

Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing Club

Round 5 Cumstone Farm Lockerbie

5th August 2022

And so the SCMRC continued their 2022 scrambles season by holding their round five race event at the fantastic Cumstone Farm in Lockerbie which was a change of venue to the scheduled track that was initially placed on their calendar at the start of the year. Our round four at Thornhill was a great event with some great racing from all of the classes and we were all hoping for more of the same when we arrived at the Cumstone Farm track.

The weather this summer has just been unbelievable with temperatures into the high thirty's and beyond and at this round five meeting we were once more blessed with some decent summer conditions and the track at Cumstone was possibly as dry as I've ever seen it in recent years. But for me personally I've never known a year as busy because as I type up this report I've already got loads of other bike related stuff piling up from the last event I attended in Northern Ireland a few weeks ago.

And actually while I'm on the subject . . . the Northern Ireland Classic Scrambles Club would love to see some of our Scottish club members make the trip to their part of the world in 2023 because their club members do make the effort to come over to the mainland to race in the UK and occasionally in Scotland and it would be great to see our guy's supporting their club in return. Plus of course the Northern Ireland Classic Club is scheduled to hold the 2023 Classic Motocross Des Nations event at Cecil Pearson's racetrack in September so if that event is confirmed I hope some of our club riders will make the effort to attend to represent their country. But as I said that CMXDN event for 2023 is not as yet confirmed for Northern Ireland although by the end of September this year we should have confirmation of that date.

Ok so back to the plot . . . now thankfully there was a recent improvement in the rider numbers at this Round 5 event now that the peak summer holiday season has just about past but that's not to say that the previous rounds entries have been bad it's just that with the fantastic summer weather were currently experiencing I think riders were making the most of a good thing while they had it.

Now unfortunately I never hung around at this Round 5 meeting for the full day as I had to leave in a hurry not long after the first couple of races due to other circumstances, but hopefully you'll still get the jist of what went down at Cumstone Farm from the eventual race results I received later on so basically this report is put together from the info I was given sometime after.

So as the first race lined up at the line it was the turn of the combined Pre68 Upto and Over 300cc class to kick things off at Cumstone and in the Pre 68 Under 350's it was a good overall win for Ian Ward on the 250 Villiers who took three good race wins from Andrew Johnson on the old DOT in second. I think Andrew's still the only person I know that still uses an ancient Mini Metro to tow his race bike around and the combined age of the 1960's bike, the 1960's trailer, and the 1980's car amount to well over 100 years old, so all three are classics for sure. Anyhow crossing the line in third overall in this class was Robert Kennedy on his Cotton Starmaker 250.

In the Pre 68 Over 350cc class it was pretty much another day at the office for Liston Bell who took three race wins to secure the overall result on the day, of course had it not been for his brother Lewis Bell's current injury status he would have had a bit more competition to deal with at this round 5 event but nevertheless Liston fully deserved the win for his efforts. In a good second place runner up spot it was Kenny Harper on his twinshock CZ from Peter Dobinson in third on his Rickman Triumph.

The Pre 77 class had a better attendance at Cumstone so it was good to see a few more Pre77 bikes taking part in this formula and it was good to see Sam Sibbald back racing with us and Sam again was super quick on that TT500 Yamaha fourstroker and pretty much dominated this class on the day and was well worthy of the overall win. Brian Atkinson who is a relative newcomer to our Scottish Classic events did very well riding his 250 Honda Elsinore bike and he would go on to secure a second-place finish in the class.

Also in the Pre 77's Billy Pentland put in another good performance on the late Ian Robertson's old Can Am and he managed to take the bottom step of the winner's podium in third so well done to Billy for his excellent days work and for keeping Ian's memory alive and well.

In the Pre1989 125 class it was no surprise to me at all to see Mike McLurty's name at the top of the results sheet for this class as Mike's been riding superbly all season and appears to have added another overall win to his championship tally here at Round 5. Now what went down race for race I don't know because as I said I had to leave prematurely and quite early during the race proceedings although I'll wager that there was still another good scrap between Mike McLurty and James Haddow for the overall win because those two have supplied some good entertainment this year so let's hope it all continues for the remaining two rounds. But James Haddow still took the runner up spot in second from John Miller in third.

