

## **Red Rose Christmas Trial**

Red Rose Classic Trials Club held their annual Christmas Trial on 27<sup>th</sup> December, at the usual Fisherman's Retreat venue near Bury. With inclement weather on the day the real heroes were the 10 observers who allowed us all to have a great day in the mud, followed by the traditional pie and peas in the Fisherman's Retreat restaurant, provided by the club.

Ben and Jack Butterworth and Jacob Joyce put in a lot of effort to clear space for 3 routes in the sections, including a couple of dams in section 8 to ensure there was some deep water to ride through. They needn't have bothered though, as by the last lap the entry to section 7 was wheel deep and the begins cards were floating away.

Following discussions at the AGM it was agreed to add an elite route to give the top guys a challenge, and it appeared to work as 9 riders took on this route.

Section 4 proved to be the mark taker on all 3 routes, turning around trees on a bank above the lake. As the rain fell the wheels churned the surface into a gripless gloop. Old brakes full of water also didn't help, as demonstrated by Paul Whittaker who grabbed a passing tree to prevent him and his KT250 ending up in the lake. He promised himself to get new linings for the annual outing on this bike last year, but only remembered as he pulled the front brake lever in!

The elite route also found the banks in and out of the stream at section 5 a challenge, best overall on this route being Ben Butterworth on 10, 28 ahead of his brother in the twinshock class (despite Jack's efforts to drown Ben's Bulto he was borrowing). The 2 Pre 70 class riders on this route were between the Butty's scores - Keiran Hankin on 20 and Sean Radcliffe on 33 – both on BSA's, but very different bikes. Section 9 made these 2 struggle, the slippy climb out of the valley taking 11 and 12 marks respectively.

The expert entry were a bit depleted to the elite class, but Andrew Scott took the pre 70 victory on 22 marks, 2 ahead of John Maxfield, and John Holdsworth convincingly won the twinshock class from Gareth Carr. Good to see Marty Hill bring the Try Fantic home 3rd in this class – wonder what he thought of the experience?

50/50 Pre 70 only had 1 entry, and he retired (can I claim the victory?), but the twinshock class had 12 riders, Pete McCanna coming out on top on a mere 2 – 1 each on section 4 and 5.

The biggest entries were on the clubman route, and the only rider on a rigid rode this route and was the only rider to go clean for the day– cracking ride Dave Wilkinson on the Bantam.

Clubman Pre 70 was taken by Carl Winstanley riding his James on 5 compared to the 8 of Phil Clarkson. The clubman twinshock had a very tight finish, Paul Clowes winning on 1, runner up Chris Beech on 2 and third placed Paul Hornsby tying with David Matthews on 3.

An 11<sup>th</sup> section was included to decide ties – a wheelie section like a graded hill climb – but neither Chris or Paul had a score against them on this section so had to be separated by the age rule. The marks lost on this section showed those who had a mis spent youth.

Thanks again to the Observers, C of C's and the guys behind the scenes that make it all happen. Hope to see you all at Cockerham on 15<sup>th</sup> January as we start the 2023 season.