

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Final Rd. Pre Unit Championship

Report: Neil Anderton

Photograph: Barry Pickard

The venue for the final round of the series for the 57 entries was Keighley Gate near Bingley. The ten sections laid out by Robert Lowther and Dale Harrison were all in the stream with the exception of section eight a tight twisty one round the trees on the bank.

Chris Gascoigne on his Ariel lost one of his two marks here in tying for first place with Mal Cocking a past winner here earlier in the year on the Triumph twin.

Both sections one and two were downhill starts into and across the water with muddy climbs to the exit which most riders did easily. A short ride through the woods brought everybody to section three at the far end of the course, the start of five rocky sections in the stream. Number four proved tricky with a muddy slot out of the water that got deeper before the end cards. Only five cleans were recorded with notable rides from Gary Mitchell and Carl Winstanley amongst the pre units and Ian Barker on the Girder Fork rigid Norton. Both Gascoigne and Cocking had dabs as many alternative lines were tried to beat the mud.

Section seven crossed the stream with a rock step and a turn over stones waiting to catch the casual approach. Sump grounding was the main problem particularly for the rigids and only four cleans were recorded with Chris Haigh on the Velocette and Gary Marshall on the Triumph doing particularly well with impressive control over the step.

Section eight was really tight even for the light weight machines and it took a lot of prompting from observer Alice to get the big bikes on to the right line between the trees for some excellent unlikely cleans from Haigh, Winstanley and young Tom Emmott out on the big Triumph twin.

The final two sections were back in the stream again and careful lines were needed to miss the worst of the rocks but most coped well to finish a really good circuit. This is a great venue unaffected by the weather and much appreciated by the good turnout.

RESULTS:

Class A Pre Unit Springer: Chris Gascoigne (Ariel) 2 marks lost, Gary Mitchell (Ariel) 3, Chris Haigh (Velo) 3.

Class B Rigid: Dale Harrison (Ariel) 23, Dave Emmott (AJS) 26.

Class C Girder Fork: Ian Barker (Norton) 29.

Class G Twin Cylinder: Mal Cocking (Triumph) 2, Gary Marshall (Triumph) 6, Tom Emmott (Triumph) 12.

Class J Pre Unit under 250cc: Mick Clarke (C10) 8, Adrian Brayshaw (C12) 21.

Non Comp. Class: Duncan Macdonald (Cub) 1, Owen Hardisty (Bantam) 1, Pete McCanna (Greeves) 2.