

Jack Frost Enduro March 2015 Rhayader MCC

The day had arrived of the much eagerly awaited Jack Frost Enduro which was run by Rhayader MCC and was the second round of the Caerphilly MC & LCC championship. Current leaders of Mike Crumb and Liz Childerely had decided to sit this one out and give the other folks a chance to catch up and earn some points.

Last minute drop outs of Onky, who apparently says he had a heart attack, Dai Beer who was far too busy to attend and James Williams who was too knackered with his new born daughter, you swear he'd given birth!! So it came down to the old buggers of Andy Morgan, Paul Morgan and Spread to make the journey to the Saintswell practice track near Bwlch-y-Sarnau. Andy and Spread were running in the O40's class with Paul Morgan now almost reaching retirement age has slipped to the O50's.

The event for both classes were to be 5 laps each of 12 miles and 5 tests at the end of each lap. A word of warning had been emailed the day before by Andrew James of ET James that the course had been inspected and was wet and claggy in his eyes. He also stated that there was one uphill section that was very slippery and demanding but not to worry as there would be plenty of marshalls on hand to help with the pushing and shoving! This made everyone sleep well knowing what to expect the next day – **NOT!**

Having arrived to sign on, scrutineer and collect the mandatory transponder's it had already started to dawn on all three why the hell weren't they tucked up in bed on a Sunday morning and why would you want to stand in a field, waiting to go to war and to make matters worse paying for the privilege! It's all about the Caerphilly points that were up for grabs and even the last man being able to gain 15 valuable points for a finish!

Andy and Spread started at 10:24 with Paul a further 12 minutes behind in the OAP class, probably further from the truth with test times that these old buggers put in! The ground was soaking wet and the mud could have been used as cement as it stuck so well! The going got stuck in straight away and even when you thought you were on the forest road it only lasted a nano second before throwing you in the trees elsewhere for a lovely deep long rut that seem to go on for years! The infamous hill that was told about in the previous days email was about 3 to 4 miles into the lap and it was a case of pick a rut as you're staying in it until the end of the hill! We thought they were bound to cut this as the event progressed – did they f**k!! It was like being in a kayak the amount of paddling that was completed! Most places in the trees were just one line ruts through and the easier going was many ruts through so didn't make any easier going at all.

Although the lap only being around 10 mile in length excluding the special test it felt like it was 100! Back to the start area after the first lap and all commented on how we were sure it was going to dry out as the day progressed! How wrong were we it got worse!! It was time for the first of the 5 special tests which consisted of the wooded area around the practice track and the main mx track. The entire test was rideable but difficult to get going since the lap that had just been experienced 5 minutes earlier. After the test it was back to the start finish area and the start of the second mentally destroying lap!

As the day progressed on it became evident that it was getting harder and not any easier as first thought. Each lap tightened by 2 minutes and was a totally energy sapping experience making you more tired and questioning yourself 500 times a lap why you were doing it, it's all about the points!!

Report by Paul Martin

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There were a number of incidents on the tests which everyone commented how badly they rode, one being spread falling off and being snapped on camera, see below. He has subsequently paid off all internet sites to remove the damaging evidence!!!

All three finished the event and not having lost anytime it came down to the special tests with Andy Morgan first, Paul Morgan and Spread. It was a sense of achievement after the event but all agreed they were going to ache like b**stards in the coming days and didn't really want to repeat the exercise in the coming months! But it's all about the points!

