

Scottish Classic Scramble Club

Round 3 Bank Farm Drumclog

Sunday 14th May 2017

Report by Chris Montignani

With their previous race event cut short due to the dismal weather conditions at Round 2 Lockerbie in April, the Scottish Classic Scramble Club riders were hoping for an improvement in climatic conditions as they headed to Bank Farm Drumclog in South Lanarkshire to hold Round 3 of their current championship.

Ever since that horrendously wet and cold Lockerbie event the weather in the whole of the UK improved dramatically as the country enjoyed almost four weeks of sunny day's and dry night's. In fact the ground was drying so quickly that local authorities were announcing the possibility of hosepipe bans should the wet weather not return soon.

The track at Bank Farm was still in superb condition for this round three encounter and some good quality overnight showers were just what the doctor ordered to sufficiently water the track to keep the dust at bay as the first batch of competitors started to arrive.

Another decent turnout of competitors for this Bank Farm encounter turned the paddock into a who's who of classic scrambling. Wulfsport owner Bill Brown made the long drive from Cumbria and graced us with his presence, and it goes without saying we were well pleased to see him attend our little Scottish swaree. Twinshock rider Alistair Aitken also made the long journey from Oban to race with our club and it is great to see these guy's make a huge effort to support our cause and we are all very grateful for your involvement.

On the subject of entries there was some speculation in the weeks leading up to this Round 3 event that the entries were not coming in as quickly as expected, and there was some doubt at the time as to whether the event would go ahead at all. So please try and get those entries into the club secretary as soon as you can possibly manage it. That way we have a general idea of numbers listed for a specific meeting and can make the necessary call in plenty of time with regards to what action to take if the riders list becomes exceptionally low.

Stories of the Scottish Racing Team's daring exploits when they raced at the Don Matthews Classic event in the USA were circulating the paddock all day Sunday, and by all accounts it was a great hoot. John Fleming, Archie Baird, Ian Robertson, and Willie Brown all did well enough on the day but unfortunately no silverware was wrapped up in their luggage to bring back home to show the many friends who had wished them well. Dykes Wilson and Glen Wilson also made the trip in support of our Scottish competitors and by all accounts they were kept busy rubbing shoulders and posing for pictures with the many motocross celebrities that frequented the Don Matthews paddock. So maybe I should make the trip next year to see what all the fuss is about . . . if I can raise a sponsor?

Anyhow back to what went down in Round 3 at Drumclog.

In the Pre 1975 Upto 300cc class it was another ding dong encounter from the Tommy Anderson and Derek McAulay Show. Both of these riders supplied some superb entertainment for the decent crowd of spectators that had gathered to see the action at this Round 3 race meeting. Over the three legs it would be Derek McAulay on the Bultaco Pursang that would emerge the winner of the class with Anderson 2nd and Ian Robertson on the ancient Can-Am in third.

It was a welcome return to classic racing for Andrew King who was back to top form on his very quick but battered old AJS Stormer. King was very fast in the Pre 68 Over 350cc formula and took all three wins in the class, although as I then noticed he was never recorded on the time sheets I am assuming that he was not registered in this year's championship and therefore was not eligible to score any points, but please feel free to correct me if I'm wrong. The official win on the scoresheet would quite deservedly go to Dougie Meek on that lightning quick Rickman Metisse BSA. Meek had another bar bashing contest with Peter Dobinson on the Tribsa over the three legs and it was a thrilling contest to watch these two slug it out on the Bank Farm circuit. Brian Aird never put a wheel out of place all day and he would fill the final podium spot in third.

Ian Ridley secured another top spot by winning the Pre 68 Up to 350cc class. Very seldom do you see Ian get out of shape in any track conditions and the incredibly grippy but hard surface at Drumclog seemed to suit him to the

proverbial tee. Clifford Hardistay put in another good shift to take the runner up spot while Gordon Watson finished the day in third. Tom Lewis deserves a mention here also as he was very consistent on that beautifully turned out #6 Metisse.

The big boys came out to play in the Pre 1975 Over 300cc class, although it has to be said that the numbers at this round three event were somewhat down on previous meetings. Nevertheless the guys that did put in the effort to attend lined-up at the start gate and put on a fantastic show in the sunny but very windy Drumclog landscape. In race one and fresh from his stateside travel's John Fleming gave immediate chase to holeshot man Les Calderwood who made the early getaway on the JME thumper CCM. Les held on during the first lap or so with Fleming on his rear wheel and Derek Faulds on the Bultaco closing fast. Fleming momentarily took the pole sitter position from Calderwood but was then soon passed by Faulds who was very quick on that AMD Bultaco. Faulds would go on to secure the race win and the overall result in the class although mechanical problems with his Spanish Bultaco's clutch would mean he would have to race a borrowed bike in the age related races in the second half of the race programme.

