

TBEC Kimpton 8th October Race Report – By Nick Collins

The penultimate round for the Trail Bike Enduro Club (TBEC) 2017 season was held at Kimpton (Also known as Bedrock, the home of the Flintstones). The Kimpton track has not been used by TBEC for 25 years, in fact it didn't actually look like it had ever seen a wheel turned in anger. There was no doubt though on the drive in it looked like perfect Enduro countryside. The last time TBEC ran here reigning Champ James Berrill was riding a 1987 Suzuki RM125, he was still wearing short trousers and hadn't yet started to shave. Today he was riding a 2006 Honda CR250 one of many from his JB Racing stable. The event attracted a good entry and a good number of non-members which is always nice to see.

Theoretically the Championship top three spots were still all up for grabs but none of the top contenders were taking it seriously were they? Yeah Right!! I popped to Alan Vissian's van in the morning and he had all his shoes and socks off trying to add up the points difference. Lesley offered to help but as she lives in Irthlingborough and has 12 toes that would have only confused matters. Paul Field had numerous spread-sheets and excel files scattered around his van and at one point he was trying to cable-tie a slide rule to his handle bars. Meanwhile Jenny Berrill was practicing all kinds of Hieroglyphic signs and symbols on James's pit board and even drew a pie chart but was then confused as it looked like a cake and she tried to eat it. It looked like Jordan Tuffy had turned to Mecca for inspiration and was kneeling and chanting in an Easterly direction. It turns out he had banged his toe that he broke at Houghton and the 'chants' that we could hear was Watford slang for "Ouch that bleedin well hurt you bugger". Dan Smith was trying to remember what bike he was riding for the day and where he had parked it. The coolest rider in the pits was Jack Lee who was not in the Championship running but had brought a brand new Beta 300RR to play with and also give the front runners something else to think about for the day.

Paul Field sat on row zero with his KTM brandishing a brand new set of Michelins. He made good use of them to grab the hole shot in the morning session, closely followed by James Berrill and Jack Lee. Paul gave it a fist full out of the first corner and his brand new rear tyre promptly fired a lump of flint into James' shoulder. It was a shot that any Royal Marine sniper would have been proud of. You could almost see James wince and wobble and a lesser man may have backed off the throttle but to be fair to the defending champ he stayed right behind Paul for the first couple of laps. The last time I saw anyone have that many rocks thrown at them was during the stoning scene of the 'Life of Brian'.

For the first two laps Paul & James were out on their own, slowly though Jack started to make ground and reel them in. Alan Vissian decided to try something different and pitted for fuel at the end of lap 2 hoping that he would gain the benefit later in the race. Only two laps in though he was already suffering from arm pump and he slowly dropped out of contention. Paul was struggling to keep James behind him and he told me later that when he realised that Jack was now making it a group of three he let them both by. In his own words "There was no way I could keep up that pace for 2 hours, I would of ended up crashing". Paul then struggled with back markers and dropped it a couple of times which let Jordan Duffy & Dan Smith come by. Dan was riding well on a borrowed bike. His new KTM wasn't available so James Berrill kindly lent him another one of his CR250's from the JB Racing stable. James and Jack had a good battle for the next lap or two before James started to pull a safe gap. With ten minutes of the session left Jenny Berrill decided to send James for a risky extra lap. Jack was around a minute behind and his experienced pit crew decided it was too tight and called him in. However Jack was getting conflicting information and in the confusion went out for another lap. The rest of the front group all pulled in and finished the session on 8 laps each. Jordan was the best of the rest closely followed by Dan. Paul finished the session with some good old fashion bar bashing with number 816 Luke Gidney. Five minutes over time James came back in to claim his last lap, Jenny had called it right and the last lap was worth a nett gain of 3 points. Jack came in six minutes over which resulted in a nett loss of 1 point. That last lap had cost Jack an

easy morning second place dropped to a morning session twenty-fifth.

The bigger picture was that not only had James gained an extra three points on his championship rivals, they would all also be a lap down. If he could repeat the same feat in the afternoon then no one except him would be taking many points home from the days racing.

Max Barnett hadn't brought his GasGas bar-b-que to this event so the burger van was busy. The general topic of conversation between the riders in the queue was whether they had the right tyre pressures for the day. The simple fact was that it was bleeding slippery in places no matter what pressure you were running.

