

# The Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing Club

## Round 1 Finavon Forfar

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Well it seems a very long time since we had our last race event of 2021 from a year that most of us would have been glad to put behind us because of the dreaded Covid which as you know put paid to a big chunk of classic racing in that year although we still managed to get a few race meetings in thankfully which was a bit of a consolation prize for all we went through.

But were back and hopefully this year we'll have a full and prosperous championship with a full schedule of seven races starting right here with this Round 1 event at Finavon in Forfar.

Its always a pleasure to return to this fantastic track each and every year and over the many years I've been attending this race meeting I don't think we've ever had a bad opening round and this Finavon track as it just seems to have the type of surface that no matter what the weather throws at it during the course of a year its always in prime condition when we turn up.

As usual the weather on the day was fantastic albeit a little nippy on the extremities but we could cope with that as most of the riders were buzzing just to get back racing once again as they wheeled out all of their rebuilt and blinged-up classic dirt bikes from their transporters.

Its always great to see the bikes again and to check out what everybody's being doing to their machines over the winter period and seeing them here at Finavon for their inaugural racing debut will probably be the best their going to look all season.

As we never managed an AGM meeting last year because of the restrictions basically many of the rules and regulations from the previous year as far as I am aware have been carried forward, and the race classes will be Pre 60's, Pre 68's, Pre 70's, Pre 75's, Pre 77's, Pre 1989 125's and of course the Twinshock or Pre 1984 class but check the <http://classicscrambles.com/machine-eligibility/> for all the rules if you have any queries regarding your particular class of bike.

With regards the formalities of signing on and the admin stuff on the day we were missing Linda Riddell who normally takes care of all the entries and other paperwork for the club although Linda had taken a bad turn just prior to our event and was not well enough to attend our first round, although as I here she is now on the mend and we hope to see her cheerful self back to normal when we go to round two at Lockerbie and so Creena Bell and her associates kindly stepped in to help out on the day to which we were very grateful.

After all of the signing on and the formalities of the paperwork was completed it was down to business as the first class took to the start line for our first race of 2022 and it was the combined Pre 1968's up to and over 350cc who had the honor to kick our new season off in style as they left the line in a deluge of mud roosters and cloud's of smoke.

There wasn't the biggest turnout of riders for this class but the ones that did take part put in a sterling performance for the small crowd of spectators that turned up on the day. In the up to 350cc class it was Andrew King on the Charlie Robertson AJS Stormer 250 who was the class of the field and while Andrew was also running alongside the bigger bikes of the over 350cc class his little 250 was still managing to hang with those bigger machines and he was riding the wheels off that little 250 to take the class overall win, but to say the least I was suitably impressed with the speed of that smaller AJS Stormer of Andrew's. Ian Ward finished in the runner up spot on his Villiers 250 which in the last few years has served Ian well in terms of its reliability although the usually unbreakable motor appeared to let Ian down in race three as he ended with a DNF and was left pushing the bike back to the paddock although he still managed to secure the runner up position on the day.

In the Pre 1968 Over 350cc class it was again top class entertainment from the battling Bell brothers who right from the word go began where they left off in 2021 by taking part in another scrappy bar bashing contest over the three legs. In race one it was Liston with the holeshot with our current newly crowned British Pre 1968 Champion Lewis in second spot who almost immediately hit the front with the following couple of laps seeing more exchanges by Lewis and Liston for the front runner track position. On the final lap it was advantage Liston as they headed for the final circuit of the superb Finavon track and in the last couple of turns it appeared that Lewis had the race in the bag but a fantastic move down the inside of the final turn put Liston in pole position but then went wide as they both crossed the finish line almost together, but it was a great racing spectacle and a fantastic start to our new racing season. So on the final score sheet at the end of the day it would finish Liston 1<sup>st</sup> overall with Lewis 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kenny harper on his CZ in third.

