

Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing Club
Round 3 North Carnduff Farm Strathaven
Sunday 5th June 2022

So, after what I'm told was a highly successful Round 2 event at Lockerbie in May the Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing club made their way to the lush green pastures of North Carnduff Farm in Strathaven to continue their 2022 scrambles championship.

I unfortunately couldn't attend our round two meeting at Lockerbie due to another commitment but from what I've read in the social media posts on the club Facebook page after the event it was another fantastic encounter so the club were hoping that that trend continued here for Round 3.

It's always good to return to this North Carnduff track as it's another one of those old school type courses that is certainly in keeping with the traditional vintage and classic racing era that we try and aspire to keep alive. Although again as you know its thanks to the efforts of our hardy club members who laid out the track and did all of the hard graft so that you could all just turn up on the Sunday and put your machines at the start line. Now I don't have any details of who actually helped out on the day but you know who you are and without people like yourselves our race meetings would never go ahead so thanks to you all once again.

The weather previous to Sunday was exceptionally good so the track as you'd expect was in great condition and when we turned up on the day the forecast was excellent for the remainder of the day, but it was a trifle windy and cold first thing in the morning but were a hardy bunch and were still all looking forward to another cracking days racing.

Another excellent turn out of riders again at this round and its great to see a lot of new faces around the paddock as the word appears to be getting around about just what our club is all about which is of course hanging out with like-minded people who love racing old dirt bikes and more often than not just enjoy talking about these old vintage motorcycles as well.

So what went down on the day well once again it was another epic episode of bar bashing and fast racing and I have to say one of the most enjoyable afternoons I've had in quite a long time watching some of those riders slide and slip their way around the Carnduff racetrack.

But first to the start line were the Pre 1968 Over and Under 350cc class and in the Under 350's formula it was an emphatic display from young Andrew King on the Charlie Robertson AJS Stormer who literally blew away all opposition over the course of the three legs, and I'm not even sure those old Stormers were as quick as Andrew was making his bike go when they were raced in the early 1970's back in the day but Andrew was very fast without a doubt. Fergus Moodie was also quick over the three legs on his BSA and despite chasing Andrew King in all three-race moto's Fergus just couldn't seem to match the speed of the flying youngster, but Fergus still managed three runner up spots on the day and another fine performance for his efforts. Robert Kennedy was also in fine fettle in this class and he brought his late dad's old 1960's Cotton 250 Starmaker home to an overall third place finish.

In the big bike class of the Pre 68's Over 350 it was another good afternoon for Peter Dobinson on his beautiful sounding Rickman Triumph twin who managed to secure the overall win in this class. Alan Reed still did enough to take the runner up spot with another good solid ride on his old BSA and it was Colin Flockhart who made a welcome return to racing with the Scottish Classic club by taking the final podium spot on his immaculately turned-out Cheney BSA.

In the Pre 1984 250cc class it was another bumper turnout of riders for this new formula and the star of the show on the day was Graham Smith or "Zippy" as he's known to his mates (but the Zippy title is not because of his speed) apparently it has some other underlying meaning that only his close friends will understand. But joking aside Graham was in top form on his old IT Yamaha 250 and although he may not have made the best of starts on the day from the gate as soon as Graham hit the front it was bye bye opposition because he was super quick and I personally enjoyed watching him twist and turn his way around the Carnduff racetrack. But when the chequered flag fell after his final race he had bagged three wins from three starts so well-done Graham and fully deserved. Also in this class Mike VanDerMer rode very well and even led most of race three but was eventually overtaken by Graham Smith but "Vandy" still did enough to secure the runner up place finish on the day on his 1981 250 Maico.

In the combined Pre 77's and Pre 1989 racing class there wasn't a big turnout of riders for the Pre 77's but nonetheless there was just about enough to still make a race of it, and it was top honors for Brian Atkinson who put in a sterling display to take the top dog prize riding his little CR250 Honda Elsinore. Calum Wilson also riding a Honda 250 Elsinore did well enough to fill the second-place position and it was Brian Hamilton on his big fourstroke Yamaha bike that finished in third, although with the relatively small amount of Pre 77's at this event we could certainly do with some more of these types of vintage classic bikes to help fill up this class for future events.

