

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Pre Unit Trial

Report: Neil Anderton

The 10th Pre Unit Trial of the series was at the lofty Cragg Vale venue with its wonderful Calder Valley views at their best on a crisp clear morning that welcomed the thirty six riders to this compact circuit. Laid out by Gary Mitchell and land owner Malcolm Higgs the sections were challenging because of the recent heavy rain and slippery because this is a seriously steep hillside.

Mick Clarke on the Ariel had a great ride to go clean and share the victory spoils with last years winner Mal Cocking, Triumph, followed by Paul Jackson on the Velocette and Gary Mitchell Ariel who both dropped a solitary mark on section three which was the tightest section on the course and needed care on the steep drop and turn before the greasy climb to the flags.

Section one needed good balance and a steady throttle to ease round the first tight turn before threading between the rocks and climbing across the camber to the end cards A good starting section which caught out many of the non comp. riders on the smaller bikes who didn't give it enough respect.

Section four was just what big bike riders like, a blast up the hillside which became muddy at the bottom but still gave plenty of grip higher up if tackled at speed. The springers were all OK but the rigids lost a few marks as traction was lost on the ridges near the top.

Section seven along the wall side was the one rocky section in the trial with buried stones at all angles to pitch the bikes from side to side. The pre units all did well but surprisingly nearly a third of the small bikes lost marks here. I think it proved that often the bigger bikes are more stable on the rocks than the lighter machines which tend to get thrown off line more easily.

Section nine an uphill muddy slot on a particularly boggy part of the hillside was easier than last year when very few had cleans. This year it got easier and the big bikes powered through it in spectacular fashion. So did Andrew Scott on the Cub and Pete McCanna Greeves on the way to their clean rounds, not unexpectedly as both are riding at the top of their form at the moment with a string of good performances. An excellent trial and great weather for the second week running.

RESULTS

Class A Pre Unit Springer: Mick Clarke (Ariel) no marks lost, Paul Jackson (Velocette) 1, Gary Mitchel (Ariel) 1.

Class B Tele Fork Rigid: John Feather (R/E) 18, Chris Small bones 90.

Class G Twin Cylinder: Mal Cocking 0.

Class J Small Pre Unit Springer; Adrian Brayshaw (C12) 22.

Non Competitive Class: Andrew Scott (Cub) 0, Pete McCanna (Greeves) 0, Maurice Brayford (James) 1.