

Yorkshire Classic Motor Cycle Club

Keighley Gate

Championship Trial, Round 11. 24th November 2019

Report by John Holdsworth

A fine autumn day greeted 55 riders for the final round of the club championship. Following a wet week, water levels in Bradup Beck remained high. This added to the challenge of the trial with all of its 10 sections set in the beck through a steep sided valley.

Colin and Tim Pawson laid the sections out at the lower end of the valley to make good use of these great natural stream sections. This meant that as well as all the sections being in the beck, access to and from sections was also along the shared path on the banks of the beck. This produced a hectic first lap with lots of wet action both in and between sections.

The sections were well judged taking marks from every rider. George Emmott on his Triumph Twin, had an exceptionally good ride to lead the Premier riders, losing the least marks of anyone on the day, almost keeping his feet dry with just two dabs in the stream.

Also on the Premier route, Ben Butterworth lost only three marks on his Ariel closely followed by Andrew Scott who had a good ride on his Bantam.

Section 6 was the undoing of Jimmy Noble. For the Intermediate and Clubman riders, this was one of the easier sections only taking three marks. However, for the expert riders this was a challenging section with either a drop back into the beck followed by a tight rocky turn or an attempt to jump through the fork between two substantial trees. Jimmy decided on the latter only to jamb the sump of his Cub feet up for a resounding five.

An uncharacteristic mistake by Mick Whitlow on his Cub led to a swim in the beck between sections whilst heading for section 3. He stoically continued to finish second on the Clubman route behind Carl Winstanley on his James.

Another uncharacteristic mistake by Nick Jefferies led to a full lock tumble into the beck when lining up to attempt to ride over a large rock on the Premier route of section 7.

Garry Holmes won the Intermediate class on four, making it a worthwhile trip from the Isle of Man.

Keighley Gate was well attended and yet again, made a challenging but fun end to the 2019 club championship and the final standings are available on the club's web site.

Results

Premier route

Class A – Pre-unit springers

Ben Butterworth (Ariel) 3, Mick Clarke (Ariel) 27, Andy Littler (Tri-Twin) 28.

Class D – All Cubs

Jimmy Noble 6. Tony Calvert 7, Paul Dennis 7.

Class E – Unit over 246cc

Johnny Cooke (BSA C15) 33.

Class F- 2 strokes

Andrew Scott (Bantam) 4, Nick Jefferies (Bantam) 13, Andrew Dean (Bantam) 18.

Class G – Unit Twins

Gary Marshall (Triumph) 36.

Class S – Specials

George Emmott (Tri-Twin) 2, Ian Myers (Cub) 18, Dave Ingram (Armac Cub) 22.

Intermediate (50/50) class

Gary Holmes (Ariel) 4, Tony Davison (Cub) 8, Steve Gossop (Bantam) 9.

Clubman Route

Class K – open Clubman

Carl Winstanley (James) 3, Mick Whitlow (Bantam) 7, Bob Baker (Cub) 8, Malcolm Bell (Cub) 9, Nick Atha (James) 10.

Class K.Sp – open Clubman Specials

Brian Tweedy (Cub) 22, Phil Kendrew (Tri) 24.

Class T – Pre-unit springer

Tim Baker (Ariel) 10, Ike Myers (AJS) 15, Colwyn Darlow (Norton) 18, Tim Pawson (Tri-Twin) 24.