

Yorkshire Classic MCC
Captains Trial
Report : Neil Anderton
Photograph : Barry Pickard

On a fine breezy morning at Castle Carr 113 riders competed in the Yorkshire Classic Captains trial sponsored by B&S Motorcycles, the biggest one day event in the clubs calendar. We are normally struggling with the elements at this lofty venue in the hills above Halifax but this year observers and riders were much more comfortable at this picturesque outpost.

All the steep climbs on the course between sections were rideable and mud wasn't the problem this year as the two clear rounds by joint winners Neil Gaunt and Tony Calvert will testify although the river sections were slippery after the hard winter and caused plenty of trouble for the average clubman.

With fifteen sections per lap and three laps for all categories most riders were taking nearly four hours to complete the course. The first group were in the quarry with number one section being the most difficult. The twists and turns over greasy rocks caught plenty for dabs before most had got into their stride. Section two was a twisting narrow stream with three waterfalls, the final one with rocks at angles again caught the unwary. The Clubman avoided the first two but had to deal with the final steps. Only two riders Les Humphries on the cub and Pete Ward James cleaned it three times.

Section four is one of the old fashioned sections, a long gully between two high walls where you could get away with just the Starts and Ends cards. Tall rushes cushioned the mud until you got near the top when a narrow slot was formed to catch those who had relaxed too early. Fairly uniquely all riders in the two stroke class cleaned this section while none of the rigid class riders got anywhere near except Gary Marshall on the AJS who had a single dab.

Section seven a real favorite at this venue is a long twisting uphill gully between high banks. A good second gear section for big bikes although care was needed on the final hairpin not to stall it. Usually mud and leaf mold are the problem but the section was much rockier this time and speed was needed to avoid being thrown off line. Geoff Walker on the Ariel was caught for a couple of dabs as was Clive Tomkinson on the two stroke but generally the riding standard on this section was excellent. Again non of the rigid riders managed cleans the best ride coming from Graham Howes on that immaculate BSA for two.

Section eight was a winding muddy gully which took plenty of dabs but was cleaned well by class E riders Derek Brooks and winner Mick Clarke but section nine was the real tricky one. A steep drop over rocks was followed by a tight turn with a climb over more rocks and a mud slot to the end cards. Only Chris Chell on the B40 from the big unit class and Will Midgley, James, from the Two Strokes managed cleans in their respective classes. Some good rides were seen amongst the big Pre Units, where Gascoigne, Macdonald and Harrison all Ariel mounted followed Neil Gaunt in registering impressive cleans.

The final five sections were in the river with the last four having slippery rocks hidden by the fast flowing water. Only Gaunt, Calvert and Duncan Macdonald cleaned all five with Gascoigne and Kirby Bennett dropping one and the evergreen Peter Gaunt on two.

Congratulations to Mick Bowers and Eric Atkinson who won the draw for the rear tyres provided by the sponsors who would like to thank everybody for their support at his trade stand on the day.

RESULTS:

Class A Pre Unit: Neil Gaunt (Ariel) clean, Chris Gascoigne (Ariel) 1, Duncan Macdonald (Ariel) 2.
Class B Tele Fork Rigid : Graham Howes (BSA) 18, Frank Proud (Matchless) 20, Gary Marshall (AJS) 37.

Class D Unit machines under 250cc: Tony Calvert (Cub) 0, Kirby Bennett (Cub) 3, John Maxfield (Cub) 4.

Class E Unit machines over 250cc : Mick Clarke (B40) 10, Chris Chell (B40) 10, Mick Bowers (B40) 29.

Class F Two Strokes : Peter Gaunt (Bantam) 4, Will Midgley (James) 4, Alan Whitton(James) 6.
Class G Twin Cylinder : S. Leckie (Triumph) 7, Mark Feather (Triumph) 7, Simon Chell (Triumph) 9.
Class H Vintage Two Stroke : Eric Atkinson (James) 22, Mick Preston (James) 24.
Class J Pre Unit Springer under 250cc : Adrian Brayshaw (C12) 19.
Class K Clubman : Steve Cordon (AJS) 9, Graham Holloway (Triumph) 13, Les Humphries (Cub) 14.
Specials : Bill Swallow (AJS) 38, Tony Peat (Mcd Cub) 39.