

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Round 2, Pre unit Championship, at Keighley Gate, Bingley, 3rd March 2019

Report by Steve Rayner Photos by Barry Pickard

Feather Tops the Lot

With heavy rain forecast for the afternoon, the 54 riders didn't hang around and the early birds were rewarded when section 6 cut into a mark taking rut. Only winner Mark Feather (Ariel) out for a rare ride and Club two stroke champion John Maxfield (Bantam) avoided penalty here and all day. To avoid the possibility of the weekend's earlier rain flooding the stream, all the sections were set at the top end of the valley.

With Mark's perfect score, the other Pre-Units had to battle it out for the remaining podium places. Mick Clarke never hangs around on his Ariel and took second on 6 with the improving Johnnie Cooke, also Ariel mounted, losing a further mark. Gary Marshall continued his excellent form on his TRW Twin to easily beat John Feather (Ariel) to the rigid class win.

In the battle of the twins, Nick Shield brought his excellent Triumph for a rare visit and took the class losing only 3 with similarly mounted Andrew Sharp only a couple of marks adrift.

Lightweights

With Maxfield taking top honours in the lightweights, Tony Calvert (Cub) had Lee Sagar (Bantam) for close company with the pair losing 5 each. The older rider rule saw Tony take the tie with Andy Littler (Cub) in 4th dropping 7.

Water, water!

All of the sections used Bradup Beck to a greater or lesser degree. The first in the wider part of the beck had a tricky ending, made awkward by a large rock and took its share of marks. The beck narrowed higher up the course but took few marks until section 6 where the exit cut deep into the bank. Tony was lucky not to five this when he stuck in the rut and only high revs and vigorous leg work pulled him through. An alternative line along the side banking also cut deep and several riders came croppers scoring maximums into the bargain.

Norman

The final section was not only the longest but also the most technical of the day. The weave between rocks needed care before the run to another tricky rut exit that thankfully improved as the day went on. The ride of the day here was that of Richard Plume on his Vintage two stroke Norman. With next to no suspension either end he showed the experts how it should be done with four clean rides. Only the two top riders, Nick Shield, Andy Littler and Keith Hobson back after a year's lay off on his ex-Dave Thorpe Armac Cub also went clear.

At the end of the day the standard was good for a Pre Unit event and Willow Tree welcomed those seeking refreshment after the event.

Results

Pre-Unit Springers

Mark Feather (Ariel) 0, Mick Clarke (Ariel) 6, Johnnie Cooke (Ariel) 7, Carl Winstanley (Ariel) 10.

Pre-Unit Rigid

Gary Marshall (Triumph TRW) 11, John Feather (Ariel) 27, Ike Myers (AJS) 47.

Twins (all Triumphs)

Nick Shield 3, Andrew Sharp 5, Brian Cooper 21, John Patefield 36.

Vintage Two strokes

Richard Plume (Norman) 21.

Just for fun

John Maxfield (Bantam) 0, Tony Calvert (Cub) 5, Lee Sagar (Bantam) 5, Andy Littler (Cub) 7, Steve Gossop (Bantam) 10.

Photos courtesy of Barry Pickard

1. Winner Mark Feather Ariel stays feet up.
2. Nick Shield exits Section 10 on his Twin
3. Johnnie Cooke leaves the beck in section 4
4. Carl Winstanley on his superb Ariel