The track was reversed for the afternoon session and Jack Lee got a flyer closely followed by James, Paul & Luke. After the first lap Jack swiped half a second in front of James. You can't get much closer than that on a six mile lap, (at least Jack had put his transponder on the right wrist for the afternoon session, all morning he was having to swipe with his left). By the time they came round to start the third lap Jack had slipped to third losing out nearly a minute on the second lap. Jack pulled over on lap four and told me that he had 'tennis elbow' and he was struggling to hang on and he felt it was dangerous on the downhill sections, he pulled out altogether on lap five. Later Jack admitted to me that the problem wasn't 'tennis elbow' but a 'repetitive strain injury' brought on by nappy changing baby George and that he would happily change mooses over nappies any day of the week. James had a good battle with Luke for the next couple of laps with Jordan comfortably in third and Paul going well a minute behind. Dan was doing well and for the last 2 laps he had to push to hold off a revitalised Alan Vissian. Only James, Luke and Jordan managed 9 laps in the afternoon. James came in ten seconds under time with Luke dropping two penalty points and Jordan dropping ten. Next to come home was Paul with a thirty second gap to Dan. Alan had eased off knowing that Dan couldn't be caught. Lee Smith pushed hard in the afternoon but having lost pressure in his front brake and having to pump the brake before each corner, he miraculously managed to keep to the course and get a good finish. Joe Fanthorpe wasn't shy about getting his monies worth and I'm sure if Jenny Berrill hadn't lasood him in at the end he would still be running round now! Forty five penalty points! Having looked at Joe's scores over the year I'm sure that if someone buys him a stopwatch for Christmas then he should pick up a bit of silverware next season. My last vision of the day was Paul Field checking the state of his brand new tyres. Paul and his Michelins looked about as worn out as each other....

You have got to hand it to the TBEC team. In what was pretty much virgin ground they had put together a wonderful track and hopefully it won't be another 25 years until we can go back.

The final words are from James Berrill who I think sums things up nicely.

"I really liked it. The morning was ok, I got away behind Paul and me and Jack sat behind for a few laps. I got by then just pushed on until my pit stop. I had a good one and got out in front until the end. The second half was better and faster I got out in front after the first lap as I got past Jack and then pushed and got a gap. I then came together with a couple of riders had a few silly mistakes and stalls and dropped back to second behind Luke but kept going and had another quick pit stop, got out in front and stayed till the end, Great riding by the guys yesterday was tough with the stones and stumps but another great event by the club so thanks for that! Thanks again to Jen and Dad for all the help this year much appreciated x "

Results Round 9 Kimpton 08.10.2017

Overall

1st	1	James Berrill
2nd	816	Luke Gidney
3rd	332	Jordan Duffy
4th	80	Paul Field
5th	2	Daniel Smith
6th	183	Guy Britton
7th	3	Alan Vissian
8th	51	Ben Ilott
9th	6	Lee Smith
10th	87	George Wolfe

Elite

1st	1	James Berrill
2nd	332	Jordan Duffy
3rd	80	Paul Field
4th	2	Daniel Smith
5th	3	Alan Vissian

E3

1st	195	Martin Bone
2nd	32	Jamie Collins
3rd	22	Tommy Batts
4th	247	Carl Munnery
5th	126	Jack Kew

E2

1st	183	Guy Britton
2nd	555	Luke Cain
3rd	199	Luke Evans
4th	164	Brian Pettit
5th	128	Joseph Smith

E1

1st	51	Ben Ilott
2nd	58	Wayne Burns
3rd	501	Ryan Leighton
4th	136	Terry Allen
5th	117	Darren Green

U21

1st	87	George Wolfe
2nd	198	Jake Palmer
3rd	537	Sam Shook
4th	55	Thomas Batts
5th	15	Charlie Smith

VETS

1st	9	Graham Albrecht
2nd	670	Nicky Airey
3rd	125	Peter Barltrop
4th	10	Jon Foxley
5th	39	Andrew Seth

LEGENDS

1st	103	Roger Newport
2nd	40	John Austin
3rd	56	Ben Golding
4th	98	Fiona Newport
5th	23	Ian Matthews

TRAIL

1st	296	Colin Wilson
2nd	536	Michael Shook
3rd	212	Charles Selfe
4th	180	Darren Brooker

X-DAY

1st	816	Luke Gidney
2nd	820	Declan Phillips
3rd	837	Paul Owen
4th	827	Darren Carter
5th	821	Eagan Bruley

X-HALF

1st	5	Jason Callaby
2nd	169	Garry Fairbairn
3rd	800	Steve Rampling

