

# Scottish Classic Scramble Club

## Round 1 Finavon Hill Forfar

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

Report by

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After the long winter layoff it was back to racing business for the Scottish Classic Scramble Club as they headed off to Finavon Hill Forfar to hold Round 1 of their brand new 2017 championship.

This round last year was not the best of starts for this event due to the freezing temperatures and the wet entry into the track. There was no such problems for this 2017 event as Ken Soutar had been hard at work during the closed season making a new road into the track. It was also good to see Ken walking around the paddock after his recent health scare and we hope it won't be long before he's back on the bike racing with us again soon.

Weatherwise it could not have been better for this Round 1 start to the season with superb blue skies and a nice spring chill in the air, the track layout this time was somewhat different from 2016 with the track now running in a clockwise direction. So with all the preliminaries taken care of it was game-on as the first set of riders lined up at the start-gate for race one.

In the Pre 1975 Upto 300cc class it was Angus man Derek McAulay who was the class of field as he rode his 250 Bultaco Pursang to the overall win. McAulay had some superb battles throughout the day with Tommy Anderson on the Husqvarna, but there was no mistaking McAulay was on top form for this first round of the season and he fully deserved his winner's title for the day.

The Pre 68 Over 350cc class supplied some good entertainment for the big crowd that had gathered to see these vintage bikes strut their stuff on this natural hillside racetrack. Lewis Bell was the eventual victor of this class riding what can only be described as a superbly quick Cheney Jawa. Brother Liston dogged his younger sibling in each and every moto and took pole position on numerous occasions throughout the day, but the runner up spot would have to be the best he could do when the points were calculated at the end of the day.

There was some good exchanges in the Pre 68 Upto 350cc class during the course of the afternoon as these vintage machines and riders gave there all for the love of classic scrambling. Clifford Hardistay was in top form and secured the overall victory from Ian Ridley in second with Eion Munro third. Ian Ward brought his old vintage Villiers home to a very respectable fourth place position just in front of lady rider Helen Cahill in fifth.

Some of the best racing of the day was supplied by the Pre 75 Over 300cc class. This class seems to get more popular by the day and it was indeed a battle royal for track positions right from the drop of the gate. Archie Baird was in superb racing trim as he took the title win for the day on his very tricked up 360 CZ, this of course was good training for Baird as he will soon head off to sunny California where he will compete in the Don Matthews CZ World Championships. Derek Faulds was a new name on the classic scramble timesheets for 2017 although he was still worthy of his runner up spot on his very quick 360 Bultaco. Stewart Roden also made a welcome return to the classic racing scene for 2017 after his horrendous accident at the 2016 Nostalgia Scramble and was looking like he had all his speed back, although he was complaining on the day that he still has not got the full power back on his throttle hand and hopes this will improve during the year. Nevertheless Stewart rode superbly all day to secure the last podium spot in third on his extremely quick CCM.

George Crichton did a lot of the early running in this Pre 75 class, although he unfortunately took a tumble off his CZ and had to be taken to hospital for treatment and suffered a collapsed lung. I have since been informed that George is now out of hospital on the mend and is now back at home, so all the best on your recovery George.

There were some great scraps taking place in the Pre 1984 class and John Stokes was in electric form on his very quick 480 Honda. Stokes dominated the class on the day but was hounded relentlessly by Jim Grieve on a borrowed 250 Maico who gave a good account of himself considering his horsepower disadvantage. Andy Malloch filled the final podium spot in third on his big Armstrong with Steve Mower on the 490 Maico in fourth.

In the age related races in Part 2 of the racing programme it was Dougie Meek who took the win in the Over 60's class from Ian Ridley second and Stewart Riddell in third. The Over 50's guys were also in top form on the day and Derek McAulay showed he still has the speed as he took his 250 Pursang Bultaco to

the class win. John Fleming chased McAulay down over the naturally undulating hillside track although he could not make the pass on the flying man from Angus.

Newcomer Derek Faulds made a big impression riding his 360 Bultaco and says he will be racing the entire classic season this year so we should see some epic battles in this class in the forthcoming months. Derek had to work hard for his title in the Over 40's class as he was chased to the chequered flag in almost all moto's. Tommy Anderson on the Husqvarna gave chase to Faulds throughout the day and took track position countless times, although the runner-up position would have to suffice for his days toil despite ending the event with a broken Husky frame.

In the Under 40's class it was yet another great display from the "Bell Brothers Show" of Liston and Lewis. Both riders took it in turn to churn up huge roosters in the Finavon grass as they powered their way around the Forfar landscape. Liston though would take the overall win from Lewis in second and Daryl Wylie on the Honda in third. The Pre 1984 Over 50's class winner was Andy Malloch on the fourstroke Armstrong with James Grieve second and Steve Mower third. Robert Kennedy took the win in the Pre 1984 Over 50's on his CCM with Ewan Mowatt second and Mike VanDerMerWe third.

Summing up it was the very best of starts for our opening Round 1 event despite a few injuries to a couple of riders. Next up Round 2 at the superb Cumstone Farm Lockerbie on the 16<sup>th</sup> April where we are all of course looking forward to more bar bashing classic action from everyone involved with the Scottish Classic Scramble Club.