

Horsforth Club Series Trials

How hard are the sections? Which should I ride?

The Easy route (may be called 'very easy' in the event details) will not contain any tight turns, big steps, drop offs or long, steep climbs or descents (unless there's a big run off at the bottom!). Generally speaking the Easy course will tend to run either; round the outside of the other routes, on grassy banks etc, so that the turns are wider; or (say in a stream section) the Easy may well run straight up the middle with the other routes being made harder by criss crossing. Every section, easy or otherwise, is intended to be cleanable by the average rider we expect will choose to ride that particular route – *but that doesn't mean everyone will clean it every time!*

As an example of how easy the Easy route is, we would expect that a competent rider (i.e. NOT a beginner) should, after just a quick look at the section, ride the bike round clean just using bottom gear and without the need to feather the clutch or even brake. Because there are no tight turns etc, the route is easy to follow and needs no more than throttle and steering inputs. That's what we aim for when we mark it out. Try it!

The Middle route (may be referred to as 'easy' in the event details) is intended to encourage riders up from the Easy course as soon as possible. These routes are suitable for riders who have got beyond the beginners stage but might still struggle a bit negotiating rocky ground feet up or finding grip in slippery conditions and generally feel they are still having trouble keeping feet on pegs! Alternatively they are ideal for reasonably competent riders who have been riding for a while but who prefer not to tackle any bigger or trickier stuff or be falling off too often – typically our senior members.

Pre 65 bikes or twin shocks will have no trouble on the Easy course and with a decent pilot would get through the Middle route without a problem.

The Hard route (may be referred to as 'Harder' in the event details) will have sections that are cleanable by say the top 40-50% of novices in the club but are a bit more testing than the middle route. We won't put a turn in that requires a hop of the front or back wheel to get round (but it might be tight!) Better riders may choose to do that to make it easier to set themselves up for the next obstacle. We will not (or try not to) put any drop-offs in that require the front wheel to be lifted to avoid going over the bars! (ie you should simply be able to let the bike roll down for instance into a stream bed or off a slab).

So the Harder route on our Club trials will typically be ridden by the better novices and those who are striving to improve their riding. Inters and Experts should be expecting to keep a clean sheet – but all it takes is a slippery ascent or a jumble of small rocks to take dabs and even a five, so concentration will be needed.