

Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing Club

Round 3 North Carnduff Farm

Report by Chris Montignani

After a hugely successful opening round at Finavon in Forfar in March the SCMRC had by all accounts another cracking Round 2 event at Lockerbie on the 21st April. Although fortunately for you I could not attend this event due to another commitment but the word on the street is that it was another cracker and had another decent turnout of riders and spectators on the day.

Unfortunately then our Round 3 meeting which was due to be held at Drumclog on the 12th May was then regrettably cancelled because the land our track had been scheduled to run on had been sold to some environmental department in order they could plant trees on it.

So for me personally I have been away from the classic dirt bike scene for a few months now and I was mighty glad that it was all systems go for Round 4 of the 2019 Scottish Championship's at the superb grass park at North Carnduff Farm in Strathaven. This is only our second visit to this fast flowing natural racetrack and last year this proved to be one of the most popular events among the lucky riders who took part in the 2018 round.

The weather during the week prior to this event was pretty horrendous to say the least and there was a substantial amount of the wet stuff covering the entire UK during the week leading up to this round. I personally was beginning to sweat as the meeting drew closer wondering whether the event would go ahead at all such was the amount of rain that fallen. Nevertheless when I arrived early Sunday morning the track layout looked superb thanks to David Loudon and his crew for sourcing and preparing another fantastic Strathaven event. The weather was not the best early Sunday morning and there was still a howling gale and driving rain covering the track, and it looked like our Scottish summer was still a million miles away from getting started into full on "tap's aff" condition's.

But of course those hardy Scottish Classic racers were never going to let a little thing like howling winds and driving rain dampen their day whereby they all

then formed an orderly que at the admin station and hastily signed up to start racing.

In the Pre 1968 Under 350cc class it was another episode of the Andrew King Show as he took three race wins from three starts on that very quick little Charlie Robertson AJS Stormer. Andrew was riding superbly in the sticky wet conditions at Carnduff and hardly put a wheel out of place throughout the day. Robert Kennedy was equally quick on a similar machine riding his very light and nimble Cotton Starmaker although he could not make up enough ground on the flying machine of King to try and make any kind of pass for an overall class win. Clifford Hardistay once again was 100% consistent on his BSA over the course of the three legs and he would take the third place overall in this class.

Stewart Riddell was in fine form on his twin-port 360 CZ and he took the overall win in the Pre 68 Over 350cc class. I often wondered how at some of the softer parts of the racetrack how Stewart's machine with those low slung exhaust pipes never help get the bike bogged down in these very wet conditions, although it never seemed to be a problem for Stewart on the day. Fergus Moodie was riding well but suffered a DNF due to a mechanical issue with his BSA in race two, although he made up for his misgivings later in the day with a couple of good results and eventually took the runner up spot in this class. Third place in this class went to Peter Dobinson on his lovely sounding Rickman Triumph. Peter had some good scraps throughout the day with his fellow riders but he without doubt fully deserved his rightful place on the podium come the final whistle.

There was an incident during the second Pre 1968 class race whereby a couple of riders got tangled up in the boggy section at the bottom of the course which subsequently then sent a rider through the ropes where he unfortunately collided with Davie Hillis one of our race marshals. Things did not look good initially although Davie soon came round and after he was checked out by our excellent medical staff he was asked to visit hospital for a more detailed inspection of any injuries he may have sustained. Despite a couple of bruised ribs, some ligament damage and a cut on his leg Davie said he was fine, although he thinks it may be safer to race his bike in future than stand trackside watching the action.

After a long delay while the medics checked out our injured club member it was decided then to have an early lunchbreak whereby the weather then took a turn for the worst with yet more driving rain and hurricane style winds. So a riders meeting was then called and a show of hands was asked for to determine if we should continue with the race programme or cancel the remainder of the meeting due to the conditions. It was a resounding vote by a majority of the racers to carry on and so it was down to business once more as the hardy racers headed back to the paddock to fire up their machines.

In the Pre 1975 Under 300cc class Derek McAulay was riding the best I have ever seen him in quite some time. Derek in the past has had his share of DNF's and unreliability problems with the little 250 Bultaco but here at this Round 4 event everything seemed to click for Derek and he put in one of the best performances in the wild and windy conditions at Strathaven to take the overall win. Daryl Wylie once again was quick on his 250 Honda and finished in a well-deserved runner up position in this class as he managed to keep his bike between the tapes when others were slipping and sliding across the track trying to keep control. Alan Reid filled the final place on the podium in third position overall riding his Spanish 250 Bultaco.

The big boys in the Pre 1975 Over 300cc class laid on some good entertainment for the rain and wind battered spectators and it was Stewart Roden who took maximum points at this Round 4 event riding his 1974 CCM. It was a difficult day for everyone involved with the racing although Stewart appeared to have no difficulty whatsoever coping with the tricky conditions riding his Alan Clews fourstroke machine. Ian Robertson once again was very quick on his little 360 YZ Yamaha and was always placed in the top two of each moto. Ian's bike of course was the machine he built for the 2018 racing season which he then made some improvements to during the closed racing season into 2019 and that little machine is now paying him back handsomely with a consistent return of great results. Relative newcomer to racing with the S.C.M.C.R.C was Ian Marr who took the third place in this class with a decent performance on his 360 CZ .

