

Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club

Round 3 Bank Farm Drumclog

Sunday 13th May 2018

Report by Chris Montignani (Monty)

It's hard to imagine we are already into Round 3 of another cracking racing season of Classic Scottish Motocross as our latest motorcycle exploits had us all heading to Bank Farm Drumclog for yet another vintage encounter of banter, bikes and being around like minded old motorcycle enthusiasts.

Thankfully the weather at this round 3 event was more akin to a late spring climate with sunny skies and warm temperatures and not like the sub-zero temperatures we witnessed at Round 2 back in April at Lockerbie.

Nevertheless this Bank Farm track was well suited for our means with no man made whoops, jumps, or berms to help us negotiate our way around the corners so it looked like we would have to call on all our years of skill, daring doo, and just plain bloody good old fashioned motorcycling knowledge to help us feel our way around this tricky South Lanarkshire racetrack.

It was great to see another decent turnout of riders and spectators to witness what the Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club has to offer in terms of a grand day out when it comes to vintage motorcycle racing. Although the competitor numbers were still down on average which I know for a fact was mainly due to many riders doing other things and being involved in other some would say more worthwhile pursuits, although hopefully this will all improve when we visit Kirkness for Round 4 in a few weeks.

Anyhow back to the plot . . .

During my usual and some would say now "legendary" paddock walkabouts I could not help but notice more of those superb old vintage mechanical masterpieces on display during my travels. Fergus Moodie was showing off his 1974 CCM which had been away having some work done and this was its first outing at Drumclog so it was going to be interesting to see how quick Fergus would be on it compared to his old BSA.

Not long after practise got underway John Stokes came a cropper when the front wheel of his 490 Maico tucked in just before the little uphill section before the chequered flag and spat him off the bike. He was quickly seen by the superb paramedics who eventually got him back on his feet and when I spoke to him sometime later he said that he had "done a couple of ribs" but was still a walking wounded patient and was mainly upbeat about his spill.

Of course our excellent medics had their own troubles to deal with when they arrived at the wrong venue and ended up in Thornhill and there was a bit of a delay to the start of proceedings while they eventually negotiated their way to Drumclog, but no further comment and enough said on the matter.

When the racing finally got underway the committee decided to amalgamate some of the classes due to the limited number of riders that turned up for each class and it was the Pre 68 Over and Under 350cc who were first at the start line.

Robert Kennedy Jnr wasted no time in stamping his mark in the Under 350cc class as he shot from the gate on the old Cotton Starmaker and immediately hit the front. Robert normally rides his CCM in the Pre 84 class although it seemed like he enjoyed the old vintage bike more as he took three straight wins on the trot and that was despite parts starting to fly off the old warhorse. Ian Ridley put in another steady shift to bring his showpiece BSA home in second spot. Iain Munro made a welcome return to racing at this round 3 event and his very quick BSA would also help him secure the last step on the podium in this class.

The big boys in the Pre 68 Over 350's were also on the case and there was some good scraps between Peter Dobinson and Brian Aird for the pole position and top placings over the three legs. Dobinson was the eventual victor on that lovely sounding Rickman Triumph from wee Brian Aird second and Tom Forsyth in third. Tom Forsyth should really have been placed further up the leader board over the three heats although a short unscheduled dismount from his BSA in race three would push him down the finishing order come points calculation time.

Race three in the Pre 68 Over 350's had to be cut short as Tom Lewis took a tumble from his Rickman BSA and had to be treated trackside before being

shipped to hospital for treatment. As far as I am aware Tom has undergone surgery for a triple break in his right leg and it goes without saying we all wish him well in his recovery as he has been a club anchorman for us for many years now and we hope to see him around and continuing with his valuable contribution to our classic cause.

Derek McAulay on the flying Pursang 250 Bultaco was in good form for this Round 3 meeting and although was not the quickest from the gate it was just a short time before he hit the front in all three legs. Three wins from three starts and the very quick Angus man was well happy that he took maximum points for his hard days toil; mind you he had to work hard for the title as Ian Robertson was also very quick on that new winter built Yamaha. Robertson would take the runner up spot despite leading the early stages of the three races and it was still a great spectacle watching these two bash bars in the Drumclog sunshine. Daryl Wylie seems to get quicker with each and every round and he was certainly on form in this class with a very worthy third place finish on his fourbanger Honda.

