

# Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club

## Round 4 Townfoot Farm Thornhill

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Report by Chris Montignani

After a very decent racing event at Round 3 Drumclog way back in early May it was now time for the Scottish Classic Scramble Club to make their way to the Scottish border town of Thornhill in Dumfries for their next classic racing encounter.

Since that very dry race meeting at Drumclog the weather in the past few weeks has taken a decidedly bad turn for the worse with heavy rain falling almost nonstop for the last 14 days. Around the country many similar off-road events during the last week have had to be cancelled due to the waterlogged racetracks with only the very best run facilities managing to keep the deluge of water under control.

Nevertheless the track at Thornhill come Sunday race day was excellent despite the monsoon rains the week previous, which in itself was quite astonishing when you consider the amount of moisture that was in the air during the last week. Naturally the superbly sunny weekend weather we experienced on the Sunday brought competitors and spectators out in their droves as they intermingled and circulated around the paddock admiring the vast array of classic machines that were soon to take part in this round 4 event.

There was a certain buzz around the paddock as the club were gearing up for their biggest classic racing event of the year at Drumlanrig Castle on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of July. And event sponsor Fraser Dykes of AMD Contract Services Limited was there with promotional vehicles in hand to raise the profile of the two-day vintage extravaganza.

New for this 2017 Round 4 meeting at Thornhill was the decision to run the track counter-clockwise from its traditional clockwise direction which has been the mainstay of the track layout since the venue's inception way back in the day. Although not a national event this year but a local closed to club meeting there was still a good turnout of riders and spectators to fill the start gate as the first class of riders made their way to the start-line.

Before racing got underway proper there was a long delay during the practise session when Alan McKay was involved in a shunt whereby he had to be taken to hospital for checks. Although we have since heard that no serious injuries were sustained by Alan during the fall and hopefully he will be back on the track racing with us soon.

When racing finally got underway it was Ian Robertson who emerged the victor in the Pre 75 UpTo 300cc class on what can only be described as a very quick ancient Can-Am 250. Tommy Anderson was also very quick on the day on his CR 250 Husqvarna although the runner-up spot would have to be his consolation for a massive effort over the course of the three legs. Derek McAulay filled the final podium spot in third mainly due to his Bultaco Pursang having a few mechanical troubles with fuelling and Derek was not getting all the necessary pulling power from all the Spanish horses contained within his 250cc Bultaco motor.

It's been a treat this year to watch the epic battles in the Pre 68 Over 350cc class, and in the first part of the season the encounters we have witnessed from Dougie Meek and Peter Dobinson as they slug it out in each and every turn are becoming legendary in the classic racing world. It was another good skirmish at this Round 4 Thornhill meeting with both riders never giving an inch as they banged bars and scraped wheels around the nicely laid out anti-clockwise course. Dougie Meek would take the victory at this round although looking at the overall picture over the course of the day anyone of these two could have walked away with the top spot. Peter Dobinson finished in the runner-up position although naturally that may all change as we head into our next round five at Lockerbie on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July.

Another good turnout for the Pre 68 UpTo 250cc class saw Andrew King on that very quick old AJS Stormer taking the title from second place man Ian Ridley on the BSA. It's actually quite amazing that Ian can find time at all to race his bike with the huge effort and the many pieces of equipment he supplies for our events, and I for one applaud the man immensely and can appreciate the long hours and commitment Ian brings to our classic events and I know this club would be a poorer organisation without him and his attachments. Eion Munro was the final name on the last step of the podium in this class as he secured third place with a gargantuan effort over the piece.

When the big boys in the Pre 1975 Over 300cc class came out to play not only were the ambient temperatures rising steadily as the sun begin to shine but

things were also getting hotter on the racetrack. Local man AMD's Derek Faulds was superb on his Bultaco and led the rest of the chasing pack a merry dance around the superb Thornhill landscape with some superb pieces of racing skill. Faulds took the overall win from L&B sponsored John Fleming on the tricked up 360 CZ, Fleming was also quick over the course of the three legs although the track appeared to suit the Bultaco mounted Faulds slightly better as he put in a dominant display. Archie Baird brought the other L&B "Cee Zee" home to the third place finish as both riders had their sights set on our big event at Drumlanrig Castle on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> July.

A two way tie for fourth spot between the CCM Rolling Thunder riders of Les Calderwood and Stewart Roden did all they could to make ground on the little yellow screamers of Fleming and Baird but the nimble little Czechoslovakian stokers were well up to the task at Thornhill. Stewart tells me he is still not 100% fit as yet although I'm sure as the weeks and months progress he will be up there battling for his share of podium spots.

