

Yorkshire Classic MCC and Rochdale and Dist.MC

Shawforth Shake Championship Trial

Report: Neil Anderton

Typical , traditional and not for the fainthearted were the sentiments that sprang to mind while reflecting on one of the wettest days in the long history of this famous event. Going back into the mists of time this thirty ninth annual event must have endured some rough days but sixty two hardy souls turned out to brave the elements high on those Lancashire moors above Whitworth. The forty six who finished really got a lot of satisfaction from riding some great sections and beating the elements.

History repeated it's self with Chris Gascoigne on the Ariel having a superb ride to lose just one mark matched for the second year running by Cub mounted Paul Heys. Some sections were tight and twisty while others suited the big Ariels power but there is no doubting the big fellas mastery of this event as it is the third consecutive year of leading the pack.

Section two and seven were the worst affected by the deluge with seriously deep water in both. Section seven out on the farthest point of the moorland run was spectacular to start with. Normally a small waterfall running into a rocky gully with the section marked so riders come up stream and climb the stepped waterfall to the exit. This time the foaming torrent resembled Aysgarth falls in flood with water so deep no rocks were visible. The section was altered for lap two with a ride along the bank and a grass climb to the cards which did cut up and become slippery. Amazingly five cleans were recorded from Gascoigne, Mick Clarke, Pete McCanna, continuing his remarkable run of form recently on the very standard Greeves, Joel Brayford and Andrew Scott. Amongst the high profile strugglers to lose marks were Heys for his only dab, Tony Calvert and John Maxfield. Gary Marshall on the rigid TRW was the only clean on a far from easy Clubman route.

Section eight at the end of the cross country paddle was a challenge. A drop into a hollow was followed by two steep climbs that were very muddy with rider after rider failing to make the crest of the first one. Only four cleans were recorded all day conquered by the enevitable twosome plus Steve Thomas on the Bantam and Chris Haigh on the Velocette. The only clean on the eased route going to Frank McMullen, Cotton, who rode well all day to take second place to Richard Bainbridge in the Clubman class.

Every section was manned by a brave observer who can't be thanked enough by the grateful riders for making their ride possible on this memorable day.

RESULTS

Class A Pre Unit:Chris Gascoigne (Ariel) 1, Phil Clarkson (Ariel) 7, Chris Haigh (Velo) 8.

Class B Rigid : Steve Cordon (AJS) 14, Gary Marshall (TRW) 21, Frank Proud (Matchless) 41.

Class D Small Unit Machines under 250cc: Paul Heys (Cub) 1, Tony Calvert (Cub) 3, John Maxfield (Cub) 4.

Class E Large Unit Machines : Bob Baker (B40) 11, Barry Fitzpatrick (C15) 20, John McCanna (B40) 26.

Class F Two Strokes: Pete McCanna (Greeves) 4, Steve Thomas (Bantam) 6, Richard Thorpe (James) 9.

Class G Twin Cylinder: Graham Wilkinson (Triumph) 15.

Class H Vintage Two Stroke : Eric Atkinson (James) 35.

Class K Clubman: Richard Bainbridge (Cub) 14, Frank McMullen (Cotton) 16, Mick Dickinson (C 15) 24.

Specials : Maurice Brayford (James) 29, Robert Moore (McD Cub) 38.