

WTRA Snowrun Enduro 7th February 2016

It was that time of year again to kick start the Caerphilly MC & LCC club championship with a day out at the infamous Snowrun Enduro put on by WTRA. A good entry from the Caerphilly club included; Paul Martin (Spread), Mike Crumb (suspension man), Carl Davies (factory rider), Andy Card (Divvy), Len Giles (Rhino Goo entrepreneur), Onky (I've had a heart attack) Roberts, Andrew "Nelly" Jones, and new comers Brad Williams and Scott Hoskins. Our club star, Jamie Lewis, was also in attendance on his new mounted Yamaha WR450F as the only championship rider in the race.

Meeting at McDonalds in Merthyr, both Crummy's van and Len's were used to transport Spread, Factory rider and Divvy and all five bikes and we made our way to the venue over the Eppynt moor past the German village and on down into Tirabad and the start area. On arriving, the rest of the club members assembled to what was going to be day of battle –and oh my f**K was it a battle!

All of our club members were running in the clubman class or the O/40's clubmen class with 3 laps of 25 miles per lap, with the exception of Brad Williams (Expert) and Jamie Lewis (Championship) who had to ride a ball aching 4 laps. Onky managed to arrive on time this year along with his 'manager' Bryn Diesel and even had the correct numbers and backgrounds on his bike having been reminded by Spread for the millionth time this year to get it right! First rider away was Jamie Lewis at 10:01 followed by the motley crew who made up the rest of the club numbers.

Spread, suspension Man, Factory rider and Rhino Goo Entrepreneur were all on the same minute and headed from the start to the first check. Someone forgot to inform everyone that if you didn't pull your finger out of your ass you'd be late at the first check – it was going to be that tight all day. Spread, Factory Rider and Rhino Goo Entrepreneur made the first check with a minute to spare but Suspension Man was nowhere to be seen and clocked in late. Second check was the same with a minute to spare but then the time started to be lost.

The going consisted of a few forest roads but the rest was in the trees encountering; ruts, roots and bogs which only ended up in paddling through most of the event. WTRA had done a good job to make sure you died as a result of paying your entry fee of £65! They had named some of the sections throughout the lap, Parachute Hill which was so steep you could have run off it with a hand glider, the infamous Road of Bones - this section of the course was hell on earth with more roots, stumps and bogs than could be imagined possible on a piece of land and it went on for ever. To top it off WTRA had mounted a camera on a tree partway through the check - see their website for the video footage of riders coming through all with a look of horror on their faces!

On our second lap the Championship and Expert riders were starting to flood past on their 3rd lap, Jamie Lewis and Brad Williams went past as if they were enjoying the conditions whilst the rest of us proceeded in a line like sheep off to the slaughter house! The going was extremely tough with the recent rain and the tight times only adding to the pressure and fatigue. The ruts were getting deeper as the event went on with many places having only one line through.

At the end of the day it was hats off to Jamie Lewis who won the event and stayed clean. Brad Williams came 2nd in the Expert class. Scott Hoskins came 5th in the Clubman Class. Divvy retired as he thought it was a little bit hard and didn't want to tire himself out too much before marshalling at CTR Events next week. Nelly decided his arm chair and a rugby match were a better call and knocked

it on the head after 2 laps. In the O40's Onky came 2nd, Carl Davies was 5th, Paul Martin was 17th. Mike Crumb found his new suspension (that cost more than most family cars) came 25th but was classed as holed out. By the time 'Suspension Man' came in most of the field had packed up and f**ked off, leaving only Spread waiting for him - which wasn't done out of the goodness of his heart – just that he was in Crummy's van!

On the way home Crummy and Spread exchanged their views on how difficult it was and were sure that the conversations were similar in other vans. Both were of the opinion that it was a super tough event and anyone who finished deserved it. For all those that wimped out then perhaps a round of golf is in order - then again even that may still be too strenuous as they'd have to walk!

So, Rnd 1 of the championship was complete and what a start to the year! Roll on CTR Events Rnd 1 on the 13th March for the first round of the Hare & Hounds Championship. Next round of the Enduro championship will be the Drovers Enduro on the 27th March so get your entries in!

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9th February 2016