

Yorkshire Classic MCC
Rd. 8 Championship Trial
Report : Neil Anderton

This round was held at Lumb Waterfall, Cowling near Keighley a regular venue for the Yorkshire Classic with its steep sided valley and stream offering a big variety to the course plotters. Forty seven riders tackled this hilly terrain in anything but summer conditions with wind and rain sweeping across the moorland tops. Mud had to be contended with for the first time in weeks with a number of sections becoming very slippery. None of this seemed to bother overall winner Chris Haigh on the immaculate Velocette who went round for a superb clean beating nearest rival Dave Emmott Triumph back after his skiing injury by five marks.

Section one an old favourite up a muddy gully and round a large protruding rock was no easier than normal and only produced eight cleans with none on the eased clubman route.

Section three had a downhill start with a tight turn to climb back up over rocks and a final step before getting to the end cards. Carl Winstanley on the big Ariel had his only five here when the chain came off but he still managed joint fourth overall for one his best rides of the year. Ian Barker similarly mounted went clean as did Gary Mitchell on the Francis Barnett and Tom Emmott on the Cub.

Section six the traditional hill climb saw only three cleans making it one of the most challenging sections. The normal route dropped down off the moorside into a left turn before facing a steep climb with a turn onto a path and another climb to the exit. Apart from Haigh who made it look easy, which it wasn't, two contrasting bikes Mick Whitlow on the Triumph twin and Steve Thomas on the Bantam both achieved the same result with cleans. The clubman route just followed the steep path but it was enough to defeat the entire entry.

The first stream section challenged most of the entry with its choice of lines and a steep step climb to the finish. The middle section was very rocky and you needed good balance and the right speed to conquer it. Haigh, Dave Emmott and Mitchell new just what was needed and got it right each time to record three excellent cleans. The clubmen did part in the water before crossing to the right bank up a narrow slot and then over rocks before re crossing to the ends. Nobody cleaned it, the best being Terry Wright on the James for the loss of one. Two more stream sections and a final hillclimb completed the lap and made a fine trial with just the right level of severity for all.

RESULTS

Pre Unit Springers: Chris Haigh (Velocette) 0 marks lost, Dave Emmott (Triumph) 5, Carl Winstanley (Ariel) 11.

Twin Cylinder: Mick Whitlow (Triumph) 6, Dale Harrison (Triumph) 15, Mal Cocking (Triumph) 20.

Two Strokes: Steve Thomas (Bantam) 11, Gary Mitchell (F.B.) 21, Mick Dickinson (Bantam) 44.

Vintage Two Strokes: Eric Atkinson (James) 25, Mick Preston (James) 28, Bill Hill (James) 118.

Small Pre Unit Springer: Adrian Brayshaw (BSA C12) 33.

Unit Construction under 250cc: Tony Dillon (Cub) 14, Tom Emmott (Cub) 25, C. Lister (Cub) 45.

Large Unit Construction: Graham Lampkin (C15) 54, Andy Fitzpatrick (C15) 80.

Clubman : Ian Brown (Bantam) 15, Frank McMullen (Cotton) 24, Terry Wright (James) 26.