

Yorkshire Classic MCC
Rd. 4 Championship Trial
Report: Neil Anderton

The venue was Rogerham Gate on the Yorks /Lancs borders high on the side of the pennines which can make this a bleak spot for any activity. Sunday was slightly less arctic than some previous occasions although a few of the more exposed observers might question that.

The course laid out by Tiger Payne and son John was very muddy and reflected the relatively high scores of overall winner Tony Calvert on 7 marks lost and second place men Steve Thomas and Steve Robinson on 9. Sections one and eight were the big mark takers. The opening section was a muddy slot along a gully with a sweeping exit up a bank to the flags. If you couldn't get to grips with the slot you had no chance and most riders floundered with the exception of George Emmott on the Triumph twin who brilliantly cleaned it four times to record the only success. Paul Jackson on the Velocette nearly did the same but recorded a single dab for another very accomplished ride.

Section eight started on the slope into a hollow with a steep curving track to the end cards. The downhill was slippery but the uphill developed deep ruts on the steepest part and made the climb very difficult. Nobody cleaned this section but Calvert was best on 2 and Owen Hardisty on the Bantam and Chris Haigh on another Velocette dropped just 3.

It was the sections with adverse camber that caught out a lot of riders as grip was suddenly lost and the bike slid away beneath you. Section three was one of those with most marks lost on the easier clubman route as the intended path was across the hillside with no defined track where as the normal route was easier once you cleared the big rock near the start. Amongst the big bikes only Haigh and Gascoigne on the Ariel plus Mark Feather Triumph twin and Mick Clarke on the B40 cleaned it.

To finish the lap section ten was a sting in the tail for those on the easier route with nobody managing to clean it. The start was a drop down a steep bank with a left uphill turn onto a path before a dug out grass step to the flags blocked the way. The climb from the bottom was difficult to start with but got easier but those who didn't get enough speed up for the step floundered and lost marks. The vintage two strokes and the rigid machines found this section just beyond them and registered maximum losses.

With most riders in this part of the world happy on the rocks this all mud trial found most riders struggling a bit but enjoying something different at this moorland venue.

RESULTS

Class A Pre Unit: Chris Haigh (Velo) 11 marks lost, Chris Gascoigne (Ariel) 12, Dale Harrison (Ariel) 19.

Class D Unit Machines under 250cc: Tony Calvert (Cub) 7, Steve Robinson (Cub) 9, Tony Dillon (Cub) 19.

Class E Unit Machines over 250cc: Mick Clarke (B40) 23, Bob Baker (B40) 39, Steve Culf (C15) 59.

Class F Two Strokes: Steve Thomas (Bantam) 9, Owen Hardisty (Bantam) 12, Richard Thorpe (James) 20.

Class G Twin Cylinder: George Emmott (Triumph) 14, Mark Feather (Triumph) 30, Tom Emmott (Triumph) 37.

Class H Vintage Two Stroke : Eric Atkinson (James) 78, Barry Doran (James) 88.

Class K Clubman: Neil Anderton (Bantam) 29, Frank McMullen (Cotton) 31, Mick Dickinson (Bantam) 34.

Specials : Eric Boocock (C15) 50, Paul Harrison (Bantam) 105.