

Yorkshire Classic MCC

2nd Championship Trial, Dob Park, Otley

Round 2, Full Club Championship – 8th March 2020
Report by Ian Livingstone Photos by Barry Pickard

Butterworth gets stuck in

Dob Park, near Otley, was the venue for Yorkshire Classic's 2nd Championship trial of the year. Clerks of Course, Colin and Tim Pawson and Hedley Cockshott had planned 8 sections in the rocky streams with 2 sections on the hillside, turning out to be 2 of the biggest mark takers of the day for every class.

Section 1, the ever-present climb up the narrow rock gulley, had been modified at the start for Premier and Intermediates, requiring them to cross the stream, up and around a muddy banking before dropping back into the gulley higher up. The Premier Riders coped well, but the Intermediates found it quite tough, with John Feather and Ken Oates best on 8. The Clubmen ran straight up the gulley, with Dave White best on 5, Mick Whitlow, Brian Cooper, Geoff Walker, Phil Kendrew on 6.

Moving on, Section 4 caught Ben Butterworth for his second mark after dabbing at Section 1. Premier riders crossed the stream onto the banking, with tight turn back into a very deep waterhole containing very soft sand, needing speed to keep moving before riding the rocks to the finish. Only Jimmy Noble and John Maxfield stayed clean, with Nick Jefferies and Ian Myers on 2, Jack Butterworth and Paul Preston on 3. A different start for the Clubmen and Inters, took them along a banking and up a step before the drop into and across the deep waterhole, up the banking and over rocks to the finish. This was cleaned by Ashley Gossop and Barry Fieldhouse, with Chris Wilson, Ken Oates, Steve Gossop, John Feather and Mel Dibb on 1.

Intermediate Riders tackled the Premier Route on section 6, starting with an uphill climb, back down into the stream, turning on the rocks and up the Steep hillside to the finish. Best here was Alan Mills on 4, with Chris Wilson on 5, Ken Oates and Lawrence Todd on 7. Section 7, on the hillside, took marks from everyone except Ben Butterworth and was modified after the first lap to ease the tight slippery turns at its start. These were followed by a series of embedded rocks to be ridden over by the Premier route riders. Jimmy Noble lost 1, Simon Mephram on 2, Paul Preston on 4, Tony Calvert and Oliver Cooper on 5. Nick Jefferies had an unusual turn here, when he missed his line on the first rock and scattered the onlookers! For the Clubmen and Inters. the turn was eased further but became more slippery uphill. A choice between riding the first big rock or between 2 large rocks was possible. Best here were Steve Rayner and Keith Hobson on 1,

followed by Steve Thomas, Dave Brogden and Chris Wilson on 2, Ken Oates, Lawrence Todd, Mick Whitlow and Barry Fieldhouse on 4.

The Lap finished with the hardest section of the day. Section 10, for the Premier riders, had a downhill start with tight turn backup the hillside, which turned into a deep rutted slot, taking marks from everyone except John Maxfield. Ben Butterworth lost 3 on his last lap, with brother Jack on 4, followed by Jimmy Noble on 8 and Nick Jefferies on 9. The Clubman route was even more difficult, following a long uphill sloping and turning muddy banking to the finish. Best here were Nick Atha and Steve Rayner on 13, Chris Wilson and Barry Fieldhouse on 14, Carl Winstanley, Dave White, Mick Whitlow, Brian Cooper and Dave Brogden on 15.

Dob Park is always an excellent venue to test the riders' skills, but with the continuous rain throughout the winter all the land was soaked, making riding between sections very slippery and our thanks go to the Clerks of Course for setting out some excellent Sections. Our thanks also to the Landowner, Observers, Riders, Spectators and Barry Pickard for photos and results.

Results

Premier route

Class A – Pre-Unit Springers over 347cc

Ben Butterworth 6, Jack Butterworth 30, Edward Dobson 87 (Ariels).

Class D – All Cubs

James Noble 16, Tony Calvert 29, Simon Mephram 38, Dave Wilkinson 41.

Class E – Unit over 246cc

Johnny Cooke (B40) 64.

Class F - 2 strokes

John Maxfield (Bantam) 12, Paul Preston (James) 22,
Nick Jefferies (Bantam) 36, Andrew Scott (Bantam) 51,
Rob Bratley (F/Barnett) 53.

Class S – Specials

Ian Myers (Cub) 36, Dave Ingram (McD) 91.

Intermediate Route

Class I – Open Intermediate

Chris Wilson (Bantam) 34, Ken Oates (Ariel) 42, Steve Gossop (Bantam) 53
Lawrence Todd (Cub) 58, Nick Atha (James) 63.

Clubman Route

Class T – Pre-Unit/Twin over 347cc

Carl Winstanley (Ariel) 39, Dave White (Ariel) 46,
Ashley Gossop (AJS) 54, Tim Pawson (R.E.) 75.

Class K – Open Clubman

Mick Whitlow (Bantam) 32, Brian Cooper (Cub) 34,
Steve Thomas (Bantam) 37, Barry Fieldhouse (Bantam) 38,
Steve Rayner (Cub) 43, Dave Brogden (Bantam) 44,
Geoff Walker (Bantam) 48, Chris Forshaw (Bantam) 49.

Class K/Sp – Clubmen Specials

Phil Kendrew (Tri) 47, Keith Hobson (Cub) 50, David Cockcroft (Cub) 92.