

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Round 8, Pre unit Championship, at Roggerham Gate, Burnley, 20th Oct 2019

Report by Steve Rayner

Photos by Barry Pickard

Where Were You?

As the anticipated date was unavailable, the Yorkshire Classic Club quickly moved the event two weeks forward to the only suitable date that the rugged quarry and pasture at Roggerham Gate was available. With other events in the area this led to one of the poorest turnouts of the year with only 21 starters. The day started with a minutes silence in memory of long time member and former club secretary Keith Blackburn who died recently and club President gave a short history of his time with the Club.

Lancashire's Dave Ingram took his Ariel to the pre-unit win losing a meagre 2 marks, with similarly mounted Steve Gossop and current pre-unit championship leader Johnny Cooke just one mark behind.

In the Non Championship class, Steve Thomas (Bantam) was once again on form to finish without loss with Mick Whitlow (Cub) one mark behind.

The weather was kind for the most and even a light shower didn't make the climbs and cambers too difficult. Section 1 looked as though its cambers would end up causing trouble but a ledge formed and a careful ride ensured no loss. Likewise the climb at section 2 could have been a stinker with a good downpour but grip was still there even at the end. Steve Mephram thought he would give his Cub's third gear a try but it wasn't to be. Undaunted he bounced the valves on his Cub and kept the bike upright with feet on the pegs as he slithered in reverse to the bottom of the climb much to the amusement of the onlookers.

The popular section at number five with its wriggle across the random embedded rocks took a few marks and Steve Rayner out on his smart looking Cheetah for the first time this year was disappointed to drop a dab on his last lap to spoil what he thought was a day's clean ride. As it happens he was credited with 2 lost although it was pointed out that he was lucky not to have picked up a five for running over a flag on section 7's demolished ruins. In fact this section was the hardest of the day with Johnny Cooke losing all 3 of his marks here.

At the end of the day, with only seven riders in the Championship classes out of the 21 starters it was a disappointment for Clerks of Course Gary Mitchell and Andy Scott. Where were you? The majority went home happy and although easier than normal for a Yorkshire Classic pre-unit event, it was set for wet weather and made a pleasant change. The post-trial gathering with pie and peas at the nearby Roggerham Gate Inn again proved popular.

Results

Pre-Unit Springers

Dave Ingram (Ariel) 2, Steve Gossop (Ariel) 3, Johnny Cooke (Ariel) 3.

Pre-unit rigids

John Feather (Ariel) 15.

Twins

John Patefield (Triumph) 25.

Non Championship

Steve Thomas (Bantam) 0, Mick Whitlow (Cub) 1, Steve Rayner (Cheetah) 2, Steve Mephram (Cub) 5, Ashley Gossop (Cub) 5.