

**The sun burnt down from a cloudless sky, baking the ravaged earth. Eyes rolled in their sockets in sheer exhaustion, but the silent pleas of 'Let it be over now', went unanswered. The casualties lay where they fell...  
Yes, it's people having fun on mountainbikes again...**

**Report and Pictures: Joss Reiver Bany.**

# SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL






THEY soon christened it 'the wall'. The first hill on the rubble-strewn motocross track that was the focus of the Bicycle-mountainbike event at Golding Barn raceway in Small Dole, Sussex. It didn't look that bad, but looks can deceive and 'the wall' unseated all but one rider during the heats of four events: the Individual; the Team Relay; the Women's and the hilariously scrambled Spectators' Derby.

A couple of mountainbikes were on offer, courtesy of Muddy Fox and Shimano, and that put an edge on the competition. Gruelling climbs, steep, rough switches and a blistering sun did the rest, and day's end saw riders staggering across the finish line on foot and collapsing with exhaustion. At times the scene looked like the aftermath of some particularly exotic battlefield. And since the sun could, for once in an English summer, be called pitiless did not help. They dropped like flies and everyone had a great time.

The loose, shale-like, downhill slalom course, designed for and much carved about by motorbikes, was enough to slow down some daredevil riders of Wendover repute to a foot-dragging crawl. The surface provided a real test of skill, but it wasn't too good for the skin if you were unlucky enough to make contact with it. The few spills of the day had spectators cringing as riders emerged bloodied from the dust.

The trials course of bollards, log piles, ramps, limbo bar, car tyres, thin plank and see-saw proved a great challenge to skilled riders and an entertaining laugh for the spectators.

After a full day of events it was a tired and bedraggled group of mountainbike riders who headed for home. 



**DESPITE** the many ingenious tests of machine and rider devised for this event - the see saw ride over a plank on a fulcrum, the limbo bar at speed, the slalom - the motorcross course itself proved the hardest part of the day.



