

Yorkshire Classic MCC

Round 4, Pre unit Championship, at Robin Hood, Silsden, 15th May 2016

Report by Steve Rayner Photos by Barry Pickard

Twins Top Robin Hood

Round four of the Yorkshire Classic Pre-Unit Championship was welcomed by the spring sunshine on the south facing rocky slopes near Silsden.

The ground was dry for the 39 entrants so John Feather and Colin Lawrence set most of the 10 sections weaving through the rocks on the steep bankings. Graham Wilkinson, back on his Scottish pre65 winning machine, and Malc Cocking that set the standard for the big bikes on their Triumph twins losing a miserly one mark each. Heading the big singles was Paul Jackson on one of his homebrewed Velocette pre unit machines losing four winning the tie break due to his seniority from recent pre-unit convert Johnny Cooke on his Ariel. The rigids suffered on the rocks of the final two sections with Steves Cordon (AJS) and Rayner (Matchless) losing 10 and 11 marks respectively.

Just for Fun

As usual, the majority of the entry were riding for fun in the non championship class and it was Paul Heys testing a borrowed Cub that headed the small machines keeping a clean sheet on the day. Close behind on two was John Wilson giving the Steve Thomas reserve Bantam a rare outing. Third was Les Humphries (Cub) using the fast across the rocks technique to avoid the dabs losing just five.

Weaving the rocks

Section one was a steady opener taking few marks with section two containing drops, turns, climbs and nadgery that showed what the trial was about. The short section three with it's tricky cross camber gully crossing led to the long steady climb of section four. Neither took many marks. The sharp downhill turn into the uphill narrow gully of section six is where Malc Cocking lost his single dab although the majority mastered this and the climb that followed.

Sting in the tail

It was the washed out boulders of section 9 that took the majority of the marks. Using the right hand side of the gully for a change, the rocks needed careful navigation to avoid problems. Best of the big bikes was Dave Wear on his Royal Enfield Bullet going clear here together with the two big twins. The narrow rocky channel at the final section is always tricky prospect with rocks protruding from the bankings to knock the rider off line and Wilkinson lost his sole dab here.

Happy

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

Results

Pre-Unit Springers

1st Paul Jackson (Jacko Velo) 1 2nd Johnny Cooke (Ariel) 1 3rd Dave Wear (R. Enfield) 5

Pre-Unit Rigid

1st Steve Cordon (AJS) 10 2nd Steve Rayner (Matchless) 11 3rd John Feather (Ariel) 16

Twins

1st Graham Wilkinson (Jackson Triumph) 1 2nd Malc Cocking (Tri-Enfield) 1

Pre-Units under 347cc

1st Chris Bacon (Norton) 33

Vintage two stroke Springers

1st Ady Brayshaw (James) 32

Just for fun

1st Paul Heys (Cub) 0 2nd John Wilson (Bantam) 2 3rd Les Humphries (Cub) 3
4th Ian Livingstone (DOT) 7