

Yorkshire Classic MCC Ltd

Round 5, Full Championship Trial, at Emmott's Farm, Silsden

16th June 2019

Report by Steve Rayner

Photographs Courtesy of Barry Pickard

Battle of the Champions

Emmotts Farm deep in Yorkshire trials country at Silsden was the venue for the 5th round of the Yorkshire Classic's Club Championship. 44 riders entered on the day for what proved to be a testing ride of 4 laps of 10 sections. Clerks of Course Colin Pawson and Dale Harrison had plotted all 10 excellent sections over the slippery rocks of Holden Beck.

On the Premier route, it was a battle of the former champions between former world champion Irjo Vesterinen (Bantam) and former French Champion Charles Coutard on Vesty's spare Bantam for the first time, with sidecar champion Robin Luscombe (Cub), TT winner Nick Jefferies (Bantam) and former Moto Gori and Ossa factory rider Tony Calvert (Cub) doing their best to upset the form book. Vesty came out on top finishing the day on 3 with Calvert close behind on 5. Both superb rides over the slimy rocks where throttle control and accurate positioning were paramount.

Coutard started well with a clean first lap and only dropping 1 on his second. But as the sections got easier tiredness took over taking his final score to 13, good enough for third place and one ahead of Luscombe.

On the Intermediate route it was a different story. Chris Wilson (Bantam) was the more consistent losing 27, with John Holdsworth on his BSA C15 seven marks behind. The Clubmen route proved a little easier with eight riders in single figures. Bob Baker (Cub) showed he hasn't lost the touch losing only 2 and tying with rigid Bantam mounted Steve Gossop (Bantam). As always ties go in favour of the older rider at Yorkshire Classic.

Section 1, despite being relatively straight forward took marks on the Premier route with both Lusky and Coutard dropping marks in the deep waters.

The next few sections teased but didn't take many marks.

Section 8 was the section that decide the outcome. A drop to a sharp right hand turn over big rocks set the scene with little time to settle before the nasty right hand exit over a sequence of large boulders that took the marks. Coutard studied the section carefully and cleaned it on his first 3 laps but his dab on his last lap did not prevent him putting the lowest score here. Vesty lost two of his total here. 3rd best was Chris Haigh of his immaculate Velocette losing only 3 here. Jefferies admitted that this section beat him with 13 of his final 19 lost here.

An excellent event with many regulars missing having ridden at the nostalgia the day before.

Results

Premier route

Class A – Pre unit springers

Chris Haigh (Velo) 21.

Class D – All Cubs

Tony Calvert 5, Simon Mephram 33, Dave Wilkinson 57.

Class F - 2 strokes

Yrjo Vesterinen (Bantam) 3, Charles Coutard (Bantam) 13, Nick Jefferies (Bantam) 19.

Class G – Twins

Andy Littler (Triumph) 53.

Class S – Specials

Robin Luscombe (Cub) 14, Ian Myers (Cub) 22.

Intermediate (50/50)

Chris Wilson (Bantam) 27, John Holdsworth (C15) 34, Richard Bainbridge (Cub) 36, Graham Wilkinson (Tri Twin) 37.

Clubman route

Class K – open Clubman

Bob Baker (Cub) 2 (older rider), Steve Gossop (Bantam) 2, Barry Fieldhouse (Bantam) 5, Steve Thomas (Bantam) 6 (older rider), Steve Culf (Bantam) 6.

Class T – Pre-unit springer

Ike Myers (AJS) 22.

Class K/Sp – Clubmen Specials

Robert Wood (BSA C15) 17, David Cockroft (Cub) 26.

Photos courtesy of Barry Pickard

1. Charles Coutard exits section 8 feet up
2. Tony Calvert pivot turns on the grass
3. Dave White crosses on the clubman route
4. Rob Wood avoids the deep water in section 1
5. John Feather rock weaving in section 2