The ever increasing Pre 1984 class appears to bring in riders from far and wide to compete in this very popular formula. There was another good selection of big bikes for this round 4 event at Thornhill with almost fifteen machines lined up at the gate. Jim Grieve would take the win, the points, and the glory for his efforts in this class although Ex Scottish Motocross Champion Tony Caig had employed a youngster to blow the cobwebs from his extremely quick CR 480 Honda and take it out for a spin. Unfortunately the young man's name escapes me at this time although he rode well and won all three legs of this class, nevertheless as he was more than likely listed as a day entry I am assuming he was then not eligible to score points. David Loudon on the YZ Yamaha was also extremely quick and well deserved his second place finish on the day. Jim Colligan also put in one of his best performances of the season and took the third place spot overall with a gritty ride around the Thornhill grassland's on his 1981 490 Maico.

In the age related classes on the day it was another 1 - 2 from the "Meek and Dobinson Show" . . . . Dougie and Peter that is. Meek secured the victory leaving Peter Dobinson to pick up the remaining scraps in second, although if both rider's bar bashing battles continue throughout the season we could see a great finale finish as we head into the second half of the championship. Stewart Riddell on the little sidepipe CZ gave another solid performance at this

round 4 meeting to finish third and added more valuable points towards his title challenge for this year's 2017 competition.

The over 50's class was another good scrap between Archie Baird and fellow yellow peril rider John Fleming. Fleming was the man this time round with a superb overall win from Ayrshireman Baird in second. Ian Robertson whipped his old Can-Am 250 to within an inch of its life to stand on the bottom step of the podium and he was well worth the watching as he slid and steered his vintage machine on the now dusty racetrack. Les Calderwood got a superb catapult of a start from the gate in race two and still managed to hold on to a good second place finish in this moto, and believe me the big Tullibody gas man was well worth it.

The youngsters in the Over 40's gave the crowds at Thornhill something to cheer as they left the start line in a plume of sandy dust. Derek Faulds was again on the case with his very quick Bultaco and he would go on to secure the win in this class from Tommy Anderson second and Andy Alston on the very nice little Honda in third. Brian Aird is also worth a mention here as he was very steady over the course of the three legs and never put a foot wrong and was very deserving of his fourth place finish.

The wee bairns in the Under 40's class saw another win for Andrew King who was now riding Charlie Robertson's old Metisse, although Andrew was still not as quick as when he was on his old AJS Stormer. But look out for Andrew King riding Les Calderwood's CCM in the forthcoming Drumlandrig Castle event in July which should be worth the entry fee alone. Daryl Wylie was the second place finisher in this class and he was very consistent over the piece to take the runner-up spot.

In the Pre 1984 Over 60's class Steve Mower got his name on the top of the final scoresheet with a good overall performance despite a fall at turn one in the start of moto 1 in the Pre 84 Open class. Brian Hamilton gave a good account of himself on his 400 Suzuki and was never far from Mower's rear wheel although he just could not get close enough to make the pass on Mower's very fast 490 Maico.

Jim Grieve added another overall class win in the Pre 1984 Over 50's class as he strolled to victory from David Loudon second and Andy Malloch on the 500 Armstrong in third. Malloch was also quick over the entire day and rode well in the Pre 1984 Open class, although a small off-track excursion in the second

moto would leave him well down the pecking order when the points were calculated.

Summing up it was a fantastic day of classic racing under the very best of circumstances with the superb summer weather playing its part. The many riders and spectators also enjoyed what was a highly entertaining weekend as they took the opportunity to bask in the superbly hot June heat.

All the bikes "In the Paddock" and all the racing action from this event is now posted on my You Tube Channel in glorious HD quality. All you have to do is go to You Tube and type in "chris montignani" in the search box to view over 2,500 videos of classic dirt bikes and classic and twinshock motocross racing.

Don't forget to pass the word about our big classic extravaganza at Drumlandrig Castle on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July. This event will be covered by myself in all respects with regards to video and pictures etc. So bring the family and camp out over the weekend enjoy the surroundings and the two days of classic racing, and who know's there might even be a chance to get your picture taken with the legend that is Graham Noyce.

I have also secured an article about the Drumlandrig weekend to be published in the VMX vintage dirt bike magazine which will be printed at a later date, and hopefully this will also help our promotional cause towards securing this fantastic location for the 2019 Classic MXDN event.

Anyhow that's all from me for now see you all at the castle on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Chris Montignani (Monty)