



Skids into the Valley

(All you 1978 punks will get that one!!!)

**Track n Trail Gas Gas Sponsored Two-Valleys race report Sunday 17th
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By Mark Morris

**Photography by Image Consortium www.imageconsortium.co.uk and
Andy's Mum**

With over two-hundred bikes checked in at scrutineering in warm sunshine it looked like a fair day for a cracking three hour hare and hounds at one of Track n Trails most popular venues Two-Valleys in Winterbourne Abbas just outside of Dorchester.



The track, which ran in the opposite direction this time, had a few surprises with the man-made jumps that caught some off guard on the parade lap. One rider having taken off at such speed and gaining such altitude that on landing he observed icicles had formed on the peak of his crash helmet!!!!

With the usual hard and easy options, the first being a tight turn down a steep drop across what, when wet, felt like marbles; the second a very steep adverse camber across a chalk hill that caught out even the best of us it!!!!

After the short trip through the farm barns and across and up the tight chalk climb, the riders begin a quarter of a mile sharp climb that started with a very tricky adverse camber.



Mike had a little time during the race and kindly demonstrated how not to take the hard route Top Guy!

With the riders on the line the weather looked somewhat inclement and with the race only a few laps old a fine smear began to cling across the goggles of the riders, those smart enough to have roll offs began to reach for the cords to keep a clear vision.



Up hill start wet grass

The track, even with much of the grass removed, became incredibly slippery with bikes struggling for both grip and traction across many areas of the track, with braking zones increased.

In the Championship class Jon Hayman completed a very impressive fourteen laps, four minutes a head of the hard chasing David Biles, with Gary Wright three laps down in third.

Jon's win has ensured that he can not be caught by Daryl, but I'm sure if Mr. Bolter reads this Jon may have a race on his hands for the last round.



Is it a bird is it a plane?

In the Expert class the every impressive and highly consistent Mark Cornick scored yet another 30 championships points. On the championship pace Mark completed fourteen laps with a four minute lead of second place Tim Hunt also on fourteen laps with Ian Peberdy only a minute behind.

So far a head was Mark, that he actually had time to stop and lie down (Sorry Mark but to us guys back in lower class it gives a moral boost to know that from time to time you guys make mistakes!!!!)



Now where are my Sandwiches????

The normally highly consistent Euan Harrison appeared not to have his best day at the office, despite a respectable 8th place this has now opened up what looked like a sure overall championship second, now with Jeff “Gossey” Goss breathing down his neck, who was spurred on by the new 07 Suzuki stroker, is just twelve points adrift.

In the Expert over 40's Ian Proudfoot took yet another top spot with his fourth straight win. Peter Young was in second, some seven minutes a drift.

Stephan Sword wanna-be Jerry the “Holeshot” Howell slipped to third, obviously not enough energy bars pre-race Mr. Howell!!!!



Jerry flying high with all those legal stimulants

In the Clubman two stroke, two rookies took the honour of first and second with Sam Robinson putting in a ore some display in the wet with 13-laps aboard the brand new KTM 125 SX which looked hot! Tim Chard who got a

puncture on the parade lap and rode the whole race with a flat tyre making his second place some achievement just a head of the loudest man on the track Michael Hughes.



Crackin lookin bike and boy was he fast in the wet

For the Championship it was all change with Tim Newman collecting 8-points putting him in pole position behind Mark Copeland and Andrew White now claiming third spot, so tight is the class that only 2-points separate the next three riders down to sixth place.

The Clubman four stroke class Andy Claxton made it two out of two with the top honours, Tom Connor was second and Michael Brookes third the only riders to complete thirteen laps.

For the Championship things remain the same at the top with either Tom or Michael in great shape to take the overall win, so let's look forward to great dual there in the final race. Glyn Wickhman has put himself right back into contention for a top three finish with his fourth place and valuable 22-points, which should make the last race even more interesting.



Andy Claxton still on for podium in the overall standing.

In the Sportsman 2-stroke Jack Turner was first across the line just 1 minute 53 ahead of James King who edged out Paul Lanham by a mere 4-seconds

In the Champion standing, and with Nick Dunn not picking up any points James takes top spot by 1 point on 99 over Nick in second with Paul in third on 74, making it mathematically possible (though not if you went to the same sckooles as me!!!) for any of the three to win.



"Hello Mum" Andy Burgess on the Test Gas Gas

The Four Stroke Class saw two riders complete 12 laps with Alan Payne taking a five minute win over Keith White in second also on twelve laps.

This sets up the final race into some show down as Nigel Hawkins and Alan Payne are tied for the lead on 93 points, with Paul Dry chasing hard on 77 points.

In the Sportsman over 40's Graham Foy grabbed the spoils with eleven laps and ten minutes over Steve Edington also on eleven laps

For Championship places in the over 40's Steve Head extended his lead, though the chasing pack are tight bunched with only 16-points between second and sixth place.

The Trail group saw Andrew Coles and Pete Fry cross the line with eleven laps to their credit with Andrew six minutes the quicker in first

Looking at the Championship standings this has leapfrogged Andrew into first place on 110 and Pete into third on 105 sandwiching former leader David Hogan in second on 106 points - so after five races we have just five points between first and third nail biting stuff!!!



Tight and rough through there, sound just like an ex-girlfriend!!!

The next event promises to be a real nerve jangler for those in the Championship and for those who are not the mere thought of the venue is pure mouth watering.

See you at Maiden Newton on 15th October get your entries in early PLEASE.