

Yorkshire ClassicMCC

Rd. 9 – Pre Unit Trial

Report : Neil Anderton

The venue was Skyrakes near Skipton the scene in previous years of high powered National Championship rounds for the modern boys. A piece of land with immense scope and the opportunity of a good ride round with sections well spread over this high Yorkshire moorland landscape.

The clerks of course messrs Harrison and Preston took every opportunity to test the riders on muddy climbs and rocky descents which were challenging after heavy overnight rain. George Emmott back in the saddle after missing many of the previous rounds had lost none of his skill and came out an easy winner on the big Triumph with a remarkable ride for just a single dab on the hardest section of the trial.

Only Hedley Cockshot Cub and Steve Thomas Bantam in the non competitive class cleaned this very tricky section six. A steep rutted drop was followed by a climb on a narrow path over angled slippery rocks to the exit. Not an easy section for a big pre unit as scores in double figures showed.

Section three was the first real test and a tradition at Skyrakes. The steep short climb is followed by a drop to the left with a sharp right round a huge rock and then another steep climb with a very rocky exit. Only Emmott and Carl Winstanley managed four cleans on the big bikes with five further cleans on the Cubs and Two strokes including one from Paul Heys recent Nostalgia winner and fine tuning for a tilt at the Isle of Man Classic.

Section seven was another very short tricky section with not a lot of room for big bikes to manoeuvre between the rocks and finishing with a drop off to the left which looked a lot worse than it was. Runner up Dale Harrison Ariel and Class A winner found the right line and only dropped one with Addy Brayshaw next best on the C12 on two.

The final two sections on the highest and windiest part of the course were worse for observers than riders. Section ten had some tight turns very close to the big rocks which caught out many as they tried to avoid scraping bike or rider on the protruding bits. Only four cleans were recorded by the front runners plus Andy Greenbank on the Ariel. Bill Hill the clubs oldest regular competitor at 78 years old announced his retirement from the pre unit scene after he finished while vowing to continue on his lightweight machines.

RESULTS

Class A Pre Unit Springer: Dale Harrison (Ariel) 9 marks lost, Carl Winstanley (Ariel) 9, Steve Rayner (Matchless) 12.

Class G Twin Cylinder: George Emmott (Triumph) 1, John Brindle (Triumph) 63, Robert Lowther (Triumph) 103.

Class J Pre Unit under 347cc : Adrian Brayshaw (C12) 21, Bill Hill (C10) 67.

Non Comp Class: Mick Haslam (Bantam) 1, Hedley Cockshot (Cub) 1, Paul Heys (Cub)1.