

Witley Classic Enduro

On Sunday 9th February James Williams and long distance club member Jim Wright entered the Witley Classic time card enduro in Warren Heath just south of Reading. This is a popular and oversubscribed event but an obliging club secretary allowed us to enter the Clubman B class. Anticipation grew with reports of widespread flooding in the area but race organised guaranteed that the race would continue on regardless, this event is round one of the SEEC championship.

I left South Wales at 6am in rain and winds so strong that I had to keep the van constantly turned into the wind to make sure I stayed on the road, today was definitely going to be an interesting day.... not surprisingly as soon as I crossed the bridge the sun was shining. The track was approximately 20 miles in length in a figure of 8 with refuelling and timing checks situated at the crossing point, the tight single-track course consisted of all forestry riding with a few short sections of fire track (too few!). The first half of the track was slack as this contained the fuelling stop and 3 special tests; an extreme test (only ridden by champ and expert classes) , MX test and a long forestry based special test, the second half of the track was an extremely tight check considering the conditions. We both set off on our KTM 250-fs on the same minute alongside a friend of ours Scott coming back after 18mths riding his newly acquired 300XCF.

The first lap was a nightmare and the riding was as good as it was bad, the higher ground was amazing flowing singletrack through picturesque forestry and the lower ground was saturated, boggy and quite often impassable. The track was littered with riders of all classes (even ones with red plates) buried up to the seat in soft mud with us all joining them as the flooded ground took its toll, we had to muck in and help each other else we would still be there now!. The going was tough with parts of the track being the most rutted, tight and twisty that I've ever ridden with no opportunity to get to your feet. We arrived at our first special test which was a MX track, this test was just awesome with plenty of opportunity for air time and railing long bermed corners. Myself and Jim collected at the finish and waited for our third member to arrive....nothing, with no sign anyone on track we decided to ride it again and investigate. Turns out Scott had missed the track diversion only to go over a jump into a heavily flooded part of the track which can only be described as a small lake, Scott taking on the new nickname of 'depth finder', we left him bobbing and pressed on.

By this time we had learnt our lesson in line selection and began getting creative in how we approached the track and avoided the bogs, taking a lead from the championship riders we went further and further round the sticking points, so far in fact that I have now earned the nickname of 'Ray Mears'. The third special test was tight, rooty and rutted with little opportunity to gain any momentum, a test that the purists would call a 'proper enduro test' i.e a hard slog where only a small number of riders made it look easy.

Myself and Jim pushed on the remainder of the race with plenty of crashing and getting stuck, but we finished, 30 – 40 mins over time and a total of 4 hours riding. It was evident from the car park that there was an enormous amount of retirements, this race is one of the most physical enduros that I have entered and getting a finish is great. This is a fantastic and well run race and one I will make the effort to do again next year.

Provisional special test results (not including time penalties, which there will be!) put myself at 15th out of 45 Clubman B riders and Jim 4th, it's clear from the nil special test times that over 50% of the total entries were DNF.

Race report: James Williams 152 'Ray Mears'

