

Trailquest – Sunday November 8th 2009

After heavy overnight rain, some of the trails were in decidedly damp condition for the late autumn trailquest last Sunday. But the day dawned clear and bright and competitors were treated to a fine day in the sunshine. This was a 3-hour event, based at the Crosby Memorial Hall and extending as far afield as Kings Forest, Trollaby, Chibbanagh, Archallagan, South Barrule and Stoney Mountain plantations. We knew that we were in for a busy day when, at registration, no less than 95 riders turned out to make up a total of 56 solos & teams.

Along with the regular 'questers' and host of newcomers (welcome – we hope you enjoyed it), the field included fell runners Lloyd Taggart & Jackie Lee – who both put in strong performances to pick up 3rd and 6th overall respectively – Jackie being far and away the strongest woman of the day. I am sure that we will be seeing more of them!

At the sharp end, though, it was a contest between regular protagonists Kale Hawkins & Julian Corlett – the former clinching it with an impressive 483 points to win the event overall. This may have been different had Julian not failed to find a tricky checkpoint deep in King's Forest.

Mark Caley (who also helped set part of the course on Saturday) teamed up with Elliott Baxter (also doing his first TQ) to take an impressive 4th place – with the ever-improving partnership of Dave Rielly and Steve Partington coming in 5th.

Jo Hawkins was second woman overall whilst best placed mixed team were David Goberman & Cat Price in 22nd place. Jean-Michelle Bazille lost his dibber after a crash along Renshents Lane and thus truncated the team score (I will adjust this for you later) but survives to fight another day. Luckily, another competitor found it and handed it in – thus avoiding the double-whammy of having to replace it....

It was again excellent to see so many Father/Mother/Son/Daughter (generation) teams taking part. The best of these were Simon & Joseph Haddock in 39th place ahead of Gina & Harry Grose in 47th.

Top ladies team were Ali Clague & Gill Crennell in 34th place.

Youngest team were Ben Cotton & Jamie Everitt (both 16), who did a good ride plus navigation – which is a harder skill to master. They actually came in to the finish after just 1.75 hours – only to realise that they had over an hour left. So they headed off to tackle a few more controls...

It was an excellent day and we hope that everyone enjoyed it. Tea & Cakes were served again by Sue, who coped valiantly with so many hungry bikers to feed. Special thanks to Robin & Emma Skuse who, having ridden the event (32nd place) then mucked in to help with the stream of washing-up and tea/coffee production. Thanks to Mark Caley & Neil Hockings for helping to share the task of positioning the controls and to Geoff Ennett for helping to gather them all in afterwards.

The next Trailquest is the 1.5 hour Night-Time special event – scheduled for Saturday 30th January at South Barrule Plantation (with post-ride supper at the Baltic in Foxdale). Start time: 6pm. Details to follow.

1, Kale Hawkins [483]; 2, Julian Corlett [468]; 3, Lloyd Taggart [456]; 4, Mark Caley & Elliott Baxter [455]; 5, Dave Rielly & Steve Partington [439]; 6, Jackie Lee [417]; 7, Rob Holden & Rob Sorby [415]; 8, John Barker [404]; 9, Rob Mercer & Peter Smith [389]; 10, Andy Brooks [387]; 11, Ronan O'Toole [387]; 12, Mike Duffy & Geoff Ennett [379]; 13, Stuart Garry & Ben Dunlop [373]; 14, Paul Kneen & Dave

Glover [360]; 15, Jo Hawkins [353]; 16, Rob Quirk & Russell Collister [347]; 17, Steve Ormerod & Steve Smith [333]; 18, Neil Hockings [321]; 19, Paul Flanders & Neil Kerruish [319]; 20, Richard Watson & Tim Pressley [317]; 21, Andy Howland [314]; 22, David Goberman & Cat Price [308]; 23, Julie Lyness & Rob Cormode [305]; 24, Rannulf Lucas & Ben McLean [305]; 25, Jon Quayle & Chris Crellin [297]; 26, Aidan Mallinson & Steve Hearndon [297]; 27, Peter Wilson & John Halliwell [296]; 28, Tony Fallon & Brian Draper [292]; 29, Ian Strodder [291]; 30, Neil Helks & Adrian Hobbs [287]; 31, Craig Hindle [282]; 32, Robin & Emma Skuse [282]; 33, Neill Clague [282]; 34, Ali Clague & Gill Crennell [282]; 35, Ralph Jackson [273]; 36, John Nippres [264]; 37, Dave Newsham & Shaun Gelling [262]; 38, Jean-Michelle Bazille & Dave Curry [257]; 39, Simon & Joseph Haddock [249]; 40, David & Rebecca Griffin [244]; 41, Dave Callaghan [241]; 42, Gary Ashe & Tony Glassey [232]; 43, Keith Lowe & Stu Temple [225]; 44, Mike Quayle & Andy Cain [220]; 45, Susan Everitt [219]; 46, Kirsty Cregeen & Fiona Quayle [218]; 47, Gina & Harry Grose [218]; 48, Warwick & Tanya Sanderson [207]; 49, Paula Gelling & Mary-Jane Watson [191]; 50, Caroline Helks & Jo Maylin [191]; 51, Richie Cryer & Sarah Jewell [182]; 52, Michael Joughin & Rob Brockbanks [182]; 53, Ben Cotton & Jamie Everitt [154]; 54, Rob & Thomas Longden [154]; 55, Chris Fargher & James Graham [144]; 56, Tracey Lyness & Daniel Cotton [141]

Results: manxtimingsolutions.com