

Snow Run 9th February 2014

At 06:30am Sunday morning it was a wet, windy and cold start loading the van up ready to encounter my first WTRA Snowrun. Everybody who'd competed in it before was giving me the tails about how much of a pig of an event it was, but I had to find out for myself.

The drive up the A470 through Brecon then on the A40 to Llandovery showed all the makings for a wet and muddy enduro to come. I had been looking forward to this event so that I could finally lay my demons to rest as the last few events that I had entered had resulted in DNF's due to bike failure, and I also didn't fancy anymore piss taking from fellow club members mentioning no names of course!

At 08:30am I finally arrive in the Crychan Forest with most people having their woolley hats and coats on with the burger van having a queue of people waiting for warm refreshments. I parked up and thought to myself well I'm here now so let's get on with it. Signing on and times were up on the board, 3.5 laps for clubman check times didn't look to bad either (ha so I thought)! I got my kit on and then sorted my time card out and did all the necessary things that had to be done and then made my way to the START!

At 10:17am boom the husky woke and off I set into the dark wet Crychan Forest undergrowth for my first time. The first few hundred yards showed myself and other riders what was on offer- slick roots, deep ruts and energy sapping climbs and this was the first few yards, what on earth was I letting myself in for passed through my mind! The track then carried on through a little stretch of fire road by this time the goggles were gone and the rain and hail was splatting into my eyes and face, then back into the woods for some paddling, sliding and a few choice words.

The first test arrived where a lonely 4x4 sat in the mist waiting. The first tests of the day were siting laps even though later on in the day they would be bugger all like the first time through it. The test started off with a climb up a rutted hill with branches strewn across which turned out to be tricky, then it was through some deep water, fire roads and then back into the woods. It was into check one - a welcome site might I just add! Time to sort out my goggles and grab a breather ready for the next onslaught.

The next check saw some steep multi rutted climbs and descents with drop offs, deep ruts and slippery wooded going. Then came test two, well I had more chance of getting a lottery win than getting a respectable time on this it was an absolute nightmare! Deep water, hills strewn with roots and branches, tight unforgiving corners and a complete energy sapper and as the day went on it got only got worse! On the one lap I saw Jamie Lewis as he shot past me coming to a halt and turning around only to go back down to find a new route due to the fact of the amount of riders that were stuck and going no where fast.

As the day went on and the thought of just having to finish was pushing me on

through the thrills and spills. Finally the last check came I was over joyed to make it to the end. I can honestly say that I enjoyed my Snowrun experience and I will be returning next year. And to stay clean was an even bigger accomplishment. And yes the old stories were true!!

Report by Dom Morgan