

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Hagg Farm, Skipton

Pre-Unit Trial, Round 6, 8th Sept 2019

Report by John Holdsworth -

Glorious September weather was the order of the day for this excellent venue in and around Eller Beck at Hagg Farm in the Yorkshire Dales. Colin and Tim Pawson set 10 sections making use of some of the classic and well used features of this venue but adding some interesting and less used features to create good sections, well-suited to the 12 pre-unit machines and 30 lightweights.

The river level was quite high and a beautiful peaty colour after a wet week but not too high to prevent it being used for 8 of the 10 sections. The sections were well judged taking marks from all of the pre-unit machine riders.

Johnny Cooke won class A with just one mark dropped on the tricky blast up the slippery woodland gully of section 9. John Feather and Clerk of the Course Tim Pawson were the only riders on their magnificent rigid machines where a lack of suspension made a challenge of this rocky, rooted gully.

Paul Preston won the non-competitive class on his James. He was the only rider to remain on zero throughout the day with Steve Thomas losing just one mark on section 8 to take 2nd place.

Section 8 took the most marks from riders with a tricky approach over slippery submerged rocks before a steep exit up the riverbank. This bank became more slippery as the trial progressed, punishing riders for any minor mistakes in this part of the section. Only 4 of the 12 pre-unit riders and 5 of the 29 non-competitive rides went clean here. The slippery bank took 13 of Phil Holey's 14 marks on an otherwise excellent ride with a clean sheet on 8 sections.

Section 1 gave a nice easy start to the trial for most riders but Phil Clarkson was an unfortunate exception here and took a five for his mistake on the slippery exit up the bank. He also managed to give Club President, Neil Anderton an early bath after Neil tried to catch Phil and his Ariel as they headed for the river. A quick change of clothes saw our stalwart President back on his to bike to take another creditable finish.

In the non-competitive class, Steve Rayner on his trusty Tiger Cub was pipped by one mark by his son Mick riding his father's box fresh Cheetah for the first time.

Mick Clarke spoilt an otherwise winning ride with serious navigational difficulties on the fairly easy section 10.

Another great pre-unit trial in this wonderful location.

Pre-Unit Springers

Johnny Cooke (Ariel) 1, Tim Baker (Ariel) 3, Carl Winstanley (Ariel) 6, Mick Clarke (Ariel) 10.

Pre-Unit Rigid

John Feather (Ariel) 16, Tim Pawson (Norton) 47.

Twins (all Triumphs)

Andy Littler 5, John Patefield 12, Dave White 18.

Non-Championship

Paul Preston (James) 0, Steve Thomas (Bantam) 1, Paul Whittaker (BSA B40) 2, Chris Wilson (Bantam) 5, Mel Dibb (Bantam) 6.