

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Pre Unit Trial

Report: Neil Anderton

The 10th Pre Unit Trial of the series took place at Cragg Vale near Halifax on a steep hillside overlooking the Calder Valley. With the weather just right for this exposed venue 41 riders tackled a tricky ten section course which Mal Cocking on the Triumph twin cleaned to give him the out right win by five marks over second placed Andy Greenbank on the Ariel.

A few sections were a bit tight for big bikes but in the end it was sections seven and eight both uphill climbs that took most marks. Section seven manned by landowner Malcolm Higgs had its sting in the tale with riders having to ride across sloping rock slabs with a right turn up a grass bank to the finish. Early riders benefitted from drier conditions but eventually the exit became really slippery with many failing in the final yard. Apart from the winner, Andy Greenbank was the only other clean with Mick Clarke on the BSA C10 having a dab. Mills, Dickinson and Thomas all Bantam mounted and Brooks on the James cleaned it in the non competitive class for good rides on this far from easy section. Section eight was straight but dug out into a series of muddy steps on a particularly boggy part of the hillside. Again early on riders were cleaning it with speed many choosing second gear for extra momentum. However by laps three and four the numbers getting out of the top had dwindled to the odd two or three footing heavily. Mal Cocking was the only rider in the entire field to clean it four times and Greenbank and Alan Mills doing well to drop just two marks apiece.. Surprisingly a few small bikes did well also with Dickinson , Brooks and Anderton Bantam all registering three cleans on this difficult climb. The rigids all found this section a real handful and were all well into double figures on this one.

The last section twisted up and down the hill with a final steep climb to the flags. As with the earlier sections the climbs were slippery and only six riders kept clean sheets including two of the riders on the rigids John Feather and Dale Harrison who found this one more to their liking to finish off an enjoyable trial.

RESULTS

Class A Pre Unit Springer: Andy Greenbank (Ariel)5 marks lost, Gary Mitchell (Ariel) 11, Carl Winstanley (Ariel)17.

Class B Tele Fork Rigid: John Feather (R/E) 20, Dale Harrison (Ariel) 37, Colin Pawson (Matchless) 96.

Class C Girder Fork Rigid: Ian Barker (Norton) 31.

Class G Twin Cylinder: Mal. Cocking (Triumph) 0, Graham Wilkinson (Triumph) 18, Greg Kershaw (Triumph) 26.

Class J Small Pre Unit Springer: Mick Clarke (C10) 9.

Non Competitive Class: Alan Mills (Bantam) 5, Mick Dickinson (Bantam) 6, Paul Jackson (Cub) 6.