

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Round 9, Pre-Unit Championship, at Jericho, Thornton, 15th December 2019

Report by Ian Livingstone Photos by Barry Pickard

Ben Butterworth cleans up.

Yorkshire Classic's Final Pre-Unit trial had taken some organising. With Deepcliffe Farm not being available, Rob Lowther had to chase round to find an alternative and thankfully we were able to use Jericho, where he and Colin Pawson had laid out 10 excellent sections for the 23 riders to enjoy.

With the heavy rains, the rocky stream sections were in deep water and hence the bankings came into use for most sections. As the Championship places were already decided, the Pre-Unit riders could relax and enjoy their day. Starting on the hillside, sections 1,2 and 3 did not cause many problems, apart from Section 2, a gentle downhill start and return up the wall side with tight turn to finish which caught both Gary Ferriman (TRW) and Neil Anderton (James) as the grassy track turned to mud.

Section 5, with its steep drop into the stream and up between rocks on the other bank caught all but Dave White and eventual Pre-Unit Winner, Ben Butterworth (Ariel), who was enjoying a ride out with the Pre-65 gang and managed to stay clean all day.

Section 7 managed to catch everyone except Ben in the Championship classes. Crossing the stream and along the banking, which got very muddy, riders faced a rock outcrop and tight turn back across the stream, through the mud and rock step to the finish. In the non championship class Tony Calvert (Cub), Mel Dibb (Cotton) and Paul Whittaker (Cub) also remained clean here.

The final 2 sections, both favourites at Jericho caught all but the winner and Carl Winstanley. The last stream section used the banking for its first part before dropping over the wall and back into the water finishing with the steep climb to the finish. The lap ended with the tight twisting climb up the steep hillside. Dave White was best here losing 1 mark on each followed by John Feather on 2 on each.

In the Non Competitive class, Tony Calvert matched Ben Butterworth with a clean ride, followed by Steve Thomas on 3, losing his marks on Sections 7 and 9. Dave Wilkinson cleaned every Section apart from 7, losing 4 marks here.

With snow on the hills surrounding the Venue and a forecast of more, which no doubt affected the entry, the day remained sunny and our thanks go to the Landowner, Observers, Barry for results and photos, and Clerks of Course for an excellent day's sport.

Results

Pre-Unit Springers

Ben Butterworth (Ariel) 0, Carl Winstanley (Ariel) 5, Gary Ferriman (Tri/Twin) 29.

Pre-Unit Rigid

John Feather (Ariel) 9.

Twins

Dave White (Triumph) 9.

Vintage Two Stroke

Neil Anderton (James) 40

Non-Competitive

Tony Calvert (Cub) 0, Steve Thomas (Bantam) 3, Dave Wilkinson (Cub) 4, Nick Atha (James) 6, Mel Dibb (Cotton) 8, Paul Whittaker (Cub) 8, Phil Clarkson (Cub) 10 .