

East Berks

Four section members namely Crashby, Graham Lloyd, Carl Kiddle and me competed in the 27th Anniversary Neil Westcott Memorial Trial on 26th November. The event is based in the Minehead area of Somerset and is run by Geoff Westcott and the Exmoor Motor Club in memory of his son Neil Westcott who tragically died in a motorcycle accident in September 1990. There were about 17 observed sections and a special test and a lot of slippery tracks and fields in between so there were many opportunities to closely inspect the muddy surface of Exmoor at very close quarters as I found out! Unfortunately Crashby's AJS only lasted a couple of sections before the ignition timing slipped and forced him to retire. Carl continued on his AJS to finish 4th in his Class. Meanwhile I managed to lose 23 more marks on my Serow than Graham on his more modern Honda. For all of that it was a great weekend. Our annual Awards Night and Christmas meal on 4th December was well attended by members, partners and friends. Crashby used it as an opportunity to show off his newly finished shiny 600cc twin AJS special which some people suggested would make a good raffle prize! There may be a photo of it close to these notes if the editorial team have enough space in the magazine. Rider of the Year Award chosen by the Committee went to Andy Rankin whilst Clubman of the Year Award chosen by our Chairman went to Joe Tinley for his scrambling exploits on his father's G85 and G80CS. The remaining award for the best turned out "Bike of the Marque" displayed by a section member at our annual Bike Night in July 2017 went to John Deane's nicely restored 350cc rigid Matchless. The current owner Graham Lloyd very graciously passed the award (which is a shiny Lucas acetylene motorcycle headlamp), onto John Deane. A number of wags in the section commented that the true reason behind this gesture was because the award was notoriously difficult and time consuming to polish when it came to handing it back the following year! **Ralph Brown**