

Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing Club

Round 1 North Carnduff Farm Strathaven 6th June 2021

Well hello to you all and a very warm welcome back to what is hopefully some kind of normality after what it has to be said has been a pretty horrendous 18 months for us all captivated in virtual classic motocross hibernation. It's hard to think we had our last race event at Whitekirk way back in October of 2019 and it feels like that was so long ago now and a very distant memory.

I hope you all managed to keep your sanity and stayed safe during the dreaded Pandemic but it looks like things are now beginning to open up as most of the population have now had their two vaccines which hopefully will enable us all to live as near as possible to a normal existence.

Now it's hoped that The Scottish Classic Motorcycle Racing Club will be able to run at least five rounds this year which will be starting with this event here at Strathaven on the 6th June, Thornhill on the 4th July, Fife Scramble on the 8th of August, Lockerbie on the 5th of September and finally Whitekirk on October the 3rd so fingers crossed that they all go ahead, but of course all the details and entry forms and other info for these events are available on our classicscrambles.com website.

Now our Round 1 event at Strathaven last weekend was as expected a belter and was reasonably well attended because many riders had been unable to use or practise on their bikes for the last year and a half and we were all just chomping at the bit to get some track time in so the entry list for this first meeting of 2021 was reasonably healthy.

David Loudon and the rest of the Scottish Classic crew had laid out another fantastic track for our inaugural round and with the weather also playing its part on the day all the ingredients appeared to be in place for what was looking like a good day's racing.

It appears that everyone who attended the event on Sunday cooperated with the current Covid rules and restrictions laid down by the Scottish government and the SACU guidelines with every person's temperature being taken on arrival and the appropriate sanitation stations littering the paddock. We all know that these restrictions are a little inconvenient but it's a very small price to pay to get us all back racing once again so please bear with us until the rules change and if that small inconvenience is all it takes to keep our race events going then I can cope with that.

Now I must admit it was great to see some familiar faces once again and walking around the paddock brought back memories of happier times when we all seemed to take what we had for granted when we used to attend these kind of classic scrambles like it was just part of everyday life, but its things like the Pandemic that let you know just how fragile we all are as humans.

Again and as I expected many of the bikes that were wheeled out of their transports were gleaming in the June sunshine as of course most owners had nothing better to do over the long lockdown than either maintain their race bikes or give them a full makeover to keep them occupied. Although I have to take a minute here to mention Dougie Harrow as he bought his brand new JBR 500 Honda in 2019 just before the dreaded lockdown started and was unable to test or use the bike during that time because of Covid and this event at Strathaven was to be Dougie's baptism of his brand new machine although when he took to the track for practise the front forks bottomed out and stayed stuck in that position permanently and poor Dougie was then left as a spectator for the remainder of the day but hopefully he'll have it all sorted by the time we head to our second round at Thornhill on the 4th of July.

Anyhow back to what went down on the day . . . now because we've had a good spell of summer weather the weeks prior to this event the track was in great condition albeit hard as nails underfoot and although it wasn't long

before the Strathaven "stoor" started to fly . . . but the upside was that no rain was forecast so "yippee".

The two brand new classes for 2021 were the Pre 1989 Evo 125's and also a new 250cc class for the Pre 1984's and although at this first round the numbers were adequate but hopefully as the months go by we'll see an increase in the amount of bikes for these classes so if you've got an old Pre 1989 125 screamer sitting under a cover in your garage or workshop then dust it down and put it back on the track.

The first race of the day to leave the line were the combined Pre 1968 classes and in the Pre 68 Under 350cc class it was another good day for Andrew King on the AJS Stormer who took the win from Robert Kennedy on the 1965 Cotton Starmaker in second and Ian Ward also put in another good display to take his Villiers to a third place finish. In the Over 350cc class it was Fergus Moodie who continued where he left off at the end of the 2019 racing season by securing

the overall win in this round one event with Liston Bell and his dad Mike taking the second and third placing's respectively.

Despite a small field of Pre 1977 bikes there was still enough to make a race of it and Sam Sibbald was very quick on his four stroke TT500 Yamaha and he was running at the front of the pack all day and fully deserved his win from Peter Maxwell's old Maico in second and Brian Hamilton in third.

In the bike Pre 1984 class another good entry of riders once again for this class with 26 riders lined up to take part on the start line which is a quite healthy number for these old Twinshock and early monoshock bikes. But it was the old campaigner himself Paul Chiappa who showed the rest of the pack a clean pair of heels with a complete sweep of wins on his 490 Maico. It's quite hard to comprehend that this guy is now 62 years old but he was riding that old Maico like a teenager on his first ever motorbike.

Although the Dunfermline Motorcycles owner never had things his own way by a long chalk as Mark Kenny on that big C&J 600 Honda hounded him over the course of the entire day and Mark was even looking good for the win in race two when Chiappa past him on the last half lap to steal victory, but what a good scrap it was between these two riders and the vocal contrast between the big two stroke Maico and the twin rear pipes of Marks Four stroke Honda was a delight to hear. But at the final whistle it would finish Chiappa first, Mark Kenny in second and Davie Loudon in third.

