

Yorkshire Classic MCC
Rd. 9 Championship Trial
Report: Neil Anderton

This Yorkshire Classic Pre 65 trial was held at Cawder Ghyll near Skipton where 43 riders had to put up with a full day of rain which presumably kept the faint hearted away. The weather however did not detract from a superb event laid out by locals Dale Harrison and Tim Pawson which was challenging enough for most and producing an inspired ride from Tony Calvert who pulled off a win for one mark lost.

Run in the reverse direction to previous years this piece of land gives riders a moorland loop of about three miles with some sections down in the beck and some elevated above the Aire valley on the skyline. The early sections were plotted on a hillside with twists and turns that needed a lot of balance and a careful throttle. Only four cleans were recorded on section one with Mick Whitlow and Dave Emmott on the big Triumphs being most impressive. Section two started with a slippery and steep downhill followed by a right angle turn on to loose stones and then a climb back up to the finish. Many on both routes floundered on the downhill by locking up the back wheel and stalling. The best efforts by a mile were from Chris Gascoigne on the Ariel and Tony Calvert on the Cub who both managed it for just a single dab with the next best coming from John Maxfield Cub, and Pete McCanna on that very standard Greeves for three.

Section five was manned by young Will Harrison the bleakest section of the trial but huddled against the wind and rain he stuck to his task as one of his dad's helpers. His section was one of the trickiest for both routes as riders tried to master the muddy angled rocks that did their best to throw riders off line. Only Steve Thomas on the Bantam and that man Calvert were clean while only Eric Atkinson on the rigid James did the same on the Clubman route.

The final sections were both in the river with section nine being the most difficult. Riders dropped into the water before climbing up the bank and then dropping steeply off a left turn back into the water again. A bit daunting for most but Gascoigne mastered it along with Maxfield and Calvert with that man McCanna only one mark adrift. Mick Dickinson experimenting with a Cub cleaned both the last two sections to secure his win on the Clubman route.

RESULTS

Class A Pre Unit: Chris Gascoigne (Ariel) 10 marks lost, Dave Emmott (Triumph) 19, Dale Harrison (Ariel) 35.

Class D Unit Machines under 250cc: Tony Calvert (Cub) 1, John Maxfield (Cub) 10, Andrew Scott (Cub) 20.

Class F Two Strokes: Steve Thomas (Bantam) 16, Pete McCanna (Greeves) 22, Carl Winstanley (James) 28.

Class G Twin Cylinder: Mick Whitlow (Triumph) 28, Colin Benson (Triumph) 69.

Class H Vintage Two Stroke: Eric Atkinson (James) 21, Bill Hill (James) 81.

Class K Clubman: Mick Dickinson (Cub) 6, Richard Bainbridge (Cub) 9, John Wilson (B40) 9.

Specials: Robert Moore (McD Cub) 49.