

## DAWN TO DUSK 2009 24 HOUR ENDURO

The Team arrived at the BMW Circuit on Friday pm having driven through torrential rain & winds. Little did we know the weather was to stay that way for the rest of the weekend !

Friday evening we had a meeting of riders & pit crew to discuss arrangements & tactics for the weekend's race.

The course was to be run in two parts : An 8 mile lap from start at 7pm on Saturday being slightly less technical, then at 6am or daylight opening up on Sunday the 21 mile loop as well. This was 1 hour before the 12 hour race started.

We felt that it was important to make sure all three riders managed a lap in daylight for safety reason before nightfall. The race plan was 1 lap each in daylight, then 2 laps each throughout the night until 6am when the full lap was opened up and at that point the team would do one lap each. Tyson was to start then Freddie then Dave.

Saturday was spent putting up awnings, tables, lights, battery charging facilities & sleeping accommodation.

Clive Jones had arranged a 'soup kitchen' just outside the pit area for the duration & Jill had brought hot pasta dishes to enable the riders to keep their energy levels up throughout the race. Jill had the hardest job of all, trying to keep the food & drinks hot whilst ferrying them between kitchen & pits.

The start went well with Tyson managing to get away first in our group. On the 1<sup>st</sup> lap we were in 19<sup>th</sup> place which was good considering Tyson had 70 riders in front of him at the start !

The strategy went to plan and within the 1<sup>st</sup> hour Team West Wilts MCC was showing on the lap screens in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 2 mins 50secs behind the leaders.

The rain subsided & the skies cleared but it was still cold & damp. We knew it was early days but we were optimistic of a good result.

The team leading were last years winners, a 2 man team from Scotland. They were setting a very quick pace which our lads seemed to match, so much so that by 3 am The Scots & Team West wilts were 4 laps clear of the rest of the field, albeit they had pulled out an 8 min lead on us.

We were hoping that our three man team would have an advantage later on Sunday when hopefully their two man team would tire. If we could stay within the same lap until daybreak and the large loop we would still have a chance to win.

The night had its little problems, Dave lost one of his main lights so had a slowish lap, Tyson got lost in the dark & lost time & Freddie lost his rear brake pad pin, another slowish lap. He did however get a quicker lap in when he thought he saw a figure dressed in white standing by the side of the track in the forest section (amazing what lack of sleep will do to you mind !)

At daybreak the mist & the rain descended once again and carried on for the rest of the day.

When the large loop was opened up at 6am and the other 400 riders joined the race we all began to realise what a 24hr race was all about ! By now we had used:

80 cups of coffee, 100 ltrs of petrol, 100ltrs of water to wash the bikes, 3 large lasagnes, 4 generator top ups and I don't know how many energy bars & hydro drinks to keep the whole thing going !

The day went on with West Wilts MCC and The Scots teams pushing for the lead. By about 4pm The Scots team had not tired as much as we had hoped they would and held an 11min lead.

We began to think that the win had slipped from our grasp. However on one change over we noticed that the leading team's rider was late in. Minutes passed and the anticipation intensified as a glimmer of hope came over us. Dave Nuttal came over the brow of the hill first and passed on that the other team's rider had a rear wheel problem. When he did arrive we had a 9 min lead with two & half hours to go.

All the riders gave everything they had left not to let the lead slip. With half an hour left The Scots Team manager came over and congratulated us, realising that bar a major problem we had won! It was nice to see that good sportsmanship still exists in this sport.

Dave had the honour of the last lap, taking the winners flag and winning the 2009 Dawn to Dusk 24 hr Enduro for the West Wilts MCC.

All three riders, Freddie Broadway, Tyson Mayton Jones, Dave Nuttal and all the pit crew would like to thank the committee of West Wilts MCC & its members for their support at this event.