

## The Tulleys Trial 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022 by Stephen Barnes

The short version of this report: It rained!

The more informative version: KBCC returned to Tulleys Farm alongside the 750MC to run two events but using one set of poles, to encourage a larger entry and some cross-party camaraderie. Did it work? Well, there was a combined entry of 31, 20 of whom were National runners. Plenty of marshals from a local bike trials club were roped in in exchange for use of the ground for one of their events. Eight hills had been laid out trying to use some fresh areas and avoid the well-worn usuals, a lot of clearing had been done of fallen trees, and ditches and ponds cleaned out so several new options were available. 2022 had thus far been one of the hottest and driest on record, but November was about to be the wettest month of the year, which gave the sections a different dimension to this heavy clay and wooded site. This was to be a day where a big engine and a heavy right foot might pay off.

Hills 1 & 2 were in the “new” pond areas near the car park using the pond bank sides for lots of short climbs, Hill 3 below them crossed a small stream and ended on the side of a topsoil bank now grassed over. Hills 4 & 5 in the original well-used pit, and 6, 7 & 8 right down at the bottom of the track.

Ian Wright (Sherpa Indy) and (youthful) passenger Alex Hill made their intentions plain in the first round dropping just 3 points, followed by Richard Sharp (Cartwright) and our host Stuart Beare (Sherpa Indy) both on 13, with Andy Wilks keeping them honest on 14. Leading the live axles and in 5<sup>th</sup> place was Arthur Carroll (Sherpa) on 18 closely followed by George Barnes (Sherpa) on 20. Leading Rookie was Simon Cowley (Avonova) on 42.

Up until this point it had been dry overhead, but now it started to rain. Only a couple of minor changes were made to the hills for the second round and generally the second round scores were lower than the first. Ian put in a blistering round of only one point dropped, and not to be outdone on the rev limiter stakes Stuart dropped 8 pulling away from Richard on 12. Arthur continued to dominate the live axles dropping 8, but Matt Sharp (Sherpa) woke up for the second round dropping just 9. Bob Packham (Kincraft) and John Firth (SRB) were off their usual pace with 17 and 18 respectively. It was at this point that a couple of the downhill runs caught some front axles on trees (despite a choice of line) and hill two had to be dropped from the scores. Over the lunch break the rain became torrential and after a quick straw poll around the paddock it was decided to call it a day.

So, after 15 hills:

Ian Wright / Alex Hill	4 1 <sup>st</sup> Overall
Stuart Beare / Dean Brooker	16 1 <sup>st</sup> Red Independent
Richard Sharp / Joe Sharp	25
Arthur Carroll / Warren Pinto	26 1 <sup>st</sup> Red Live
Matt Sharp / Dawn Sharp	33 1 <sup>st</sup> Blue Live
Andy Wilks / Mark Smith	34
Bob Packham / Mark Tallon	42
Jeff Armistead / Steven Postlethwaite	47

John Firth / Ann Boyes	51
George Watson / Victoria Watson	54
Sam Beare / Jemima Perham	54
Darren Underwood / Sue Underwood	55
George Barnes / Harry Franks	57
Mike Readings / Carol Readings	59 1 <sup>st</sup> Blue Independent
Stephen Barnes / Prue Barnes	60
John Cole / Anne Cole	75
Chris Burton / Max Burton	84 1 <sup>st</sup> Rookie
Simon Cowley / Jenny Cowley	85
Keith Parker / John Walker	114

It was noted and much appreciated that 6 teams had made the journey down from north of the Watford Gap to experience lots of trees and heavy clay, and of course the legendary Tulleys hospitality.