Now in the ever popular Pre 1989 125's the racing was fast and furious as you've now come to expect from this formula and it was another well-earned victory overall for the flying Mike McLurty who once more was a dominant force and just managed to keep ahead of James Haddow and Craig Smith who were both having their own individual scrap for the remaining second and third placings behind him. But it was great to watch these little two stroke screamers do their stuff on the track and at the chequered flag it was another three class wins for Mike McLurty who if my information is correct has yet to be beaten on the track in 2022 which is quite a feat when you think about it but in second spot it was James Haddow on his CR125 Honda with Craig Smith crossing the line in third on the 81 RM125 Suzuki.

For me personally the Pre 1975 Over 300cc class provided some of the best entertainment on the day and overall it would be Stewart Roden who would take the top step on the podium by virtue of his three wins and it was another excellent days racing from Stewart once again. But Ian Stainton was also very fast on his big fourstroke Clew's Stroka and was certainly up there at the sharp end of the action over the three races and was well worthy of his second-place finish. But it was nice to see Jim Alison back to race fitness again and going very well on his big CCM to fill that last step on the Pre 1975 Over 300cc rostrum.

In the smaller Upto 300cc class for the Pre 1975's the results at the end of the day would suggest that Daryl Wylie was the overall winner and well done to him for his efforts and achievements although my personal man of the match award for the event had to go to Derek McAulay who was simply superb on that little two stroke 250 Bultaco. Now although they were running in different classes Derek still had a good scrap with Stewart Roden in race one and then unfortunately missed his second race because he was too busy gabbing with someone in the paddock, but when he emerged for the third and final race he was certainly trying to make up for losing points in race two as he chased Stewart Roden's big CCM down and then passed him to take the lead and the race win but what a spectacle to watch and see the little two-stroke Bultaco mix it up with the bigger 500's so full credit to Derek for such a ballsey performance. So at the end of the day the final results would read Daryl Wylie 1st Colin Nelson 2nd on the CZ and Derek McAulay in 3rd but a big well done to all three riders for some excellent entertainment.

So as we move onto the big bike class of the Pre 1984's over 250cc which had it all in my opinion great racing, commitment, and a bit of drama and as in the previous formula's this class also had its star attractions. To start with it was the Davie Loudon show at North Carnduff as Davie was fantastic on his 465 YZ Yamaha and did superb in races one and two and although he did make another excellent start in race three in third spot straight from the gate by the time he made it to turn three he immediately knew there was something up with his No1 race bike and as it turned out the rear shock on his bike had collapsed leading to a DNF for the final race. But it was the veterans of Paul Chiappa, John Stokes, and the relative youngster Davie Loudon who still gave the crowds something to cheer as these three were at it hammer and tongs in all three races but when the points were all calculated it would be a win overall for Paul Chiappa a 2nd place finish for John Stokes and sadly a third position finish for Davie Loudon who for me personally was easily the quickest man on the day.

Also just a quick mention here to John Frew who took a very nasty tumble over the handlebars in race three and had to be taken to hospital for a check over and the latest news we have from John's family is that he has a few fractures around his neck, hand, shoulder blade and ribs but hopefully by the time you read this John will already be out of hospital and on his way to making a full recovery from his injuries and it goes without say that everybody here at The Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing Club wish him all the very best in his recovery.

But there was yet another star performance in the Pre 1984 250 class and it was again Graham "Zippy" Smith who was the man in the 250 class for the Pre 1984's and his antique IT Yamaha was performing superbly to give him the overall win in this formula and I for one applaud him as he was fantastic on the day. Other notable performances in this class on the day were a second place finish for Andy Malloch who seemed to be riding about four or five different bikes on the day between Montesa's CZ'S and Maico's so Andy must have quite a few friends within the club that are good enough (or is that daft enough) to lend him a bike to race which was a bit strange really as he had already brought along three bikes of his own initially, but again another good show from the Burrleton man for finishing in second place. Mike VanDer Mer was another rider in top form and was very quick and even led a race for most of leg two until he was eventually overtaken by Graham Smith on the final lap but again well done to Vandy for an impressive performance on the day.

