't make it up the dugout. The bike flipped and came down hard on the handlebars, bending them and braking the rear mudguard. After a little modification (with an iron bar!) he returned to win the under 21's.

Round 3 will be contested at Riverside Farm, Rudwick.