

Red Rose Pie and Peas fun trial

30/12/23

Fisherman's Retreat

The Red Rose Classic Trials Club held the final trial of the year at the Fisherman's Retreat near Bury, followed by Pie and Peas and the annual prize presentation.

Clerks of the course Ben and Jack Butterworth and Jacob Joyce had laid out 9 sections to be ridden 4 times with a few variations to the usual sections, though there was no wheelie section this year. The weather leading up to the trial had been wet so plenty of warnings were given that the ground would be muddy, and they proved to be true!

As the C of C's like a challenge an Elite route was laid out which attracted 5 riders. This must have been hard as it extracted 33 marks from winner Ben Butterworth, closely followed by brother Jack on 39, both on their twinshocks. 3rd on this route went to Liam Robinson on his Greeves, an impressive ride.

The Expert route also provided a stiff challenge with sections 4 and 5 extracting many marks. Section 4 was a new one at the top of the venue, twisting around trees on a bank that cut up as the day went on and got harder each lap. Various lines were tried, including one that required a 3 point turn, which was executed by an elite rider that will remain nameless as he did it feet up but it's a non stop trial! Pre 70 up to 250 winner John Maxfield lost 20 of his 49 marks on this section, but pulled some back on section 5 where he lost 7 compared to runner up Andrew Scott's 12. This was another section that dug out, a big hole developing at the bottom of a drop before a turn over logs.

The Twinshock Expert class was a Fantic benefit with the top 5 places filled by the Italian bikes. The winner was Neil Sharp on 28 from Andrew King on 32, both losing most of their marks on sections 4 and 5.

The 50/50 route ride a combination of the expert and clubman sections. Best performance on this route was by Wal Cope in the pre 70 under 250 class on 31, and Nathan Britton took the Pre 70 over 250 class on 46, but they couldn't be beaten as they were the only riders in these classes. Twinshock 50/50 had a good entry of 14 riders, with Paul Whittaker top of the pile on 33 (on his Fantic rather than the Kawasaki) followed by Stephen Wilde on 35 and Andrew Walters on 39. Paul nearly lost his win with a 5 on section 6 on the first lap, but he pulled most of it back only losing 2 on the rocks of section 8.

Best overall performance on the clubman route was by the only rigid in the trial, piloted by Dave Wilkinson losing a lucky for him 13, 11 of them on section 4.

The remaining Clubman classes were well supported, with 4 riders digging out their big bikes for the Pre 70 over 250 class. This proved an Ariel benefit as Matt Duff on his BSA retired, but it was a close finish with Gareth Carr winning on 16 from Steve Gossop on 20 and Mark Newman on 24. 12 of Gareth's marks were lost on the dreaded section 4, proving this section was the hardest on this route too.

The Pre 70 up to 250 class was won convincingly by Carl Winstanley on his James with a loss of only 14 marks, a full 6 marks ahead of Nick Atha who was 10 marks ahead of Phil Clarkson.

The 17 riders in the Clubman Twinshock class were topped by Paul Clowes on 15 followed by Tony Dillon on 17 and Paul Mountford on 20.

There were a few retirements where the conditions got the better of the bike or rider, though Pete Clibburn won the prize for the most dramatic, his face plant into the stream on section 3 looking very painful. He's reported he is fine, only his pride was wounded.

After the trial the riders, observers and officials retreated to the restaurant for their pie and peas and the awards ceremony. Firstly the most important people on the day, the observers, were presented with a gift to thank them for their time and effort, followed by the club championship winners:

Expert Pre 70 over 250 – Katie Ward

Expert Pre 70 under 250 – Andrew Scott

Expert Twinshock – Keith Knowles

50/50 pre 70 under 250 – Mark Newman

50/50 Twinshock – Stephen Wilde

Clubman Pre 70 over 250 – Steve Gossop

Clubman Pre 70 under 250 – Steve Thomas

Clubman Rigid – Dave Wilkinson

Clubman Twinshock – Mark Tattersall

Thanks go from all the riders to the observers, officials and clerks of course for their time and effort in the year, and here's to another great year in 2024. Looking forward to seeing you all at Cockerham on 14th January.