

Test of time for riders

BRIMBO by MARTIN SMITH

THE vast expanses of wind and rain-swept concrete which once reverberated to the roar of mighty Liberator bombers of the USAAF 8th Air Force, rang out to a different sound on Sunday last as the final Off Road round came to fruition.

With similar determination but a much happier purpose than those bomber crews, competitors gathered to attempt a competition new to off road — the time trial — two laps round a three quarter mile circuit.

The biggest field of the season soon amassed and practice began. The circuit took on the appearance of the coast road on a Bank Holiday as adjustments were made.

It was good to see many road bikes competing but the circuit became extremely greasy as the drizzle started to fall.

Championship leaders Ray Peacock and Max Potter took top outfit with a split of just .5 seconds, followed by Graham Barker and Stephen Clarke with 2.6 seconds.

Graham's brother Bob took third spot with 3.5 seconds. Mick O'Neill and Andrew Tooke broke a throttle cable but struggled through to take fourth place.

Thetford rider Graham Perkins entered his very unusual imported Vladi Vostock outfit. Fitted with a Boss Hog conversion, the outfit went superbly in practice but lost a sidecar mounting, eliminating him from the contest.

In the British solo unlimited class, Rober Lye took first place on his immaculate BSA, despite an horrific spill. Second was championship leader Harris Womack on the A10.

Third placed man was Geoff Davies on a borrowed Peter Hislop AJS Stormer with Nigel Barnby fourth on his most unusual Triumph Adventurer.

Tom Robinson rode to fifth spot on his well presented Norton Commandó which proved a real handful on the greasy track. Pete Hislop took a nasty spill to take sixth place.

In the British Under 250 class, Paul Knights took first place on his trusty Greaves Roadster, followed very closely by Eddie Clarke on his Cub and Martin Wigmore with a Cotton.

The Foreign class entry saw some exotic machinery with winner Duncan Bond putting in an unbelievable .03 seconds. Joint second place went to Harris Womack and David Coe on Honda and Suzuki respectively.

Riding his Moto Guzzi Le-Mans, Phil Williams took third place with Sue Keevil on a Montesa, fourth and team-mate Alison Susan on another Montesa.

Sixth place was taken by Jan Lewandreski and seventh Tom Robinson. In eighth place came Pusher Pearce with Rex Lindsay taking ninth spot after misreading the course and taking a tumble in a rather large manure heap.

This concludes this year's series and my thanks go to all competitors, mechanics, helpers and all followers for a first class season. I understand that a non-championship event is planned for later this month — more news as I get it.

Biggest news this week is the announcement of the first road run of the year. On Sunday March 24, Ray Peacock will lead the run, leaving Pulham Green at 12 noon. All riders are very welcome, and a good turnout is hoped for.