

The Clean Clerk

Red Rose Classic Trials club are running a summer Wednesday Evening series this year, consisting of 3 events, and, following a vote at AGM, including air cooled monos for the first time in their trials.

The 1st round was held on 25th May at a venue near Edgworth borrowed from the Darwen club (thanks guys). The compact venue based in a disused quarry gave lots of rocky section opportunities, which clerk of the course Ben Butterworth used for 7 of the sections, the eighth being up a peaty gully round the corner. 4 laps were to be covered as quickly as possible by the 29 entries before night fell, but with the compact course 8 laps could have been done before it got dark!

Lowest score on the Expert route was achieved by the Clerk of the Course going clean on his current 500 Ariel, winning Expert Britshock from Andrew Scott and Jonny Cooke on their Bantams who both lost 6 marks, Andrew taking runner up by virtue of the oldest rider rule.

Section 8 was the main mark taker on both routes, a blast up the quarry bank where the experts had a twisting route with a couple of turns at the bottom, the clubmen having a straighter line up a shorter bank. On both routes of you hit it right you flew up, if not it was trouble. Only Ben cleaned it on every lap on either route.

Twinshock Expert was won by Shaun Mountford on his Fantic on 16 from similarly mounted Wal Cope on 17, Wal loosing it on the twists at the end of section 7, which he cleaned 3 times after the trial had finished!

2 air cooled monos rode the expert route with Mike Jones losing just 3 dabs to beat Paul Morris who finished on 19. Both the twinshock and air cooled mono winners entered the 50/50 route but decided they wanted a stiffer challenge which it looks like they needed.

The 50/50 route only had twinshocks entered, with Gareth Carr taking a convincing win on his Honda from Chris Forshaw's Fantic. 5 of Gareth's 7 marks were lost on the banks of section 2, observed by Club president Roger Kenyon, though Chris knocked up 2 fives and 2 cleans on the dreaded section 8, even though the 50/50 took the Clubmen route.

The Clubmen classes had the largest entry with 4 Britshocks, 9 twinshocks and 3 air cooled monos. The twinshocks victory went to David Hooke on 6, 5 of which he dropped on section 8, 10 marks ahead of Adrian Thompson who was 1 mark ahead of Antony Wilson.

Mark Newman won the Britshocks on 4, with the venerable Phil Clarkson taking runner up on 11, 10 of which he lost on section 5.

Air Cooled mono was won by the club's web man Bill Brown who lost a miserly 3 on his Fantic, putting him 8 marks ahead of the Yamaha of Michael Warburton who lost 5's on both section 2 and 8.

A great trial was enjoyed by all, with thanks going to Ben for getting the venue and laying out, and the observers for standing out in the chilly wind. The small entry was a disappointment, hopefully the next evening trial will be better supported and a few more air cooled monos will be dragged from the sheds.

Red Rose's next trial is on 19th June at Bulls Head, Cliviger, and the next evening trial is on Wednesday 29th June at the Fisherman's Retreat - hope to see you there.