

## RRND South Coast Group Trial, Ockley, Surrey Sunday 10th Aug 2014

Reigate and Redhill North Downs MCC ran the August round of the South Coast Group Championship at Ockley in Surrey on Sunday. This lovely venue features a small stream running along its complete length, with sections set in the stream bed and along its steep sloping sides.

The atrocious weather before the trial started meant that the water levels in the stream rose during the course of the trial and made some sections harder than planned, even after they had been eased in the morning.

Thomas Moss was a clear winner in the Experts and his typically storming ride in Section three, with the only three cleans all day, showed his rivals what they were up against. Kevin Nolan had left his SWM at home and had a great ride on the Sherco to runner up place just ahead of Chris Heane.

In the Inters it was James Gammons who turned out to be the close winner, just ahead of his old rival Phil Martin. James has not ridden for several months and although complaining of being 'rusty' at the start he soon got back in the swing of things in the straight forward muddy sections that he excels at. Phil was close behind in second pipping brother Garry on this occasion.

The O40 class was poorly supported but that didn't stop Michael Stiles having a great ride to take the win, despite suffering with a few knee twinges. He just pipped surprise visitor Ian Wakeford. Ian was riding a bike that he only collected in the car park on the morning of the trial, having not ridden a trial for some three years. Although he was suffering with arm pump he showed that he had lost none of his old skills blasting through the muddy hole of section one on each lap.

Neil Varney had a good ride to take third, and although there wasn't much between him and the first two it was Neil's 5's on Section three and four that made the difference as Michael only had one five all day, which was at section 10 on the final lap. This rock strewn stream was tricky as the level of water in the stream rose dramatically and the exit banking became extremely slippery. Ian too only suffered one five, but this was on his first lap whilst he was still getting back into the swing of things.

Steve Farrell took the O50 class win with his steady throttle control on the slippery bankings paying dividends. Cameron Dawson and Steve Forrest followed closely behind but Steve's consistency once again paid off.

The two Dryland brothers battled it out for the Clubman 'A' honours, with Mark getting the nod. Still troubled by an elbow tendon he did well to finish in the poor conditions.

The red route riders suffered in places with the stream levels getting higher than was anticipated, with Thos Blackwell just beating Geoff Muston on his Honda special. Chris Neville headed the O60 class and managed to avoid too many fives throughout the day.