

## LANGDALE ENDURO SEPTEMBER 07

After the wettest summer on record, the weather was, for once, kind to the 108 riders lined up for the event. Starting and ending the day in bright sunshine, cloud cover most of the time in between kept temperatures manageable for the field. The relative lack of rain also meant that going was mostly firm underfoot, with a few of the more notorious boggy bits of Langdale a bit less soggy than usual, and the whole course much drier than May's event.

The course - a very varied mixture that including open moorland, dark tree-lined tunnels, boggy forest tracks and testing climbs - lasted well with only a few minor re-routings needed as the day wore on. Fire roads were kept to a minimum, which proved a good move as the dry conditions led to some difficulty with dust. As usual, time to check one was fairly generous, although the first section included some more technical, tricky sections. Speeds increased in the second, more flowing half, with times correspondingly tighter.

The five championship riders led the field away at 10:30. The good conditions and well-thought course meant that only 13 riders registered a did-not-finish, with most of those being mechanical problems of one form or another. The ambulance staff also had a fairly relaxed day with very few incidents reported. A notable exception was no. 84 Don Garham's crash avoiding a big black dog that ran across his path; a departure from grouse, pheasants and the occasional deer that form the more usual wildlife hazards in Langdale. After as long but enjoyable day, the last rider was back in by 3:00.

Honours in the championship class went to Sheffield's aptly named Richard Hallam on a KTM, who narrowly beat local lad Barrie Darrell. KTMs also took the top three places in the closely-fought expert class with Daniel Field getting the better of Andy Walton (2nd) and Stanley Callaghan (3rd). James Clift took victory in clubman, with an unlucky John Bradford losing second place by only one point to Jonathan King.

Orange-coloured domination of the day was spoiled by Liam Ward winning the sportsman class on his Yamaha, albeit closely followed by Billy Robinson and Gareth Wilkinson on the ubiquitous KTMs. Geraint Rogers took the honours in the over-40s.

Many thanks to all who took part in what we hope was an enjoyable and rewarding event.