

Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing Club

Round 4 Townfoot Farm Thornhill

Sunday 3rd July 2022

Firstly sorry for the late posting of this report its just that soon after Thornhill we went straight into the summer break and then I personally had a lot more stuff going on before I then went on holiday which again dragged out the eventual posting of what went down in Round 4 at Thornhill but nonetheless were back and here is the lowdown.

Townfoot Farm in Thornhill was the venue to hold Round 4 of this year's scrambles championship, and as were now past the halfway stage in our current racing season only three rounds remain before the championship winners and losers are decided at the end of the year.

On arrival at the circuit on Sunday it was apparent that a lot of hard work had taken place prior to all the riders and spectators turning up and that is all down to the back breaking effort that Ian Ridley and his team had put in getting fences erected and laying out the track.

Ian and his team had been at Townfoot for more than a week getting things ready for us and often weren't leaving the field until it got dark and were all so grateful for Ian's arduous work and the many pieces of machinery he had trekked the many miles from his home to help with it's construction. Were certainly blessed to have such a man and his helpers as part of our organization and I for one say thanks to Ian and his team for their support at Thornhill each year.

Strolling around the paddock prior to racing it was nice to see some old familiar faces and some new ones as well although numbers were a still bit down in previous years but it's thought we had around 60 entries for this round which I suppose is not too bad when you consider were in the middle of holiday season and there were also other big classic and Twinshock events taking place elsewhere which riders could attend, but well done to everybody who came along to support our club.

The weather again was kind to us at Thornhill and I really can't remember when we had a wet meeting at this venue during the last few years although I'm not complaining and we hope our pleasant weather fortune continues in the months to come.

When it came to the action trackside it was the Pre 1968 Upto and Over 350cc bikes who lined up at the start-line for their first race of the day and in the Pre 68 Over 350's it was a good days work for Kenny Harper on the CZ who took the overall win in this class leaving Liston Bell and Peter Dobinson having to share the runner up spot points in second. Fergus Moodie managed to put his very quick BSA on the bottom step of the podium in third with another excellent performance from this very quick rider. Although Liston Bell was still very quick when he was alternating between his younger brother Lewis's CCM and Jawa bikes from race to race, this as you know was because Lewis injured his collarbone in a spill at Drumlanrig Castle some weeks ago and not only was he unable to race at Thornhill but will probably now not be able to defend his British Pre 68 Championship crown which he won in 2021. But nevertheless I'm sure Lewis will be back soon and running once more at the sharp end of the Pre 68 class.

In the Pre 1968 Under 350cc class there wasn't the greatest of turnouts for this particular formula at Thornhill but nonetheless the riders that did take part certainly deserved their moment of glory and it was Jim McQuillan on the BSA who took the top spot overall with Ian Ward on his ultra-reliable Villiers in second.

Naturally and as in previous rounds the Pre 1984 class still continue to provide top class entertainment each time they take to the track and this Round 4 event at Thornhill was no different. In the Pre 1984 Under 250's it was Clark Davidson on his Honda Red Rocket who was the man in form who just managed to stay ahead of Graham Smith's rapid IT Yamaha on the day but it was all pretty good stuff racing wise and there were some excellent scraps taking place from all of the 250 riders. Billy Porteous is another rider very worthy of a mention here as Billy was again quick on his YZ 250 Yamaha and led in the early stages of a couple of races, but Billy was well worthy of his third-place finish in this highly competitive group.

Gary Britton made the Pre 1977's class his very own which was mainly due to the fact he was the only rider in this formula on the day but he still put his laps in and turned up on the day which in itself is a bonus when other riders did not, so well done to Gary and thanks for your support of the Pre 1977's.

Now despite a slow start last year with our relatively new Pre 1989 125 class its great to see more and more riders enjoying racing their smaller 125 bikes in this formula and it has certainly grown in popularity since its introduction. As usual there was some fantastic racing on the track and some great bar bashing stuff from the top three of Craig Smith ,Mike McLurty and James Haddow. It was Mike McLurty who took a couple of holeshot's in races one and three and made a quick getaway although this time round he had to work very hard for his eventual overall position because young James Haddow was the rider who was going to take the top step on the podium managing two firsts and a second place on the day and what a performance from the Fife youngster on his CR125 Honda but Mike McLurty still secured a second place position on the day with Craig Smith on his 1981 RM125 in third. And if we get a similar performance from these very quick 125 riders when we go to round five at Lockerbie then we'll surely be in for a big treat.

Moving on to the Pre 1975 Upto 300cc class it was a well-deserved win for Daryl Wylie at this round who secured his first overall win of this year's championship riding his 250 fourstroke Honda as he had a good scrap with Colin Nelson on the Husqvarna 250 and Derek McAulay on the Bultaco. Derek didn't have the greatest of starts in race one and took a tumble into the first corner after hitting the rear wheel of the rider in front but he still remounted to cross the chequered flag. But when the points were calculated it would be a win for Daryl Wylie, Colin Nelson in second and Derek McAulay crossing the finish line in third overall.

In the Pre 1975 Over 300cc Liston Bell put himself on the scoresheet with three wins from three starts riding his younger brothers Alan Clews CCM. Stewart Roden was definitely the holeshot king on the day as he was first into turn one in each race moto and led much of the initial stages of all three races on the day before being eventually passed by the flying Liston Bell. But again it was all great stuff to watch and almost magical to hear those big fourstroke thumpers going past at speed and at the end of the day it was a win for Liston Bell with Stewart Roden in second and another good performance from Ian Stainton who managed to bring his CCM home in third place overall.

