

Scottish Classic

Motorcycle Racing Club Round 3

Cumstone Farm Lockerbie 8th August 2021

Hard to imagine it's now Round 3 already and at the beginning of the year we never even thought that we'd be able to have any kind of racing at all this year with all that was going on in the world. Although our Round 2 event at Thornhill in July was an absolute belter in the superb summer sunshine but unfortunately the rider numbers for Thornhill were slightly down on previous years.

But thankfully we're now into our scheduled Round 3 here at Cumstone Farm which of course is a change from our originally advertised Kirkness Fife Scramble but the most important thing is that we're still getting more racing and enjoying the company of like-minded classic dirt bike enthusiasts.

This new track at Lockerbie is a change from the one we raced at in previous years but yet another good track layout was provided by Kenny Harper and his band of little elves and it's thanks to people like Kenny and many others who give up their spare time to put these tracks together in order we can all just turn up and put our bikes on the track.

Now you know that lately we've enjoyed many weeks of fantastic warm weather and the recent rain over the last few days was certainly a welcome sight as the ground at this Lockerbie venue was still baked hard and it certainly helped soften the track considerably but more importantly it helped keep any dust down that may have been a problem during the racing.

Sunday morning on arrival at the track was pretty calm and overall dry although the weatherman said that we may have a chance of a shower later in the day, but then again hopefully not because as you all know they have been known to be wrong before so fingers crossed. . . .

After practise was all completed the first class to take to the new track were the Pre 1968's Under 350cc and it was a class win for young Andrew King riding his very quick AJS Stormer and Andrew appeared to enjoy the fast flowing layout of the new Lockerbie racetrack and although he was out horse-powered on the long straight at the bottom section of the track by the bigger engine machines he still made up ground on the tight twisty turns section to take the overall win. In the runner up spot was Andrew Johnson on his old DOT and the final place on the bottom step of the winner's podium went to Ian Ward on his ultra-reliable Villiers.

As usual it was a battle royal between the Bell brothers of Liston and Lewis to see who would be the eventual victor of the Pre 1968 Over 350 class and over the course of the day it was good entertainment watching the boys strut their stuff sliding and slipping their way around the sticky racetrack. Liston more than likely would have done better and had a better overall position in the final standings had he not had a DNF in race one when his bike gave up the ghost and came to an abrupt halt, which subsequently meant he had to then push it all the way back to the paddock, but he did very well in the remaining races and made up for his bad start to the day.

But Lewis was in fine form and hardly put a wheel out of place the entire day and he would emerge as the top man in the Pre 1968 Over 350's class with the overall win with older brother Liston in second and Brian Aird on his BSA in third.

The rider numbers in the Pre 1977 class were not the best at this round 3 meeting at Lockerbie but there was still enough to make a decent race of it and it was Barry Smith who put in a fine performance on his YZ Yamaha to take the silverware for his huge efforts on the day (even although I couldn't recall his name when I was editing the video footage from the event). Veteran racer Sam Sibbald was again quick over the three legs on his TT500 Yamaha fourstroker and he would take the runner up spot in this class.

Brian Hamilton despite not running at the front of the pack for most of the day still did well enough even although his rear mudguard was broken and rubbing on his rear wheel in race two he still brought his bike across the line to take that third spot riding his fourstroke Yamaha.

The brand new for 2021 Pre 1989 125 class had limited numbers at this round at Lockerbie and although this is still a new venture for the classic club for this year we continue to hope that the numbers improve as we head into the final two rounds of 2021, but of course the future of this class will be discussed at the annual AGM at the end of the season. But it was Mike McLurty who was your race winner at Lockerbie and Mike has been doing exceptionally well since Round 1 at Strathaven and I think he's won every race in this class since then so well done to him for notching up another three wins and the overall on the day. In second position in this class it was Mike Van Der Mer on his CR125 Honda with another good solid performance who finished just ahead of Mark Reynolds on his nice looking RM 125 Suzuki.

The guys in the Pre 1975 Upto 300cc class appeared to enjoy the slightly wet sticky surface of the new Cumstone racetrack and Daryl Wylie fully deserved the overall win for his commitment on the day and Daryl put in one of his best performances of the season at this Round 3 event to be named top dog riding his fourstroke 250 Honda. In the runner up spot it was Colin Nelson on the Husqvarna in second with Alan Reed on his Bultaco in third.