And so, after a quick bite to eat and a short chill out in the superb June sunshine it was time for the age related races as part of the second episode of the afternoon's race programme and it was the combined Pre 1977's Over and Under 40's and 50's and the 125's who got us underway with race one.

We'll start with the Pre 77 Over 50's and it was quite an easy run to the chequered flag for Ian Stainton on the Clews Stroka fourbanger and again the rider numbers were somewhat limited for this class but Ian Ward still put some decent laps in to add more valuable championship points to his 2022 title challenge and he would take second overall on his BSA. In the Pre 77's Over 40's Ian Marr was the man who would take the No1 spot from Colin Nelson who was flying around the racetrack on a CZ bike that was borrowed from Stewart Riddell.

The Under 40's Pre 1977's was basically a one horse race for the flying AJS Stormer of Andrew King who took a comfortable win as you'd expect having just the one competitor in this class.

In the Pre 1977 Over 65's class it was Peter Dobinson who was quickest on the day, and I'll tell you what I'm glad I don't race anymore as this guy would have shamed me with the speed he was going at round the North Carnduff racetrack. Anyhow it was Jimmy Murray who would take the second-place finish from Brian Hamilton on that fourbanger Yamaha in third.

Moving on to the Pre 1977 Over 60's class once more it was Derek McAulay who was mixing it up with the other mature veterans of classic racing and he showed most of them a clean pair of heels when he took the overall win from Jim Alison in 2nd and Archie Baird on that Norrie Pattie 3L CZ Twinshocker in third.

There wasn't a huge turnout of competitors for the Pre 1984 Over 60's class and I think there were only about five riders in this class so as you can imagine it was a pretty easy Sunday afternoon stroll for Paul Chiappa to take the three race wins from Mike Foster in second and the far travelled Maurice Wharton in third. But to finish off the day another rider very worthy of an overall win and a bit of credit for entertaining us with his riding skill all afternoon Davie Loudon won the Over 50's Pre 1984 class and nobody was more deserving than this man and it's a treat for me to watch him ride that YZ465 Yamaha at each round. Although take nothing away from second place man John Stokes who to be fair hounded Davie all day but just couldn't get close enough to make the pass but another fine showing for John on his CR 480 Honda. And to slot into the final step on the Scottish Classic Round 3 podium on the day would be Graham Smith who again was a star attraction while he was out there riding his IT 250 Yamaha and brought it home to a fine third place overall in this class.

So it's pretty fair to say that it's been another hugely successful Round 3 meeting here at North Carnduff Farm and that fast-flowing layout of the track supplied us with some fantastic racing from all the associated classes.

Naturally and as usual by the time you read this you may have already relived your day at Round 3 watching yourselves in action on the big screen at home if you were taking part in this event and tuned into my "Classic Dirt Bike TV" channel on You Tube which incidentally now has a "Super Thanks" button added to the video player just below the screen where all of you appreciative viewers can now donate much needed pennies towards the upkeep of my channel as it does take up many hours and very often days of my life to bring you these video's and although I do make a small token payment from the ads included in my video content it's never enough to justify the long hours of computer work so any contributions that you could muster no matter how small would go a long way towards the continuation of CDBTV and for all donations received however small I would be extremely grateful.

Ok so our next event on the 2022 classic scrambles calendar will be round four which is of course held at the superb Townfoot Farm in Thornhill on the 3rd of July so get your entry in for that event as soon as possible as that meeting is always a great weekend and in the past it's supplied us with some epic racing battles down the years.

So hopefully I'll see you all at Thornhill in July as we continue our 2022 racing championship because this year is shaping up to become one of the best racing championships in quite sometime post Covid so everybody stay safe and well and I'll see you soon.

Chris Montignani (Monty)