

Yorkshire Classic MCC

1ST. Pre unit Trial

Report:Neil Anderton

Held at Nab End above Halifax 49 riders braved the blustery conditions to compete in the Yorkshire Classics first pre unit trial of the year. Observers always need an extra coat at this exposed venue but the views are a bonus on a clear winters day.

The riders soon warmed to their task with section one a steady opener with seven clean sheets amongst the pre units mastering the rocky turn and slippery climb. Section two a new one at Nab End, reduced the cleans to four as the muddy climb and tight turns caught out the unwary.

Section three a sharp climb up a bank followed by a tight right and left turn on the camber and a steep climb to the finish saw the only cleans from Dave Emmott winner of class A. Paul Jackson on the Velocette and overall winner Mal Cocking on the Triumph twin who completed the whole trial clean.

The next group of sections were in the central quarry area which although sheltered from the wind suffered on the climbs from the low winter sun blinding the riders. Section five a regular feature at this venue was in no mood to give an easy ride. Ian Barker on the pre war rigid Norton showed how to do it and recorded four cleans followed by Pete Baldwin on the Ariel, Emmott and Cocking.

Section eight was not for the faint hearted as the blast up the steep narrow path to the top of the bank couldn't be seen for the sun and the sharp right turn down a loose drop came up alarmingly quickly. Careful control was then needed to lift the bike over angled stones and across the camber to the end cards. Carl Winstanley out on a big Ariel for the first time mastered it as did Tom Emmott on the Triumph twin, dad Dave , Mal Cocking and Pete McCanna having a brilliant ride on the Greeves to finish clean.

A tight piece of land but some good sections was the verdict as riders and observers mingled at the finish sheltering from the wind with reviving coffees.

RESULTS

Pre Unit Springer: Dave Emmott (Triumph)1 mark lost, Pete Baldwin (Ariel) 8, Carl Winstanley (Ariel) 8.

Rigid Class: Chris Nutter (Ariel) 32, John Feather (RE) 42, Colin Pawson (Matchless)70.

Girder Fork Rigid: Ian Barker (Norton) 17.

Twin Cylinder: Mal Cocking (Triumph) 0, Tom Emmott (Triumph) 6 , Colin Lawrence (Triumph) 73.

Pre Unit Springer under 350cc: Neil Anderton (C12) 31, Bill Hill (C10) 126.

Non Comp Class: Pete McCanna (Greeves) 0, Steve Thomas (Bantam)1, Mick Clarke (B40)