

Yorkshire Classic MCC
Pre Unit Trial
Report : Neil Anderton

Having had to change venue at the last minute (apologies to anybody we didn't manage to contact) due to a waterlogged car park field at Robin Hood riders tackled a four lap ten section course at Branshaw Quarry Keighley. As usual the heavy overnight and early morning rainfall had left the ground very soft but the rocks were solid and some sections had benefitted from water erosion.

Set out on the easy side nobody went clean but Andy Greenbank on the Ariel came pretty close with a solitary dab on a muddy section six. One of the outstanding rides was from Odgie on the lovely pre war girder fork rigid OK Supreme. Only dropping five marks to be up their in joint third place he lost two on section five a long rocky gully and three not surprisingly on section six with its tight muddy turn near the start. It just shows that you don't have to have a heavily modified trick bike to get success in this branch of the sport.

Section three one of the traditional sections at this venue with its steep decent into the quarry bottom and a sharp twisting climb out took marks from all but four of the pre units. Two of the rigid riders Dave Emmott on the AJS and Dale Harrison, Ariel, mastered it as did Greenbank and Odgie but the rest resorted to dabs or worse to keep them going. Most non competitive riders on the Bantams and Cubs found it suited their machinery and few marks were lost.

Section five was an excellent pre unit section. Rain water had washed stones into a long gully and formed steps at intervals to make it a real old fashioned type section for the big bike riders to enjoy. Surprisingly only two cleans were recorded one by Addy Brayshaw riding well on the C12 BSA and the other by trial winner Greenbank. Only Mick Haslam and Derek Brooks amongst the two strokes managed clean sheets so the section proved to be a real winner.

Despite the awful weather in the morning the trial was a success and enjoyed by all who ventured out.

RESULTS

Class A Pre Unit Springer: Andy Greenbank (Ariel) 1 mark lost, Paul Jackson (Velo) 4, Ian Alderson (Ariel) 6.

Class B Tele Fork Rigid: Dave Emmott (AJS) 4, Dale Harrison (Ariel) 11, John Feather (RE) 15.

Class G Twin Cylinder: John Patefield (Triumph) 5, Greg Kershaw (Triumph) 6.

Class J Pre Unit Springer under 347cc: Odgie (OK Supreme) 5, Mick Clarke (C10) 9, Addy Brayshaw (C12) 9.

Non Competitive: Mick Haslam (Bantam) 0, Derek Brooks (James) 1, Steve Thomas (Bantam) 1.