Again there were some decent scraps going on with the riders in the Pre 1975 Upto 300cc class (or the 250 class as its often known) and the top dog on the day was Gary Cowan on his 250 Bultaco Pursang who as far as I'm informed took three race wins on the day. Daryl Wylie continues to go about his business in a very quick manner in this class and Daryl again secured a good second place finish overall on his fourstroke Honda. Colin Nelson continues to impress as he again was also quick on the Stewart Riddel CZ bike and he crossed the line after the final race in a decent third place position. In the bigger bike class of the Pre 1975 Over 300cc Stewart Roden was the eventual victor on the day although as I said I was not privy to what went on in this class on the day, but I expect that Stewart rode the wheels of that big CCM bike again to secure the overall win. Iain Stainton is a very good supporter of the Scottish Classic Club and does put in a huge number of miles each year to take part in our events and his journey to Lockerbie for this round five rewarded him with a second-place finish overall in this class. Jim Alison also was on the eventual scoresheet at the final whistle, and I know that Jim will have done well in my absence riding his 1974 CCM so well done to him for taking that third-place finish.

So as we get to the Pre 1984 250 class apparently it was another good turnout of riders for this class, and it was Peter Carr on his 250 Honda Red Rocket who led the pack a merry dance around the Cumstone racetrack to finish top dog on the day. In the runner up spot it was nice to see Chris Canon back riding with us once again and apparently Chris is still very quick on his old RM Suzuki and showed his speed by his second-place finish overall. And in third position another good result for Chris Kirkbride on the old Suzuki to bring it home and stand on the final step of the winner's podium.

In the big bike Pre 1984 Over 250's class its said there was a mega turnout of entries for this formula at Lockerbie and it was Johnathan Bethell who took the overall win on the day, now I'm not sure what Johnathan was riding on the day or how he performed on the track but it's obvious he's got some of his late dad's old race gene's that's helped him secure the win. Mark Kenny was back racing again with the classic club and he was also super quick on the day, and he would bring his big Honda Two Stroker home to a fine second place finish. And again it was no surprise to see Gordon Morrison's name on the Pre 1984 scoresheets as I've watched Gordon a few times racing with the Twinshock Club and he's a damn quick rider, so it was great to see Gordon's name in that third-place position for this class at the end of the day.

Also a quick mention here to Pre 1984 rider Davie Loudon who took a big tumble during practice and banged his head on the ground when his YZ465 Yamaha spat him off. But after a bit of treatment from our excellent medical staff Davie was up and about again and later went to hospital for a check over and as far as I'm aware he's all fine albeit a bit battered and bruised but hopes to be fighting fit again when we head to Round 6 at Penrith.

So as your no doubt aware the second half of the day's proceedings was unfortunately brought to a premature end after a pile up in the Pre1984 class when a few of the riders had a coming together and Jim Colligan was the rider who came off the worst for the melee. I contacted Jim at home for the story and after he was given the once over and an M.I.R scan at hospital he transpires he's suffered a bit of concussion and naturally is also quite sore from his ordeal but he's already on the way to a full recovery so hopefully we'll see Jim back racing with us again very soon.

But once again Cumstone Farm brought us some great racing from all the associated classes and the wide-open expanses of its landscape seem to suit the old classic bikes as well as the relatively modern ones of the Pre 1984's. But from the feedback and secondhand news I've been receiving from riders who took part in this round five meeting at Lockerbie up until the second half of the race day was cancelled it was by all accounts a decent day's racing albeit somewhat shorter than usual.

And so another fantastic Scottish Classic round comes to an end at Lockerbie and it's hard to imagine that we've just two rounds remaining before the end of our 2022 campaign and the close of another season. But next up its back to the superb landscapes of Scratchmere Farm in Penrith on the 4th of September for our penultimate round of this year's championship and this is certainly a track I enjoy with its undulating terrain and fast flowing layout, although this time round the race won't take place in the same field as last time but should be the one next to it and as far as I know it will be a nice relatively flat and fast flowing stubble field so make sure you get those entries in asap and let's try and make this round a bumper turnout for all concerned.

So all the best until next time and I'll see you at Penrith on the 4th of September.

Chris Montignani (Monty)