

Yorkshire Classic MCC
Final Championship Round
Report: Neil Anderton

This round was harder than the previous ten in the series but was a fitting end to this years Pre 65 Championship. With a top quality entry giving its support 71 riders enjoyed the usual challenge at Dob Park near Otley. It once again lived up to its reputation as a venue with a rich variety of streams and gullies which are challenging but rideable by experts and clubmen.

Hedley Cockshot was again clerk of course and laid out ten sections which seemed to favour the small bikes particularly the sections in Browns wood which had an abundance of tight turns and sharp climbs. Last year Tony Calvert went round clean for a superb ride this year three marks lost pushed him into second place behind Isle of Man winner John Maxfield also on three losing out on the oldest rider rule.

The famous steep gully at Dob Park started the proceeding and was just as unforgiving as always. The same for both routes you need speed and determination to stay in the middle or once into the bank all is lost. Only six cleans were recorded all day five from the leading cub riders in class D and one from Steve Thomas on the Bantam.

After eight sections it was neck and neck with four cub mounted riders still locked together. Paul Heys Scottish Pre 65 winner was still clean as was Calvert, with Jimmy Noble out on a borrowed classic bike for the first time and Eddie Aitkin on one. The final two sections sorted everything out amongst the pine trees in the woods.

Only two cleans were recorded on sections nine and ten with their slippery tree roots and angled rocks. Neil Gaunt on the big Ariel having lost seven on the earlier sections cleaned both in fine style as did Maxfield to bring himself right back into it contention. Calvert dropped two, Noble three but Aitkin lost nine while Heys had a disaster losing seventeen. Other good rides at these last two hurdles came from Norman Shepherd who only lost one, Richard Thorpe two, Thomas five and James Harland on the AJS lost six which was a very creditable ride.

The triumph twins had too much power for the muddy bankings and tree roots with the best performance coming from Dave Emmott on thirty three marks lost but with some riders slipping and sliding into three figures.

The Clubman course while easier was still hard enough for most and had six retirements out of seventeen starters. Mick Dickinson on the Bantam did well to win the class on thirty four marks lost from Andy Greenbank, Ariel, on thirty eight.

A good finish to another excellent trials year for Yorkshire Classic.

RESULTS

Class A Pre Unit: Neil Gaunt (Ariel) 7 marks lost, James Harland (AJS) 11, Dave Emmott (Triumph) 33.

Class D Unit Machines under 250cc: John Maxfield (Cub) 3, Tony Calvert (Cub) 3, Jimmy Noble (Cub) 4.

Class E Unit Machines over 250cc : Mick Clarke (B40) 50, Bob Baker (B40) 87, Steve Culf (C15) 102.

Class F Two Strokes: Norman Shepherd (James) 5, SteveThomas (Bantam) 15, Richard Thorpe (James) 18.

Class G Twin Cylinder : G. Kershaw (Triumph) 61, Mick Whitlow (Triumph) 65, Andy Littler (Triumph) 76.

Class H Vintage Two Stroke : Eric Atkinson (James) 80.

Class K Clubman : Mick Dickinson (Bantam) 34, Andy Greenbank (Ariel) 38, Eddie Bull (C15) 48.

Specials : Duncan McDonald (McD Cub) 28, Maurice Brayford (James) 48, Phil Clarkson (McD Cub) 54.