The Pre 77 class to be fair never had a good turnout of racers and the club would like to see that statistic improve as the months progress although it was still worth it to see the bikes that did make the event put on a display. Sam

Sibbald was the star of this particular show and he was lightening quick on his TT500 Fourstroke Yamaha. Sibbald of course is a highly experienced racer who I personally used to watch back in the day when he raced BSA Bantam's in the schoolboy's class. Although he most certainly put on a great spectacle for the spectators and took three wins from three starts in this class. Lee Johnston was also quick on his KX250 Kawasaki and he would take pride of position on the second step of the Pre 77 class podium.

Initially it was all looking good for another racing scrap in the Pre 1984 class as Jim Grieve and David Loudon were all set to carry on where they left off at Round 1 at Forfar. Although unfortunately Jim has had some bad luck with mechanical problems on his bikes recently and the 500 Honda he intended to race at this event suffered that very same fate during the practise session leaving Jim without a ride for this event. Nevertheless David still had to ride well to secure the overall win and gain more championship points for his 2019 campaign.

Never getting the best of starts in each moto Loudon had to come from behind to win each and every leg of this class as it was still not an easy task for him when you have the likes of Andy Malloch in front of you. Malloch was superb on that 1983 500 Armstrong and that big fourbanger motor was ideally suited to these wet and slippery conditions at Carnduff. Malloch certainly had the power although suffered from outright top speed on the finish straight as Loudon shot past on his much faster 490 Yamaha. Mike VanDerMer was always keeping a watching brief as Loudon and Malloch slugged it out up front, although a third place finish for Vandy was still a decent result for him considering the company he was racing with.

When it came to the age related races after the lunch break it was another win overall for Stewart Riddell in the Pre 75 Over 65 class on that very quick and reliable twin port CZ. Kenny Harper appears to be liking the change from his Spanish Bultaco's to his brand new CZ bike and he would take a well-deserved runner up spot for his hard work on the day. Peter Dobinson took more valuable championship points south with him as he stood on the third step of the podium after another epic performance on his Rickman Triumph.

The relative young gun's in the Pre 1975 Over 50's was another virtuoso execution by Derek McAulay on the little 250 Bultaco. Derek never put a wheel wrong at this round four event and fully deserved the overall win and the applause from the spectators as he crossed the finish line for his last race of the day. Ian Marr once again was excellent in this class on his 360 CZ and a runner up spot was decent consolation for the hard work he put in over the course of the three races. Robert Kennedy had what can only be described as an excellent day on his little Cotton Starmaker and as Robert could not use his preferred CCM in this class due to earlier mechanical issues the little AJS derived machine came to his rescue once again and put him into third spot in the class.

In the more mature Pre 1984 Over 60's class it was Archie Baird who romped home to take the win in all three legs, although as he was not listed in the final results I am assuming that he does not score points due to not being a registered club rider with the S.C.M.R.C but nevertheless it was a great performance and well worth a mention for Archie's efforts. The official win in this class would go to Michael Foster with John Porteous in second on his borrowed 440 Maico. John informs me he is currently having an H.P.F 500 Honda specially built to race with us here at S.C.R.M.C so we look forward to seeing John's new machine take part at a future round of our 2019 championship.

The Pre 1984 Over 50's supplied some of the best racing of the day when these very quick two wheeled gladiators took to the track and Sam Sibbald once again was quick from the gate in almost all three legs. In race one it was Sibbald who got the holeshot and powered into an early lead with the remainder of the pack giving chase. Sibbald began to open up a decent lead on second place man David Loudon but although Sibbald was redlining the TT500 Yamaha to the max Loudon was beginning to close on each and every lap. Power was not a factor for Sibbald although Loudon's YZ 490 Yamaha seemed to have the legs on the straight away and it wasn't too long before he soon made the pass to take another win. At close of play it would finish Loudon 1st Sibbald 2nd and Mike VanDerMer in 3rd.

Summing up it was yet another cracker of an event from the S.C.M.R.C under what can only be described as "not ideal" conditions. Of course you don't need

me to tell you that by now you will already have been watching yourself in action at this Round 4 meeting courtesy of my You Tube Channel which of course is just one of the unique services I supply free of charge to our wonderful organisation. Let's face it how many off-road organisations do you know that let you race your classic dirt bikes at a race event on a Sunday and then less than 24hrs later you can re-live that entire day through the joy of the internet . . . not many I can wager.

So anyhow Round 4 done and dusted and its forever onward as we head to that superb track at Townfoot Farm in Thornhill for Round 5 of our championship on the 7th of July. But before that I am heading over the Irish sea for a two day classic charity scramble event in Bangor Northern Ireland where I am being given the five star Hollywood treatment staying at Cecil Pearson's manor in Ballysallagh Road. It would be great to see more of our Scottish guys making the trip to this very worthwhile event as the two day scramble raised over £29,000 last year for Cancer Focus and the club hope to surpass that figure in 2019. If you think you may be interested in this event keep an eye out on their NI Classic Scramble Facebook page for details of forthcoming events as these guys are so accommodating to us Scottish riders when they know we are coming over to visit.

So hopefully the weather will improve as we head to our next round 5 event at Thornhill, so whatever you do in between now and then do it safely and I'll see you soon.

Chris Montignani (Monty)