

Yorkshire Classic MCC

1st Championship Trial, Lady Lane, Bingley

Round 1, Full Club Championship – 13th January 2019

Report by Ian Livingstone Photos by Barry Pickard

Butterworth wins on a Bantam

Yorkshire Classic's first Championship trial of the year turned into a wet and windy event as the day progressed on the hills above Bingley, causing some discomfort for the observers and not helping the 67 riders' efforts in the rocky sections laid out by Clerks of Course, Dale Harrison and Ian Livingstone.

Ben Butterworth, riding a borrowed Bantam, was not put off by this, losing his only mark on Alan Forest's section 7, a straight run over the rocks and uphill to the finish. Second placed Tony Calvert lost all his marks on section 4, a downhill start, along the cambered hillside and back up the rocky groove, which caught everyone except Ben, Mick Clarke and Andrew Scott. The next challenge was Section 5, twisting up the hillside through some tight gaps between well embedded rocks with only John Maxfield joining Ben and Tony on clean. Section 9 started along an old broken wall and uphill between large embedded rocks catching everyone except Vesty, (Yrjo Vesterinen), Nick Jeffries and the winners. Rob Shepherd has been helping the Club with observing and it was good to see him back on his bike and finishing joint 3rd.

On the eased Clubman route Carl Winstanley led the way losing only 1, with Barry Fieldhouse second on 7. Again, the most difficult section was 4, with an easier run below the camber to enable speed up the hill, with Graham Wilkinson and Mark Clift joining the first two on clean. The eased route on section 5 up the grass banking took marks from all except David Cockcroft and the first 2. Whilst not the biggest mark taker, section 2, a rocky run along the wall side, caught all the Clubmen except Carl, Ike Myers and Mark Clift.

For 2019, the Club has introduced an Intermediate Route into the Championship to give further choice to riders, where up to 5 Premier route sections are ridden with the balance being Clubman sections. The response has been excellent with 14 riders trying it out at Lady Lane, which is recognised as quite a challenging venue and it is hoped that feedback will help the Club to further refine the new Route.

In the Specials Class, Andrew Dennis lost only 3 marks with Richard Bainbridge first in the Open Class on 10 closely followed by Steve Thomas and Dave Brogden. Section 6 ended up as the most difficult with its tricky start between the rocks and the uphill climb over the large stone slab, with only Richard Bainbridge clean all day. Section 2 caught everyone out with its start up onto a rock slab and turn into a rock filled gully. Best here were Andrew Dennis on 1 and Steve Thomas on 3.

Whilst the sun came out towards the end of the trial, the wind and rain had a major effect on the scores. Our thanks go to the Landowner, Clerks of Course, Observers, Riders, Spectators and Barry Pickard for photos and results and everyone for putting up with the weather.

Results

Premier route

Class A – Pre-Unit Springers over 347cc

Mick Clarke (Ariel) 22, Chris Haigh (Velo) 31, Will Harrison (Ariel) 34

Class D – All Cubs

Tony Calvert 4, Dave Wilkinson 35, Tony Dillon 53

Class F- 2 strokes

Ben Butterworth 1, Yrjo Vesterinen 9, Rob Shepherd 9, Nick Jefferies 15, John Maxfield 16, Andrew Scott 20, Mick Grant 20. (All Bantams)

Class S – Specials

Ian Myers (Cub) 25, Darren Walker(C15) 44.

Clubman Route

Class B – Pre-Unit Telefork Rigid over 347cc

Gary Marshall (TRW) 14.

Class J Pre-Unit Rigid/Springer under 347cc

Ike Myers(C10) 20.

Class V - Vintage 2 strokes

Eric Atkinson (James) 120.

Class K – Open Clubman

Barry Fieldhouse (Bantam) 7, Mick Whitlow (Cub) 17,

Ian Broomhead (Bantam) 21, Rob Goodwin(F/B) 27,

Eric Boocock (Bantam)

Class K/Sp – Clubmen Specials

David Cockcroft (Cub) 25, Max Clift (C15 BSA) 28.

Class T – Pre-unit springer

Carl Winstanley (Ariel) 1, Graham Wilkinson (Tri/Twin) 22,

John Feather (Ariel) 26, John Patefield (Tri/Twin) 33.

Intermediate Route

Class I – Open Intermediate

Richard Bainbridge (Cub) 10, Steve Thomas 14, Dave Brogden 15,

Steve Gossop 19, Phil Clarkson 22. All Bantams.

Class I/Sp – Intermediate Specials

Andrew Dennis(C15) 3