In race three in the Pre75 Over 300cc class the riders shot from the gate and it was Archie Baird on "Little Nora" who was quick from the start-line, John Fleming soon took pole position and was now heading the pack. On the final lap and as he approached the finish line he appeared to coast to the chequered flag whereby Archie Baird then shot past to hopefully steal the win. Although Baird did momentarily take the lead but then spun little Nora around pirouette style before he crossed the finish line and stalled his machine leaving Fleming to ease over the line for the win. The VMX magazine editor Ken Smith's new best pal Ian Robertson was again on the score sheets as he took the third spot overall on his old but very quick Can-Am.

A good turnout of Twinshock and Pre 1984 bikes on the start-line would make sure that this class supplied some of the best racing of the day. Thirteen eager riders shot from the gate in race one and it was Graham Smith on the RM400 Suzuki that would take the early holeshot. Although Smith's initial lead was soon stolen by a very quick Jim Grieve on the 490 Maico who soon opened a decent gap to the now pursuing pack. Smith was still in touching distance of Grieve although a spill in one of the many Drumclog turns would put his race one challenge on the back burner as Grieve sailed into the distance for the win.

Grieve would suffer a puncture and an off-track excursion in the remaining races on the day which would leave him in fifth spot overall come closing time. The eventual overall winner of the class was David Loudon on the YZ Yamaha who was always running in the top three positions throughout the day and he would take the winners rostrum from Graham Smith in second.

There was also one other personal battle going on in the Pre 1984 class between Robert Kennedy on the CCM and Steve Mower on the Maico. Both riders were banging bars all day over the three legs and it was a great spectacle to see two talented riders having a real go at each other. Both riders enjoyed a mutual respect for each other's racing talents and this was echoed in the paddock as they congratulated each other for a great racing spectacle as they shook hands and took part in a manly embrace.

In the age related races in the second part of the day's proceedings it was another emphatic win for big Dougie Meek in the Over 60's class. Meek seems to make this class his own at each and every round and often leaves the rest of the chasing pack in his wake. Peter Dobinson gave chase to Meek over the three legs and challenged several times for the lead although Meek held his ground to keep Dobinson in the runner up spot. Stewart Riddell on the CZ put in another superb shift to secure the final podium position and some fine championship points in third.

In the Over 40's class Tommy Anderson was on top form again and was never going to be beaten on his old 1975 Husqvarna. Anderson would secure the class win from Brian Aird in second and Derek Faulds on John Fleming's CZ in third. In the Under 40's class youngster Sara Nelson was doing her bit for girl power and took the title for her hard day's graft on her nice little Husqvarna. Daryl Wylie still had a good consistent day although second place position for him would have to make do for this round three event.

The Pre 1984 Over 60's class was a battle between Willie Brown and Wulfsport's Bill Brown to see who would emerge victorious in this veteran's class. Bill Brown was the man who took the title and at 70+ year old he still has not lost that competitive edge as he thundered round the Bank Farm circuit.

In the Pre 1984 Over 50's class Maico man Jim Grieve made up for a bad result in his Pre 84 races earlier on in the proceedings by winning the Over 50's class in some style. John Stokes was definitely quick enough on the day although a collision with Robert Weldon after the start of race 3 left him well down the

pecking order when it came to the point's calculations. Nevertheless John still secured the runner up spot in the Pre 84 Over 50's class while Graham Smith and David Loudon had to share the third place prize as they both tied on 30 points each.

Summing up it was yet another superb event and hopefully the good weather will continue and the riders list will improve for the remaining rounds. Our next event for the Scottish Classic Club will be our Thornhill bash on the 18th of June, so please get those entries in good and early for this mega race event.

Furthermore please don't look for our reports in the TMX in the future because as I said in an earlier statement that I personally have had it with trying to get our club exposure in this very amateur and sub-standard southern rag. In future I will keep all our club reports to our own website, that way we are sure of getting all of our content seen by all of our club followers.

All the finishing positions on the day and the results from each class can be found on the club website at www.classicscramble.com

By the time you read this report the "In the Paddock" bikes and the racing footage from this event should now be posted on my You Tube Channel. Please take the time to view them and I would appreciate it if you would hit the "Like" button if you agree with what you see. The best way to watch these video's is by having your HD TV connected to the internet that way you will have the best of picture and sound quality.

See you all at Thornhill

Chris Montignani (Monty)