The big boys in the Pre 1975 Over 300c class provided some of the best racing of the day and it was certainly a bar bashing contest for the front runner positions over the course of the three legs. Lewis Bell was again the star man and when he got his fourbanger CCM hooked up into the Lockerbie dirt he was almost unstoppable and led almost every race by a rather tidy margin from the rest of the chasing pack. Lewis to be fair never got the best of starts off the line over the three races but once the old Clews 500 hit its sweet spot it was an easy run for him to the chequered flag.

Ian Stainton once again put in another great performance on the Clews Stroka in this Pre 1975 Over 300cc class and he would take second place overall while Archie Baird on the Norrie Pattie 3L CZ bike secured his place on the podium in third.

In the Pre 1984 Over 250's class there was some great racing from Kenny Hope, John Stokes and Mark Kenny over the course of the three legs and the wide open layout of the new Lockerbie track appeared to suit the big open class bikes with their big 500 motors. There was some good racing served up by the top riders in this class but the overall win went to Kenny Hope who secured three wins from three starts and he was lightning quick on Glen Wilson's borrowed CR480 Honda. Second place overall went to Mark Kenny on his C&J 500 Honda four stroker who to be fair led most of race three but was eventually overhauled by Kenny Hope for the final win, but Mark was still very quick on the day and that big 500 C&J Honda certainly sounds the dogs bollocks when it blasts past at top speed. I was hoping to see more of John Crawford running at the front in this class on his 500 Honda Twinshocker although I think John had a bit of an indifferent day between bad starts and other off track excursions but when he was running he was going well and you could see that he definitely had the speed to take on the front pairing of Mark Kenny and Kenny Hope but a third place finish overall was about the best he could hope for on a bad day.

In the Pre 1984 250 class it was David Ross on his immaculate 250 Honda Red Rocket who would go on to secure the win for his efforts on the day while Perthshire man Andy Malloch brought his 250 Montesa home to a runner up spot and that was despite having a gearbox problem that he discovered after the finish of race three. Neil Litterick who was also riding an old Red Rocket Honda still managed to put his particular bike on the last and final step of the winner podium in third.

So half way through the race programme and everything was going along just dandy and with the first three blocks of racing now completed under almost perfect racing conditions it was back to the paddock for a well-earned comfort break. Although unfortunately right on cue and as forecast the monsoon rains that were predicted for the Lockerbie area for Sunday decided there wasn't already enough water on the track and the sky opened up and dropped almost the entire contents of the Atlantic ocean onto the track in about 10 minutes.

And so as the heavy rain continued to fall the paddock began to tuck into their sandwiches and coffee and it didn't look much like the heavy downpour was going to stop anytime soon so after a short discussion among the club's officials and with the rain still falling relentlessly it was decided to postpone the second half of the days programme and call it a day. If we were to continue it would have been very difficult for the riders and of course the marshals to get around the track but more importantly we didn't want any unnecessary injuries to either riders or officials because of the now very bad weather conditions.

Summing up it was still another cracking race weekend with some good scraps in all the racing formulas despite only half the programme being completed but thanks again to all who made it happen with Linda Riddell and her associates doing the signing on and the lap scoring and of course to all the volunteer marshalls that helped out on the day because we know that without your help and participation the riders couldn't even put their bikes on the start line.

Ok so our next scheduled event will of course be another return here back to Cumstone Farm Lockerbie on the 5th of September for our round 4 race event so there's no excuse next time for not being able to find the track or know your way around and hopefully next time we'll be a bit a luckier with the weather.

As usual by the time you read this you will *hopefully* have watched yourself perform on the racetrack courtesy of my Classic Dirt Bike TV Channel on You Tube which is increasing in subscribers almost daily at the moment and with over 12,200 subscribers worldwide it appears that classic dirt bikes and classic racing in general is alive and kicking on the internet. So I would appreciate it if you would sign up and subscribe and also if I could ask you to occasionally click on the ad before the video's (naturally you don't have to buy anything) but that it is the one and only way I receive any payment for the long hours filming and sitting behind the computer making these video's and every time you click on an ad I receive about 0.4p so it's not a great deal of money as you can imagine.

Anyhow everybody stay safe and well until we all meet up again back here at Lockerbie on the 5th August.

Chris (Monty)