The pre 1975 up to 300cc is generally good value for money with the Scottish Classic Racing Club and again for Round 1 here at Forfar the class lived up to its name by producing some good quality racing over the course of the day. Daryl Wylie was the eventual winner on the day and to be fair Daryl did put in a fantastic performance on the fourstroke Honda but for me personally if there was ever a "man of the meeting" award handed out to the best rider on the day Derek MacAulay would have been that winner as he drove the wheels off his little 250 Bultaco all day and was even keeping up with and sometimes passing the bigger engine machines in the Over 300cc class and I was super impressed with his performance to say the least. But when all the sums were calculated after the three racing legs it would finish overall Daryl Wylie 1<sup>st</sup> , Derek McAulay 2<sup>nd</sup> , and Colin Nelson on the 250 Husqvarna in 3<sup>rd</sup> .

In the big bikes Over 300 Pre 1975 class more ding dong racing action from this very popular racing formula and as they left the line for race one it was Stewart Roden who grabbed the holeshot on that big fourstroke Alan Clews CCM hotly pursued by John Fleming and Archie Baird on those Norrie Pattie 3L CZ Twinshockers. Lewis Bell never had the best of starts in this race but he was on the move and making his way through the Pre 1975 pack at a good rate of knots. On lap two it was still Stewart Roden on the CCM the race leader but now Lewis Bell was on his back wheel with John Fleming in third spot, Lewis soon passed Stewart for the track position and it was left to John Fleming and Stewart Roden to then slug it out for the remaining runner up position as they began the final lap. So as they crossed the line at the chequered flag it was the win for Lewis Bell from John Fleming 2<sup>nd</sup> and Stewart Roden in 3<sup>rd</sup> and that would be their eventual finishing positions overall when the points were all calculated at the end of the day.

There weren't many machines entered to race in the Pre 77 Class unfortunately at this Round 1 meeting at Finavon with only Brian Hamilton and young John Fullarton making the effort and this is a class where we'd like to see more machines and riders taking part in this formula but at the end of the day it would finish with Brian Hamilton 1<sup>st</sup> and John Fullarton in 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Although on the flip side of that statement it was very refreshing to see a good turnout of Pre 1989 125's here at Forfar for the brand new season and with almost ten little two strokers lined up on the line which is a major boost from the two or three bikes that we've seen in the best so hopefully that upward trend continues in the future. Although another of the more outstanding riders at this round one event at Forfar in the Pre 1989 125 formula was Mike McLurty on his lightning fast CR125 Honda. The speed and agility of Mike on that small Honda is amazing and he completely dominated this class over the three legs and even when Mike was racing in the age related classes in the second part of the race programme he was running with and overtaking much bigger bikes which was a major achievement for him but I'll bet a major embarrassment for the larger bikes and riders he was passing. But certainly, overall it was a well-deserved Pre 1989 125 class win for Mike on the day with Mike Van Der Mer finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ewan Davidson in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In the Pre 1984 up to 250cc class it was Chris Kirkbride who took that title on his YZ Yamaha (or is that Suzuki I could never tell) but either way he was very quick on the day and fully deserved his top dog status for this smaller class. Big Andy Malloch again was another of the riders who put in a good show over the course of the day and Andy would secure the runner up position on his 250 Montesa Cappra and would also do well when he raced his bigger CZ in the age related classes after the lunch break so overall it was good day and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish for the steelman from Burrleton. David Ross was the final podium spot man at Forfar in this class and he would take 3<sup>rd</sup> for his massive efforts over the the three legs in this class.

