

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Round 1, Pre unit Championship, at Nab End, Sowerby

27th January 2019

Report by Steve Rayner

Images by Barry Pickard

Cooke Nabs Top Spot in the End.

After a dry week the 35 riders approached the Nab End quarry venue above Sowerby Bridge to be greeted by a sunny but icy day.

Disappointingly only a handful of riders turned up on pre-unit machinery as several club members had made their way south to the TALMAG trial. Johnny Cooke took advantage on his excellent Ariel and took top spot with a brilliant ride to top the blue riband Pre-Unit springer class, losing only 3 marks. The just for fun non-competitive class saw several experts turn up with Rob Shepherd (Bantam), Tony Calvert (Cub) and Robin Luscombe (Cub) all staying penalty free. As always ties go in favour of the oldest rider giving Rob the win. Steve Thomas, Nick Jefferies and Lee Sagar on their Bantams lost only one apiece and the tie was again used to sort the order.

The first two sections were old favourites. A steady uphill approach crossing over and between large rocks didn't trouble the experts and sole rigid machine rider Ike Myers (AJS) did well to drop just 2 here. The smaller rocks on the camber of section two took more marks as it was exposed to gusts of wind. The more sheltered section 3 looked harmless enough but the succession of climbs and drops took its fair share of the points.

Section 7 turned out to be the biggest mark taker of the day. Starting on the coal debris of a recent Bronte film set, the riders headed across rocks to a sharp downhill left turn that dropped them to a sharp right over more jumbled rocks. The run to the exit over a deceptive slab took more marks and Paul Jackson was lucky not to damage himself or his excellent Velocette when he took a heavy tumble. Cooke lost the first of his 3 here and Thomas his sole dab.

Hairy Rocks

The weave through the big rocks at section 9 is always treated with great respect and the start climb past a sharp boulder took several dabs. The drop to the finish needed special care as Phil Kendrew on his special BSA found out when his handlebars twisted forwards causing the engine to rev and Phil to be deposited in the adjacent heather having missed the ends cards.

Thanks to Neil Anderton and Mick Culf for setting the excellent but slightly harder than usual sections and to the Landowner and Observers for whom the weather stayed dry but very cold.

Class A - Pre-Unit Springers

Johnny Cook (Ariel) 3, Geoff Walker (Ariel) 24, Paul Jackson (Velo) 30.

Class B -Pre-Unit Rigid

Ike Myers (Ariel) 22.

Just for Fun, Non-Competitive

Rob Shepherd (Bantam) 0, Tony Calvert (Cub) 0, Robin Luscombe (Cub) 0, Steve Thomas (Bantam) 1, Nick Jefferies (Bantam) 1, Lee Sagar (Bantam) 1.

Photos

1. Geoff Walker eases his Ariel through section 1
2. Peter Baldwin coaxes his Ariel across section 2
3. Ike Myers on his Rigid AJS on the slab at section 7
4. Paul Jackson descends through the heather at section 10