

Scottish Classic Scramble Club

Round 4 Cumstone Farm Lockerbie

Sunday 5th September 2021

Well it was another welcome return to Cumstone Farm in Lockerbie for our Round 4 race meeting and our penultimate race event of the 2021 racing season and although this has been one of the shortest championships on record we still have to be thankful that we at least got started because as you know it was June before we even took to the track for Round 1 at Strathaven.

There appeared to be a much better turnout of competitors at this race meeting at Cumstone Farm and it was great to see an almost full paddock as I rolled into the pit area first thing Sunday morning. The weather this time round was forecast to be much more favourable than in Round 3 so hopefully we'd get a full race programme this time and we'd all enjoy a great days racing.

Because the track was very dry I expected that it wouldn't take long before the dust started to fly, and this superb track layout I assume was put together by Kenny Harper and his band of merry men so once again thanks to all of you for your help you know who you are and we all know that without your commitment to the club we would not be able to go racing at all.

The first formula to take to the track were the combined Pre 68 Upto and Over 350cc and it was another fine performance from Andrew King on his Charlie Robertson AJS Stormer in the Pre 68 Under 350's class. Andrew was on fine form over the course of the three legs and he could certainly make that old Stormer fly around the Cumstone Farm landscape. In the runner up spot it was Andrew Johnson who crossed the line to take the second place overall riding his antique DOT Scrambler, and I think the combined age of Andrews DOT motorcycle, his old 1980's Austin Metro car and his 1960's trailer add up to about 150 odd years so it's like a travelling museum when Andrew turns out to race his bike. Third place overall in the Pre 68's was Ian Ward who had another good day riding his very reliable Villers racer.

In the Pre 68 Over 350cc it was Kenny Harper who was the eventual victor in this class with another class win overall on his CZ Twinshocker. Lewis Bell made a decent start in race one although while heading down into turn one his big Jawa appeared to die on him and Lewis had to then wheel his sick bike back to the paddock. Liston Bell also made a good start in race one on his Tribsa and eventually crossed the finish line in first position although strangely was not listed in the top three finishers when the points were tallied. Fergus Moodie was the rider who took the runner up spot and once again Fergus was pretty damn quick on that rapid BSA over the course of the three legs and he finished just ahead of Alan Reed who I was told was riding Helen Cahill's old BSA Victor.

Again not the biggest of turnout's for the Pre 1977 class at this round 4 event and we could certainly do with more machines coming to the line to fill it out a bit but nonetheless it was Sam Sibbald who was the star of the show riding his TT500 Yamaha fourstroker. Sam was pretty dominant over the three Pre 77 races and although he was racing alongside the Pre 1989 125's and was being buzzed by Mike McLurty's 125 from time to time he still crossed the line after race three to win the overall. Brian Hamilton took the second place in this class on his Fourstroke Yamaha CZ combination although there was no rider to stand on the final step of the podium due to lack of numbers in this formula.

We enjoyed a bit more racing from the Pre 1989 125's at this round 4 event and we had a few riders make the journey from down south to take part which was a bit more encouraging to see but Mike McLurty once again was the dominant force in this class with three straight but very dominant wins on his CR125 Honda and were hoping we can encourage more of these little 125 buzzbombs to this formula in the future so that they can give Mike a bit more of a challenge on race days. In second position it was Chris Kirkbride who was one of our visiting riders from the south of the country who secured the runner up spot on his very quick water-cooled YZ Yamaha. John Kennon again was also quick to take the final place on the podium but these little two stroke Yamaha's of Chris's and John's were certainly having a right old ding dong battle over the course of the three races and it was good entertainment from the three lads and we hope to see you all back racing with us again very soon.

Daryl Wylie was on the top of the score sheets when the points were tallied for the Pre 1975 Upto 300cc class and this was another gritty performance from Daryl on the 250 fourstroke Honda and a well-deserved overall win on the day. Again there were a few of our regulars missing from this Upto 300cc class at this round 4 meeting but Colin Nelson was quietly going about his business and his efforts on the day would secure him the second place position riding his 250 Husqvarna when race three was completed.

There was some very good action in the Pre 1975 Over 300cc class during the first half of the race programme and in race one it was Craig Dickson who got off to a flyer into turn one on his CZ. It wasn't too long though before Lewis Bell hit the front on his CCM and sped away into the distance and crossed the line for his first win of the day. Race two was an almost carbon copy of the first with Lewis taking another win but it was Archie Baird who was the man on a mission and he had some great ding dong battles with Craig Dickson on his CZ over the three legs. But at the end of the day the lap scoring timesheets would show that it was the win for Archie Baird in 1st, Liston Bell 2nd and Stewart Roden on the CCM in third.

In the big bike Pre1984 class I counted at least twenty or twenty two Twinshockers at the line which is very healthy for our organisation when you consider that other clubs are struggling to get just a handful of these Twinshock bikes on the line. But the star of the Pre 84 Over 250's was Mark Kenny who I think won six out of six races over the course of the day on his big 500 HPF Honda fourstroker. Mark was almost unstoppable when he got that big "Horse Power Factory" bike into its stride and despite courageous challenges from Davie Loudon and Graeme Farish Mark fully deserved his overall win. David Loudon it has to be said was also very quick and was flying on his YZ490 Yamaha but it appeared that Mark Kenny could turn on the extra speed at will when David got too close for comfort, but nonetheless David Loudon still got two holeshot's from the gate in races two and three and led the early stages of both races but at the end of the day Mark Kenny's Honda just seemed to have that extra horsepower and David would have to be content with second overall.