Witley Classic 2014
Provisional Results
Special Tests Only

Class	Number	Name	Pos	ST2_1	ST2_2	ST2_best	ST3_1	ST3_2	ST3_best	Total_ST
Club-B	121	Lee Boulden	1	02:51.0	02:49.1	02:49.1	04:59.0	04:44.3	04:44.3	00:15:23.5
Club-B	115	Ben Young	2	02:34.7	02:46.6	02:34.7	05:07.9	05:04.5	05:04.5	00:15:33.6
Club-B	132	Zade Alassad	3	02:35.7	02:34.8	02:34.8	05:07.3	05:26.8	05:07.3	00:15:44.7
Club-B	151	Jim Wright	4	02:26.7	02:26.3	02:26.3	05:10.1	05:44.1	05:10.1	00:15:47.2
Club-B	142	Sebastian Chilvers	5	02:42.3	02:42.0	02:42.0	05:24.1	05:04.2	05:04.2	00:15:52.6
Club-B	156	Jonathan Bird	6	02:52.3	02:56.5	02:52.3	04:46.3	05:23.1	04:46.3	00:15:58.2
Club-B	143	Justin Denn	7	02:46.6	02:46.5	02:46.5	05:13.8	05:20.6	05:13.8	00:16:07.5
Club-B	111	Russ Johns	8	02:40.7	02:59.7	02:40.7	05:22.3	05:24.1	05:22.3	00:16:26.8
Club-B	137	Brad Warton	9	02:47.4	02:52.5	02:47.4	05:20.3	05:27.7	05:20.3	00:16:27.9
Club-B	147	Simon Brown	10	02:37.8	02:46.3	02:37.8	05:30.2	05:34.0	05:30.2	00:16:28.3
Club-B	125	Dan Catt	11	02:47.8	03:02.4	02:47.8	05:13.7	05:45.1	05:13.7	00:16:49.0
Club-B	131	Aaron Pease	12	02:40.5	02:47.0	02:40.5	05:24.4	06:07.8	05:24.4	00:16:59.6
Club-B	112	Richard Hobbs	13	03:09.8	03:07.6	03:07.6	05:41.4	05:34.0	05:34.0	00:17:32.8
Club-B	136	Lance Miville	14	02:47.0	03:10.5	02:47.0	05:39.7	06:53.8	05:39.7	00:18:30.0
Club-B	152	James Williams	15	02:41.6	02:47.2	02:41.6	06:33.6	06:34.8	06:33.6	00:18:37.2
Club-B	109	Liam Hastings	16	02:33.1	04:19.1	02:33.1	05:42.0	07:32.6	05:42.0	00:20:06.8
Club-B	122	Rainer Halsall	17	02:35.6	00:30:00	02:35.6	05:08.4	00:04.4	00:04.4	00:37:48.4
Club-B	117	Adam Brady	18	02:17.4	02:21.4	02:17.4	04:57.1	00:30:00	04:57.1	00:39:35.9
Club-B	110	Roy Grassie	19	02:55.4	00:30:00	02:55.4	07:23.7	08:31.6	07:23.7	00:48:50.7
Club-B	118	Nathan Baggott	20	02:17.6	00:30:00	02:17.6	05:07.0	00:30:00	05:07.0	01:07:24.6
Club-B	119	Stuart Maunder	21	02:41.9	00:30:00	02:41.9	05:10.2	00:30:00	05:10.2	01:09:52.1
Club-B	136	Lee Blackburn	22	02:42.0	00:30:00	02:42.0	05:47.6	00:30:00	05:47.6	01:08:29.6
Club-B	134	Sean Lynch	23	02:57.5	00:30:00	02:57.5	05:35.7	00:30:00	05:35.7	01:08:33.1
Club-B	114	Paul Cosgrove	24	02:54.2	00:30:00	02:54.2	06:41.5	00:30:00	06:41.5	01:09:35.7
Club-B	126	Timothy Lunn	25	03:08.1	00:30:00	03:08.1	06:32.7	00:30:00	06:32.7	01:09:40.7
Club-B	154	Rob Giles	26	03:23.3	00:30:00	03:23.3	06:24.6	00:30:00	06:24.6	01:09:48.0
Club-B	133	Darren Smith	27	02:49.8	00:30:00	02:49.8	07:03.9	00:30:00	07:03.9	01:09:53.7
Club-B	146	John Plumpton	28	03:05.4	00:30:00	03:05.4	06:54.2	00:30:00	06:54.2	01:09:59.6
Club-B	145	George Perry	29	03:17.7	00:30:00	03:17.7	07:25.9	00:30:00	07:25.9	01:10:43.6
Club-B	113	Matt Taylor	30	03:24.6	00:30:00	03:24.6	07:19.1	00:30:00	07:19.1	01:10:43.7
Club-B	148	Mark Beakhouse	31	04:35.6	00:30:00	04:35.6	08:58.2	00:30:00	08:58.2	01:13:33.8
Club-B	120	Ben Harding	32	02:44.3	00:30:00	02:44.3	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	01:32:44.3
Club-B	155	Adam Pearson	33	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	07:06.6	00:30:00	07:06.6	01:37:06.6
Club-B	123	Howard Perry	34	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	07:08.6	00:30:00	07:08.6	01:37:08.6
Club-B	127	Brian O'Hara	35	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	21:10.5	00:30:00	21:10.5	01:51:10.5
Club-B	124	Darron Hare	36	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	128	Daren Mason	37	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	129	Lee Snelling	38	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	139	Martyn Gale	39	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	140	Adrian Wainwright	40	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	144	John Anderson	41	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	149	Andrew Bristow	42	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	150	Keith Fielder	43	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	153	Scott Evans	44	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0
Club-B	157	Harrison Hells	45	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	00:30:00	00:30:00	30:00.0	02:00:00.0