

Ten Tors Long Distance Trial 2013 attended by Caerphilly Club

Just 5 riders braved Devon and the Ten Tors this year. The conditions were wet but much better than last year.

We arrived at the Travelodge in Paignton in time to watch Wales lose to Australia again on TV then headed to town for grub. A decent steak and quite a few pints later and we were back in the bar at the hotel talking nonsense to some drunks that had been to a wedding party across the road – we seem to attract em!

Up early to get to the start and the frost was thick on the van. Richard and Nige led the way whilst Paul, Andy and myself brought up the rear with the bikes. A bacon roll and a coffee warmed us at the start but we seriously contemplated leaving the bikes in the van and going home. Too much beer the night before will do that to you!

Sign on and scrutineering was straight forward, Ian's KTM gave up on the electric start so had to be started with the crank handle all day long.

No Jason this year so Nige was on the roadbook. The sections only appear after a 30 minute trail ride through some cracking lanes, slick with mud but firm underneath, very little stone or technical going so the pace was high.

Andy Morgan set the pace, cleaning everything in sight. Big Nige pushed him all the way. We reached Wheeldon farm at the half way point and a short challenging section before the special test. Big Nige, Paul and Ian managed to five the big log but Andy kept clean, Richard picking up a couple of dabs. The special was next and the indoor Motocross circuit was a real challenge to get any speed on this the only unsighted lap of the circuit as the whoops were so close together and the corners came upon you so quickly. A stop in the box was the only essential element. The results would show that Paul Morgan hit the fastest time.

The rest of the day was much the same with Big Nige on the road book and Andy setting the standards until we got to the infamous Ten Tors hill climb. The crowds were gathered and all was quiet as the last competitor had thrown his bike into the trees and bounced off a spectator. The spectator was shaken but not injured and the delay just served to whet the appetite further. The mother of all roots plus a rock slab, off camber, all on a slick 50 degree slope up through the trees, watching is more fun than riding but we all had a crack. Ian beat the roots but flipped the KTM into a tree for a 2. Paul opted not to break the new Husky and pootled around the tree for a 3. Richard hit the rock slab and bounced off for a 2, Big Nige hit the rock slab, bounced off, wheelied through 360 degrees and flipped the Beta magic carpet also for a 2. Andy Morgan flew the two stroke over the roots and the rock slab but lost grip and picked up a 2.

A final section took us back to the start/finish whilst meeting other riders coming the opposite direction running a little late. We finished the day in one piece and not too worse for wear.

All that was left was the miserable ride up the M5 back to Wales. Results proved Andy the victor on the day. A good days ride out and a good weekend had by all. We'll be back next year.

Ride report: Ian Craig.