

Dulais Valley Annual Trial. Report by Mark Evans.

Dulais Valley held their annual 2 day trial at Brynbwch Farm on 13/14th of July 2013

The Trial was due to start at 13.00 on the Saturday and 42 riders turned up to take part.

I was a little worried at the briefing as the sun was blazing down and I was wondering whether I would be able to make the four laps of eight sections in such extreme heat.

The club officials were very organised and they advised riders to take on plenty of fluids and stay hydrated.

There was camping available at the farm and the officials warned that anyone camping was to be on their best behaviour as they didn't want to upset the farmer and lose the venue.

It's a good job the usual Caerphilly Enduro guys weren't camping as we may have had some explaining to do come morning!

Luckily most of the sections were protected from the sun by the tree's and the conditions were not as bad as expected.

I rode the Sportsman route and I would have to say that the club set out the sections spot on.

All the sections were flowing with a mixture of rocky streams, open going and wooded banks.

Section eight was the most tricky for me we dropped into a stream for approx twelve feet then up a bank on the left, we made our way into a gully, then a forty five degree turn to the left before firing up a step bank.

I didn't five this one but I wasn't able to clean it.

One guy Laurie Beard who I've rode with in the Powys Enduro, cracked his clutch casing on his Beta Rev3 towards the end of the trial.

He managed to keep going by continually checking his oil, and when he finished he rang Barry at A&B Merthyr and Barry agreed to stay open until he could get over there and buy a new casing.

Now that's what I call customer service!

Day two started at eleven and again there was a good turn out.

At the briefing we were told that the course would remain flowing but would be slightly harder.

There was a presentation for some of the youth riders as they had performed well in a competition up north.

They all had framed Photo's taken at the trial, which was nice to see.

Again the sun was beating down but due to the nature of the terrain it didn't cause too many issues.

Section one and seven were the most tricky on the Sunday.

Section one turned up a steep stony gully and then turned out to the right at the top of the climb.

I couldn't get this right and fived it three times on the trot!

Section Seven dropped into a stream, then up a two step waterfall, a turn right then fire up a steep root infested climb.

I didn't five this but wasn't able to clean it.

My mate Stuart managed to bag a third and I was sixth, and before you say it, yes there was more than six riders!

A really good trial and I would recommend Dulais Valley trials to anyone.