

Yorkshire Classic MCC

West Riding Trial Northern British Bike Round

Report : Neil Anderton

This years West Riding Trial sponsored by PJ1 Oils and Classic Dirt Bike , the 4th of the Northern British Bike rounds and organized by the Yorkshire Classic Club, attracted an entry of 75 to this 35 mile road trial. Set in the heart of the Bronte country it visited some of the best trials land in this part of Yorkshire.

The weather was looking good at the start at the Guide Inn where breakfasts were being served to those who required a bit of extra sustenance to see them through. However heavy rain soon brought things back to normal and added a bit of spice to some of the sections and prevented any one getting a clear round. John Maxfield cleaned twenty nine of the 30 sections and ironically went outside a flag on section 28 Observed by his wife Marie. Taking advantage of this to record an overall win was Chris Gascoigne whose three dabs were enough to see him home and by the end of the day dry as well.

The first group of sections was at Luscombes Farm where the familiar gullies didn't present any real problems. The next group was Manywells Farm at Cullingworth where three sections awaited the entry. The third section proved to be a mark taker with slippery tree roots catching many including class winners Barry Burton and Maurice Brayford.

Lumb Waterfall had four sections of which three were in the stream with the final one being a grass hillclimb. Pete McCanna on the Greeves surprisingly had a five on the fourth sub which cost him the class win and joint second place overall. On the eased sections most riders coped well with the rocks but lost marks on the deep rut on the second sub after they crossed the stream. John Feather, Chris Nutter and Graham Howes all on rigids in class two lost marks here as the bikes dug into the side of the slot.

The river sections at Town End were slippery but riders got away with the odd dabs with none of the class winners having any trouble. The first section at Pinnacle was a steep grass banking which was affected by the heavy rain earlier in the trial. Many attempts ended in failure as the approach to the climb was at an angle with the eased route being given slightly more room. All the Vintage Two Strokes failed with the exception of Dave Pickering who sailed up for a clean. Alan Whitton on the James and Graham Atkinson on the Bantam took fives along with many who tried to ride across the banking but knocked the flag to the delight of Observer Keith Butterfield who docked them a five.

Branshaw Quarry was the next port of call where the first section has been ridden many times although this time it was tightened up a bit on the normal route to make the climb over the rocks from the centre hollow more difficult. It caught out most of the riders in the Pre Unit springer class including quarry owner Dave Emmott who took a five and the Velocette duo of Paul Jackson and Chris Haigh. The final group at Lord Lane had the sting in the second section where riders climbed a bank, dropped over a ledge and then had to climb sharp left between two rocks and up to the finish. The eased route missed the tight turn and went round the rocks much to the relief of the clubmen. This section took more marks than any other yet the first five in the Two Stroke class all cleaned it but amongst the big bikes of class three and the small unit machines in class six only two cleans were recorded from Andrew Scott and John Maxfield.

The trial was probably the best yet in this area and the Yorkshire Classic provided the winners in three of the four Clubman classes with brothers Brent and Steve Cordon and Maurice Brayford all successful.

RESULTS

Class One Girder Fork Rigid: A. Webbe (Rudge) 9 marks lost.

Class Two Telefork Rigid: Brent Cordon (Matchless) 3, John Feather (Ariel) 5, Chris Nutter (Ariel) 19.

Class three Pre Unit Springer: Chris Gascoigne (Ariel) 3, Chris Haigh (Velocette) 8, Dave Emmott (Triumph) 14,

Class Four Vintage Two Stroke : C. Bacon (Dot) 17, M. Dawson (Bantam) 27, Dave Pickering (F/B) 37.

Class Five Two Strokes: Barry Burton (James) 8, Pete McCanna (Greeves) 10, Richard Thorpe (James) 11.

Class Six Unit Machines: John Maxfield (Cub) 5, Robin Luscombe (Cub) 7, Neil Buckley (Cub) 8.

Class Seven Clubman: Maurice Brayford (James) 3, J. Hamblin (Cub) 4, Mick Ransom (F/B) 5.

Class Eight Specials: Keith Hobson (McD Cub) 21, Dave Pattison (Cub) 25, Robert Moore (Cub) 30.

Class Nine Pre Unit Clubman: Steve Cordon (AJS) 6, Steve Rayner (Matchless) 9, R. Smart (Ariel) 11.

