

Track n Trail - Thorncombe – Enduro Heaven - Sunday 18th May

Written by Dominic De Couto

Photos by Will Bridger xmoore motorcycles

The Sun certainly had his hat on for Track n Trail and their riders this Sunday 18th of May. Another spectacular Hare and Hound event was hosted at the Thorncombe Track. There was an assortment of sections in the track with a great variation of ground conditions which made the race 7 miles of **Enduro Heaven**. The maize field had not yet been planted so the soil was cultivated and moist which made the berms build up quickly. You could see a great diversity in the track with 5 sets of different hard routes for riders to test themselves whilst also presenting more competition to the event with the chance for overtaking. One of the most remarkable additions to the track has got to be the way in which they incorporated a figure of 8 cross-over by inputting a bridge over a rocky stream valley which enabled paths to cross over head (Shown in photo above).



In the **Championship** there were some melodramatic results with Tommy Alba flying off on the first lap and achieving the fastest lap of the day [15:15.57]. However young gun Tommy looked as though he may have outpaced himself over the first few laps as experienced rider Derry Milling tactically sat back and learned the track before storming ahead to take first place with the

Jason Duggan



only rider to complete 10 laps. Jack Ayres sat comfortably in 2nd place for the first few laps then lost a bit of momentum and dropped to 3rd until also benefiting from young gun Tommy dropping out of the race. 3rd place Ross Blackmore did not look like a likely contender at the beginning of the race, but showed what he's worth by gradually creeping back from position 8 on lap 3 to 3rd on his final 9th lap. All of the other Championship riders including Mark Kirby, Drew Slevin, Gary Wright, Ashley Williamson and Daniel Price all showed some excellent skill and the positions were up and down like pistons.

The **Experts** winner Roger Holland displayed some quality riding by soaring ahead on his first and fastest lap [15:27.93], continuing on to be fairly consistent and remaining contentedly in 1st the whole race. 2nd place Grant Churward had a very similar style and busted out his fastest lap [16:14.78] on his first lap and sitting in 2nd place for the duration of the race. The fight for 3rd, 4th and 5th was between David Wathen, Gethin Fancome and Jack Liddiard was gruelling until their 7th lap where it straightened out to Wathen in 3rd, Fancome in 4th and Liddiard in 5th.

Over 40's Experts did not let the spectators down either with their race showing some spectacles. Whilst 1st place Gary McCoy did dominate with 1st place through-out, the expected 2nd place bandit Leighton Roberts was unfortunately unable to continue after his 4th lap. This resulted in Jerry Box deservedly gaining 2nd place and Graham Reid bringing home 3rd.

The second biggest entry of the day was the **Clubman 2 Stroke** with a cracking 21 riders. In this class, 1st place Ed Mountjoy, 2nd place Guy Breeze and 3rd place Richard Sayer put on a stirring race with the positioning fluctuating every lap until the final 8th lap. In the **Clubman 4 Stroke**, with the largest entry of 25 heated riders Matthew Dark was able to climb ahead into 1st after his second lap, holding the spot and being the only one to finish 9 laps. George Leyland was another tranquil contender and held 2nd place after James Salter who started off well, started to fall back. Richard Baxter competed well for 3rd place.

Over 40's Clubman's top three juggled until finally finishing with Adrian Evans at 1st, Geoff Bridgen in 2nd and Richard Holland in 3rd. The over 50's had two solid 1st and 2nd places with Graham Darby stealing 1st and Richard Strawbridge cruising on his new KTM into a greatly deserved 2nd place whilst Gary Appleyard fought for 3rd place.



Geoff Bridgen. 2nd Place Over 40's Clubman

The Track n Trails riders of the future weren't shy in the **Youth 125 race** with Bradley Rowland expectantly smashing 1st place with Liam Bartlett close behind in 2nd and Ben Harvey achieving 3rd.

Youth 85BW also had a clear winner Harry Allaway followed by Joseph Coates in 2nd and Brett Rowland in 3rd whilst the **Youth 85SW** showed determination with Alfie Webb in 1st, Thomas Appleyard in 2nd and Marcus Hale in 3rd. It was also great to see the **Youth 65** give it their all with Harry Ridgway succeeding 1st and Liam Hale attaining 2nd.

Overall Track n Trail, yet again put on a fantastic day for their riders. You could see the tremendous amount of effort put into the Thorncombe track by Track n Trail and the riders unquestionably appreciated it. With Track n Trails next race being at **Tenko the Ultimate Jungle track** on **Saturday June 14th**, their riders have plenty to look forward to.