Possibly the best class for outright entertainment value with our SCMRC club are the guys in the Pre 1984 Over 250cc class because these guys just seem to get bigger and better at each round, and when you get some of the top Twinshock and Pre 1984 riders in Scotland all together in one place then your certainly in for a real treat. Paul Chiappa is still very quick on a 490 Maico considering the old guy 's heading for sixty-four on his next birthday and Paul did most of the early running in this class on the day it has to be said. Although he certainly met his match at Thornhill as Davie Loudon was again very quick on his 465 Yamaha and Davie was quick enough to secure all three wins despite maybe not getting the best of starts but when he got his old YZ up to speed it wasn't long before he hit the front. Nonetheless Paul Chiappa did well enough to secure that second-place position from John Stokes in third.

After the lunch break we had the usual age-related races as the second part of the day's race programme and to get things underway we started with the Pre 1977's Over 50's class which was subsequently won by Ian Stainton on the big CCM. Ian Ward again was quick enough to bring his BSA home to a second-place finish which would certainly all help Ian towards valuable championship points to add to his 2022 title challenge. In the Pre 77 Over 40's Ian Marr did very well again on his immaculately turned-out CZ as he secured the class win and it would be another good second place finish once more for Colin Nelson on his 250 Husqvarna.

Liston Bell didn't have much competition in the Pre 1977 Under 40's class as it was a one-horse race as he romped home to the win. Although mind you while he was out in front in race one he lost the rear end of the CCM coming into the downhill after the back stretch and spun off but as far as I'm aware he was still perfectly fine albeit his pride had taken a thump as he hit the deck.

Jim Alison put himself on the scoresheet with an outright win in the Pre 77 Over 60's formula and it was great to see Jim back again and winning at the sharp end of this class. Kenny Harper romped home to the runner up spot on his CZ for the second place while Stewart Roden finished in third on the John Banks CCM but again it was all great entertainment for the sun-soaked spectators.

The veterans in the Pre 77 over sixty-five's supplied some good quality racing even although these guys are maturing at an alarming rate (just like myself) but nonetheless they were all good value for money, and it was Peter Dobinson on that lovely Rickman Triumph twin who took the top spot on the day. Second and fresh from his excellent result in the Pre 68 Under 350's was Jim McQuillian on the BSA with another good performance to take the runner up spot from Brian Hamilton on the CZ in third.

In the Pre 1984's Over 60's it was a good win for visiting rider Maurice Wharton who brought his 490 Maico home to the top place finish on the day, Steve Mower also had a decent day despite some Maico troubles on occasions and he would secure that second-place finish from John Porteous on the pretty awesome looking Black C&J Honda 500 in third.

Although the biggest action on the track again was in the Pre 1984 Over 50's class and it was another bar bashing contest between Mr Chiappa, Mr Loudon, and Mr Stokes. (Mind you still can't understand why Paul Chiappa was racing in the Over 50's class when he should have been in the Over 60's) but nevertheless it was all still fantastic entertainment. The last race of the day in particular was superb with Paul Chiappa and Davie Loudon going at it hammer and tongs with Chiappa the race leader as they began the final lap. As they approached the chequered flag from the downhill section of the track they were certainly both going for it side by side for the final sprint the last few yards to the line. And from my point of view it wasn't easy to say which one of the two took the final race, but it was again fantastic entertainment from those two very committed riders. So it would finish overall with David Loudon first Paul Chiappa second and it would be John Stokes who would cross the line in third.

The Pre 1984 Over 40's class saw Clark Davidson once again put in another strong performance on his quick red rocket Honda to secure his second overall win of the day, and my old mate Jim Forrest also had a good day at this Round 4 event at Thornhill because he would bring his RM 465 Suzuki home to the runner up spot on the day.

Some of the other riders who were well worthy of a mention in the Pre 1984's were both of the Smith brothers on their equally quick 490 Maico's and despite Robert not managing to finish in the top three in the first part of the days races he made up for it by taking the overall win in the Pre 1984 Under 40's class. Mike Tweddle was the runner up in this class with Graeme Smith taking another decent result for a third-place position.

But I have to say despite the drop in numbers for our Round 4 Thornhill meeting it was still highly successful and a great day out with some good scraps on the track as well, and to top it all another brilliant day weatherwise.

As usual by the time you read this you'll hopefully have already watched yourself many times on the big screen by way of my Classic Dirt Bike TV Channel on You Tube and again thanks to everybody who commented on my work at Thornhill it's certainly a lot of effort and days on the computer to put this stuff together but quite rewarding I think when you see the finished article. But just as a wee heads up if your enjoying my video content you can now help CDBTV to evolve and keep this service running by making a small donation to its upkeep by clicking on the "Superthanks" button which is directly below the video player, and any contributions that you make will go directly to myself and enable me to keep posting content not only from S.C.M.R.C but other classic dirt bike events as well.

So our next race meeting will see us back once again to Cumstone Farm in Lockerbie on the 5th of August so please make sure that you get those entries in as soon as possible which you can do through the club's classicscrambles.com website, (and doing so it also makes it easier to identify riders when I come to produce the racing video's from each round).

Although before we get to Lockerbie I'm away on a trip over the Irish sea to cover a charity scramble event at Cecil Pearson's racetrack which is always well supported and more importantly all the proceeds from that event this year go to the Children's Cancer Charity which is fantastic.

So see you all at Lockerbie in August and don't forget to get those entries in asap because we want a good turnout at this event.

Chris Montignani (Monty)

