

Yorkshire Classic MCC

4th. Championship Trial

Report: Neil Anderton

For once this trial held at the moorland venue of Roggerham Gate was blessed with a calm sunny day and attracted a good entry of 70 Pre 65 riders. The Observers all came with the normal arctic clothing but were seen stripping off to feel the benefit of a pleasant sunny morning. The course was dry but took marks from all except overall winner Steve Thomas on the Bantam and Norman Shepherd on the James.

With everybody in good spirits the trial started with a rutted peat gully which caught out a lot of the entry. Speed and perfect balance was required to stay feet up but less than a dozen demonstrated this particular skill to stay clean.

Sections two and three were fairly gentle and took few marks, but section four made up for them and caught a lot of riders struggling with the camber round a high rock or with the exit through a jumble of angled slippery stones. Class winners Chris Bradley on the AJS, Mick Whitlow Triumph twin, Hedley Cockshot Cub and Clubmen Addy Brayshaw and Frank McMullen all had excellent rides to clean it. Section seven a real favorite at this venue was plotted around the ruins of an old house. This meant tight turns over stones which caught out the entire entry with the exception of the joint winners. Mick Haslam on the Bantam having a fine run of form at the moment lost his only mark here as did Hedley Cockshot. The Clubman were given a bit more room on the first turn to record six cleans between them. Section eight one of the hillclimbs, was in quiet mood this year and gave little bother to most of the entry. The clubmen used the same route with good cleans from Peter Guest on the big Matchless and Colin Pawson B40.

The hill climb on section ten would have been difficult without the dry conditions but most riders were grateful to be able to crest the summit for once clean.

One excellent ride of note on the day was Bill Hill now 78 years old who only lost 22 marks to beat half of the clubmen riders on his vintage James a truly remarkable competitor.

RESULTS

Pre Unit Class: Chris Bradley (AJS) 8 marks lost, Pete Baldwin (Ariel) 8, John Feather (R/E) 9.

Twin Cylinder Class: Mick Whitlow (Triumph) 2, Colin Benson (Triumph) 15, G. Kershaw (Triumph) 30.

Two Stoke Class: Steve Thomas (Bantam) 0, Norman Shepherd (James) 0, Mick Haslam (Bantam) 1.

Units under 250cc Class: Hedley Cockshot (Cub) 1, Steve Rayner (Cub) 3, Phil Clarkson (Cub) 7.

Units over 250cc: Carl Winstanley (B40) 8, Mick Driffield (C15) 15, Mick Clarke (B40) 15.

Vintage Two Stroke: Bill Hill (James) 22, Barry Doran (James) 57.

Pre Unit under 250cc: Adrian Brayshaw (C12) 6.

Clubman Class: Frank McMullen (Cotton) 3, Paul Brook (F/B) 7, Andy Greenbank (Ariel) 9.

Specials Class: Keith Hobson (Cub) 12, Maurice Brayford (James) 23.