Davie Loudon was also quick on the day and was always in or around the front pairing of Chiappa and Kenny waiting for his chance to make his play and in the final Pre 1984 class race of the day David was looking good as he chased Chiappa to the finish line but then lost his drive chain on his bike on the very last corner which led to a DNF, although a third place finish overall was still a good days work for his very quick YZ490 Yamaha.

In our brand new Pre 1989 125 class it was complete hatrick of wins for Mike McLarty on his little Evo 125CR Honda, Mike was very quick on the day and he took three holeshot's from the start gate in each race but I must say it was great to hear those little screamers buzzing around the Carnduff Farm racetrack although they were working extremely hard on the fast flowing course, and I'm sure we even had one of the bikes seize up before the end of the day but it wasn't surprising in the blistering Carnduff heat and that very fast flowing track. Willie Penrice or "Willie Pee" as he's known to his friends secured the runner up spot on his CR125 Honda and he had a good scrap over the course of the three legs with both McLarty and Craig Smith who finished in third on his 1981 RM125 Suzuki.

In the Pre 1975 Upto 300cc class for me personally the star man of the day was Derek McAulay who was riding superbly on his little Bultaco Pursang 250 and Derek was absolutely flying around the Strathaven track and he was certainly not being left behind by the bigger bikes of Lewis Bell and Stewart Roden's CCM's who naturally were racing in a different Pre 75 class but at one time Derek was even lining up to make a pass on Stewart Roden's big fourstroke. But at the end of the day it still would finish with a complete sweep of wins for Arbroath man Derek McAulay and quite deservedly so as he was lightning quick all day and was virtually unchallenged when he eventually hit the front of the pack. Colin Nelson would take the runner up spot on the 250 Husqvarna just ahead of a joint third place finish for both Alan Reed and Daryl Wylie's 250 Honda.

In the bigger Pre 75 Over 300cc class Lewis Bell dominated proceedings on his big CCM and although Lewis sometimes never got the best of starts over the three legs once he hit the front he left the pack well behind as he sped off into the distance. In second spot Ian Stainton was very quick on his Joe Maxwell built Clews Stroka but just couldn't match the pace of young Lewis's CCM but it was still a decent days work for Ian Stainton and his new machine. Stewart Roden did well also to take the final podium position and as per many of the other riders was maybe a slightly bit rusty for track time due to the lockdown but it was still a good result for his first time back on the track. In race one Mark Watson took a tumble from his CZ bike when he collided into the rear of Ian Stainton's Stroka as the bikes left the start line and the race was stopped as Mark received medical attention although he was soon on his feet again and still lined up for the remainder of the races in his class.

In the age related races after the lunch break it was Ian Stainton who secured the win in the Pre 77 Over 50's class with another good run on the Clews Stroka while Andy Malloch secured the runner up spot on his 360 CZ bike leaving Ian Ward to pick up the remaining podium position in third. Brian Aird to his first overall victory of 2021 with a win in the Pre 77's Over 40's category on his BSA Victor and it was Ian Marr in second with Colin Nelson again taking the third place position.

The young guns in the Pre 1977 Under 40's class it was another win for Lewis Bell with his older sibling Liston taking second and there were some good scraps over the course of the day between these two battling brothers leaving Andrew King to pick up the last podium spot on the Charlie Robertson AJS Stormer in third. Another fantastic display by Sam Sibbald again took him to overall victory in the Pre 1977 Over 60's class and again Sam was just unstoppable on that big four stroke Yamaha, Derek McAulay was on the leader board once again with a runner up spot on the 250 Bultaco Pursang leaving Archie Baird on the 3L Norrie Pattie CZ to claim third.

The veteran's in the Pre 77 Over 65'S Class put in a fine display over the course of the three races and Peter Dobinson was the eventual winner here with top marks on his Cotton Triumph twin or it could have been a BSA as I saw Peter riding one later in the day, but Brian Hamilton took the second place position with Alan Reed in third.

In the age related Pre 1989 125 class it was more or less a photo finish of the earlier days races with Mike McLarty again taking the overall win on his very quick CR125 Honda and again William Penrice secured second while Craig Smith would cross the line in third on the 125 Suzuki.

During the day the Pre 1984'S supplied some good entertainment and it was a treat to watch these older Twinshockers race round the Carnduff track but again it was Paul Chiappa who took another clean sweep of race wins in the Over 60's class from Steve Mower second and John Porteous on that nice Curtis Honda in third. Billy Pentland would take the win in the Under 50's class and in the Over 50's it was a well-deserved victory for Mark Kenny on that big C&J 600 Honda four stroke who put in some fine racing over the course of the day and challenged Chiappa on numerous occasions and so Mark was well worthy of a decent result for his brave efforts at this Round 1 event.

So summing up you couldn't ask for a more perfect days racing with everything running like clockwork, the weather was fantastic, the track was superb, the racing was first class and it was all done and dusted for just after 3 o'clock so what's not to like and as usual you can see all of the bikes and every single race from this Round 1 event by checking out my Classic Dirt Bike TV Channel on You Tube but a better way is to subscribe to my channel while you watch a video and that way every time I upload a new video you'll be notified immediately and won't miss a single race from our Scottish Classic events. Although let's hope that this particular racing recipe continues when we all head to Thornhill on the 4th of July for Round 2.

Chris Montignani (Monty)