

Weatherby Fort
Track n Trail's Round 3 Husquvarna Supported Winter Series
Sunday 1st March 09
Race Report by Track n Trail

After a long absence Weatherby Fort finally got under way. What a difference from the cancelled event of three weeks earlier when snow and ice had covered the track rendering it unrecognisable. But 1st of March, first day of spring, ideal racing conditions for the near 300 racers gathering at Weatherby Fort.



Championship winner, David Biles

With the track in perfect condition with a good mix of MX style fields, some technical and some flowing wood sections. Opportunities for a good blast were offered on a few fast straights and a good mix of grass with a grassy special test type section with manmade jumps. There were many comments from riders afterwards at how much they had enjoyed riding such a good track.

As the flag dropped for the start, championship rider Phil Studley took the hole shot and put in the fastest lap of the day. He held his lead for the first two laps until David Biles, back on form after a long break, took the lead on lap 3. His consistent riding on every lap ensured he held the lead to race end to finish on 14 laps nearly 3 minutes ahead of Phil. With James Jackman's form this season there had been great expectations of him for this race, but the Poole Motorcycle sponsored rider had recently snapped his ACL ligament which hindered his performance however James still rode a fine race throughout and took third 30 seconds behind.



Phil Studley was flying but couldn't hold the lead: finishing 2nd Championship class

This race saw one of Track n Trail's most successful youth riders graduate to the Adult race. The 16 year old Scott Clifford moved his way up from 4th place on lap one to take control of the expert class by lap 4, he led throughout only having to briefly give up the lead for a fuel stop. However his rear silencer broke up on lap 8, which took him out of the race leaving Richard Tuckers to take the lead, he finished 5 minutes ahead of second place Darren Hounsell. Third went to Gary Green.

Jeremy Chapman : on his way to 5th in the experts



Gary Baker, having just turned 40, shook up the ever competitive, over 40's expert class. He led from the beginning, up to lap 3 he was being seriously challenged by Charlie Richards, but after Charlie retired on lap 4, Gary had the race all sewn up. He was the only rider in his class to complete 14 laps. With Stuart Keedwell and Anthony Marshall both riding consistently well to clock up 13 laps and finishing in that order 3 minutes apart.

A mention must go to Dan Fidler another of The youth riders whose moved up to adults, Joe put in his best performance to date, holding second place for most of the race, but just never quite finding the pace to catch winner James Thomson. Clubman 4 stroke winner was, newcomer Tom Moore who put in a storming performance to lead for the entire race. Tony Penhaligan fought his way up from 7th in lap one to 2nd by lap 4, holding this position to the end and whilst gaining ground on Tom every lap, did not have time to catch him.



328 Gary Taylor and 121 Dan Fidler

178 Oliver Richards and 174 Ian Barnett battling for 7th and 8th on lap 2 and 3. As they came through timing on lap 2 only one fifteenth of a second split them!



In the sportsman classes Simon Bailey took the honours in the over 40's, he took the lead on lap 8 after Peter Trott who had led from the front hit difficulties and bowed out of the lead. Sportsman 2 stroke saw Daniel Roberts monopolise the class, being the only rider at this level to complete 12 laps. Ralph Morris held second and although Tom Bradley steadily climbed through the rankings from 10th to 3rd he could not catch Ralph before race end. It was Jacques Stevens who took his second win of the series In sportsman 4 stroke. Andrew Coad, a lap behind in second and Tim Hewlett third.

The Trail class win went to young William Laughton and Jason Ham finished second both on 10 laps. Terry Keel didn't let the youngsters have it all their own way and took third from lap 4 holding onto it by a good 4 minutes at race end.



The youth race was as usual well attended, and the young riders attacked the whole course, with very few changes with true grit and determination. The 125cc class saw Tommy Alba and Liam Curtis-Stevens determined to catch George Baylis, indeed they were both gaining ground throughout, chopping from 2nd and 3rd as they did so, but at the end of the Day George was just too fast and held his lead throughout, Tommy finished in 2nd just 55 seconds behind and Liam in third all on 7 laps.

Despite a brilliant start by Aaron O'Mahony in the 85Big wheel class, he could not hold his lead after the first lap. Bradley Maddever took the lead on the second lap and never looked back. Both boys finishing on 7 laps with Conner Davis in 3rd on 6 laps.

The Small Wheel class saw Dylan Baynton take first on 6 laps, ahead of Mitchell Miller who put in one of his best performances to date to take 2nd both on 6 laps. Third went to Christian Corthorn.

The 65cc class saw the top three put in an excellent 5 laps apiece. Bradley Rowland took the win from Joe Newman by 1 minute, with Isaac Atherley following in third.

The excellent course, beautiful countryside, great competitors and early spring sunshine all helped to make this a brilliant even. Let's hope for more of the same at Castle Park on the 15th March.