Also in the Pre 1984 Over 250's John Stokes did well and he would take the third place overall on the day but John Did make some excellent starts and was running at the head of the pack for much of the early stages of the three legs but a third place finish overall was still a good result for his hard day's graft.

In the 250's in the Pre 1984 class the star man for me was Graeme Farish who although he was running alongside the bigger engine'd bikes of Mark Kenny and David Loudon he was still keeping up with them even although he was on a much smaller YZ 250 Yamaha. Graeme was superb over the three races and could quite easily have been challenging the front runners in the big bike class for overall track position but nonetheless he fully deserved his first place finish in this class. The eventual runner up spot went to Calum Sangster who again was excellent over the first part of the day's race programme, unfortunately though in the final race three when he was battling side by side with Andy Malloch on the last and final lap they both crossed the finish line together and Calum just momentarily lost the front end of his bike where he hit the deck and the bike fell on top of him. It was later discovered that Calum had broken his ankle so he'll be out of action for the rest of the season but we hope to see him back racing with us in 2022. Andy Malloch would take the final step on the podium to finish his days racing in third riding his old 250 Montesa Cappra.

After the break it was time for the Age related races and in the Pre 77's Under 40's it was Liston Bell who put his name on the scoresheet riding his brother Lewis's CCM. In the runner up spot it was another winners accolade for Andrew King who this time was riding his new Hybrid AJS/Husqvarna machine which is very quick as we found out on the day.

The Pre 77's Over 40's was again another fine showing by Colin Nelson on the Husqvarna to take the win after three races, Andrew Johnson on the DOT put in another great ride to bring home his old bike in second while Bryan Aird on the BSA Victor took the final spot in third.

The older riders in the Pre 1977 Over 50's again showed us all that age is no barrier to what you can do if you put your mind to it and I don't know what some of these guys are taking before they line up at the line but I think I need to try and get a hold of some because they were certainly defying their years with the speed they going at. Ian Stainton was the overall hero in this class with a dogged and determined performance over the three races on that Joe Maxwell Engineering Clews Stroka fourstroker. Ian Ward maybe not be the fastest of our club riders but race after race Ian just keeps racking up the championship points every time he crosses the line and once more he received his just deserts in the Pre 1977's Over 50's with a runner up position so well done to you once again Ian.

The Scottish Classic Club's veteran's in the Pre 1977 Over 60's class again put in some fine racing for the small band of spectators that had gathered to witness the old timers riding their motorbikes and it was Archie Baird once more who crossed the line to take the overall win on his Norrie Pattie 3L CZ machine. Sam Sibbald also was quick in this class and I'm sure it was nearer the end of race two when Sam seemed to think he had the race in the bag when Archie Baird started to close in and stole the win on almost the very last turn of the last lap. Anyhow it was good entertainment and it would finish with Archie Baird first Sam Sibbald in second and another good ride by Kenny Harper to take third overall.

In the Pre 1977'S Over 65's it was a well-deserved win overall for Peter Dobinson on his lovely sounding Rickman Triumph and Peter was riding superbly over the course of the day and it was a fitting end to his hard work to take the class win overall from Alan Reed in second and Brian Hamilton in third.

The Over 60's of the Pre 1984 class was eventually won by Steve Mower on his 490 Maico Twinshocker with John Porteous in second on that rare Curtis 500 Honda, Mike Foster also had a decent day and he would be very happy with his third place finish. The Pre 1984 Over 50's was yet again another titanic scrap between Mark Kenny and David Loudon and both these riders had been at it almost all day battling away but it was Mark Kenny once again who would secure the win on that rapid fourstroke Honda. David Loudon was equally as fast as Kenny although he just couldn't match the grunt of that HPF Honda of Kenny's but it was still a well-deserved second place finish for Davie on the YZ490 Yamaha. Visiting rider Nigel Sowerby took the final podium place in third and Nigel was also riding one of those very popular 81 490 Maico's.

In the Under 50's of the Pre 1984 class there was no-one more deserving a class win than Graeme Farish for that gritty determined display he put on over the course of the day. Graeme was riding the wheels off that YZ250 Yamaha and had no problem either when he was racing against the bigger horsepower bikes and at one point put many of them behind him as he carved his way through the pack. In second place this time it was the turn of Gary Sowerby to fill the runner up position with Lee Bateman on the big XR500 Honda in third. There were only two riders who fell into the Under 40's class in the Pre 1984's and that was David Lamb who took the overall win from Stuart Muirhead in second place.

So summing up another very successful Round 4 race event with some good racing from all the classes and as usual you can catch up with all of your championship points and positions by checking out the club's website at classicscrambles.com

Furthermore no doubt you'll have been watching yourself on the big screen as the first part of this Round 4 event from Lockerbie is already getting rave reviews on my Classic Dirt Bike TV You Tube Channel, so if you've not already seen the video footage then take a look and please hit that "like" button or better still be a subscriber to my channel.

Ok it's quite difficult to comprehend that our next race meeting will be our final event of the 2021 racing season but nonetheless I suppose we have to be grateful we even got started because things were looking very bleak at the start of the year, so its thanks to Creena and Linda for their lap scoring on the day, Richard Winn for his commentary and keeping us all informed and of course all of the marshals and every other single person who helped out on the day.

See until next time see you all for our grand finale at Whitekirk in October.

Chris Monty