In the big bike Pre 1984 class there was another good turnout for this Round 1 event with at least 18 Twinshock and Pre 1984 bikes lined up on the line but the star of the show on the day was John Stokes who was absolutely super quick on his CR480 Honda and John almost took a complete brace of wins on the day had he not taken a tumble in the final age related Pre 1984 race after the lunch break. But twice John had to come from behind to win his class as he was left at the line and with the leaders having almost a full half lap start he still managed to carve his way through to take the race wins. Peter Maxwell was also in top form on his 490 Maico and was very quick over the course of the day but his big Maico was no match for the Honda of John Stokes and surprisingly Peter never featured in the top three final race standings on the day as it would end up with John Stokes 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Van Der Mer in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Steve Mower in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

After a quick bite of lunch and a short break it was down to all of the age-related races for the second part of the day's race programme and in the Pre 77's Under 40's class Liston Bell took another brace of race wins from Andrew King in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lewis Bell in 3<sup>rd</sup>. But again it was great to see Andrew King on that little 250 AJS Charlie Robertson Stormer take on the bigger bikes of Lewis and Liston Bell and hang with them despite the obvious horsepower disadvantage that he had. In the Pre 1977's Over 40's it was Ian Marr on his lovely CZ Twinshshocker who took the overall class win from Colin Nelson in 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ian Stainton was the rider who secured the Pre 77's Over 50's with three race wins on his Joe Maxwell CCM "Stroka" and Ian again was quick on that Alan Clews foustroker over the course of the day and Ian Ward would also take a well-deserved runner up spot this time riding his BSA machine.

The Over 60's was another class that supplied some good racing on the day and John Fleming was the man to beat in this class as he took the three leg wins on his Norrie Pattie CZ bike. The flying Bultaco of Derek McAulay was on the podium once again in 2<sup>nd</sup> position with Jim Alison crossing the line to take third on his 1974 CCM fourstroke. The veterans of the Pre 1975 Over 65's was just a two-horse race... basically because there were only two horses in it (which is my kind of race) and this at the end of the day was won by Brian Hamilton on the foursroke Yamaha from Alan Reed in the runner up position.

In the Pre 1984 Over 50's class another good scrap was encountered by Andy Malloch, Kevin Smith and Raymond Thomson and John Stokes. After the riders left the line for the final race of the day it was John Stokes in pole position with the chasing pack close behind although John Then took a tumble on the downward step to the finish line and was left pushing his dead CR480 Honda back to the paddock. Although when all the sums were calculated and the answers finalized at the end of the day it was the overall win for Andy Malloch on the Montesa 1<sup>st</sup>, Kevin Smith on his 400 Maico 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Raymond Thomson on Archie Baird's CZ in third. Our final racing class of the day was the Pre 1984 Over 60's which would see a win for Steve Mower in 1<sup>st</sup>, John Porteous in 2<sup>nd</sup> on his 250 Husqvarna, and a conciliation prize of a 3rd place finish for John Stokes in third.

But as the Finavon "Stoor" settled on our opening round of the year it was another belter of a season opener for the new Scottish Classic racing season and this track at Finavon never ever ceases to amaze me as its always in prime condition everytime we visit no matter what the weather was like the week previous to the race. But its nice undulating natural terrain is the icing on this particular cake and is certainly the kind of venue that all classic and vintage scrambling should be aspiring to.

As your no doubt aware you'll have already seen yourself in action on the track from Finavon if you're a regular visitor to my You Tube Channel and it's a completely unique and free service that no other classic racing club in the country provides for their members where you can race your bike on the Sunday and then watch how fast you were going days later on TV, so I hope you appreciate how lucky you all are to have this bespoke media service.

So, its onwards and upwards onto Round 2 of our new season which will be at Cumstone Farm in Lockerbie on the 15th May which unfortunately for me I cannot attend as my young nephew is getting married and I've been "asked" . . or is that "told" to attend by my long-suffering spouse who's warned me of the consequences if I don't so you'll have to get buy without my ramblings until my return at Round 3 at Strathaven, and hopefully my Covid will have cleared up by then as a recent positive test has indicated I have the dreaded lurgy which eventually had to happen but hopefully will clear up sometime soon.

So that's all my ramblings from our opening Round at Forfar and be good until we meet up again at Round 3 Strathaven in June.

Chris Montignani (Monty)