In the Pre 75 Over 350cc Stephen McNally got his first overall win of the new season, and now that he has stopped the exhaust falling off his KX 400 Kawasaki he seems to have got his Mojo back and is again firing on all cylinders . . . (or just one to be more precise). Fergus Moodie was trying out his new Clews Competition Machine CCM 500 and was looking the part as he kept up the rolling thunder tradition for this event at Drumclog and finished in second place. This was of course despite his other fellow brethren unable to attend with their Clews bikes due to certain unforeseen circumstances, but if we can get them all at a meeting together and in the one race we could be in for a real rolling thunder treat.

The Pre 1984 class turned once again into the Walter Bickmore Maico show although it was still a battle royal with Davie Loudon and Neil Glendinning on the 480 Honda. Bickmore secured holeshots in races two and three with Gordon Forbes taking the first moto start. In race one Bickmore was very quick and made a clean break from the chasing pack with Loudon hounding him down on the Kawasaki in second. On lap two and into turn two Loudon was flying and then took an unscheduled excursion through the marker tapes whereby the aforementioned then got wrapped around his rear wheel and he

was unable to continue which subsequently led him to a DNF. In race two it was Bickmore once again who shot from the gate with Loudon hot on his heels, after lap two was completed Bickmore slowed thinking he had a rear wheel puncture and Loudon shot past for the lead. After a quick investigation all appeared fine and so Bickmore upped the ante and nailed the throttle in pursuit of race leader Loudon. On the final lap Bickmore was almost on the rear wheel of Loudon as they both headed for the chequered flag. On the uphill step before the chequered flag Bickmore nailed it and went for the win and his rear drive chain slid off the sprockets leaving Loudon to coast across the finish line. At the end of the day it would finish Bickmore 1st, Neil Geldinning 2nd and Davie Loudon in 3rd. This was all fantastic stuff to watch and good racing entertainment for the sun soaked Drumclog spectators.

In the age related races in the second half of the programme there were more bar bashing encounters for us all to get our teeth into as the combined Over 60's and Over 50's lined up at the start.

The Pre 75 Over 60's was dominated by Fergus Moodie on his newly acquired 1974 500 CCM. Moodie took three wins from three starts and was almost untroubled over the three legs. Peter Dobinson once again still hounded Moodie and tried to make some ground on the flying Clews mounted rider but he could only keep him in sight and hope that the big CCM could encounter some sort of mechanical problem whereby he could then pounce for the track position. At the end of the day the positions would end up Fergus Moodie 1st, Peter Dobinson 2nd, and Ian Ridley in third.

The newly formed Pre 75 Over 65's saw Clifford Hardistay take the full honours for his three races in this class from Tom Forsyth in second from newcomer Steve Shaw on his Twin-Port 250 CZ in third.

The relatively young pups in the Pre 75 Over 50's class laid on a decent spread of racing in the Drumclog spring weather and it was Falkirk Council Mechanic Ian Robertson who was again top of the class with a maximum points score to take back to his hometown of Blairingone. Ian Ward is I think the most consistent and dedicated of Scottish Classic riders as he continually makes long journeys from down south to race with our club and we all appreciate his endeavours week after week. Ian would take the runner up spot in this class on

his 250 Villiers from world renowned Bultaco Pursang owner Kenny Harper in third.

Brian Aird was the man to beat in the Pre 75 Over 40's class and he once again showed he can mix it with the big boys by taking maximum points on the day. The flying Stephen McNally again put up another sterling fight to fill the runner up position from Robert Kennedy Jnr in third.

The talk of the paddock on Sunday was of course the rapid little Sarah Louise Nelson who's normally reliable old Husqvarna let her down before the start of race one on Sunday. Nevertheless up pops a good Samaritan in the shape of Daryl Wylie who loans Sarah his spare fourstroke Honda bike in order she can still take part.

Although I expect he did not anticipate her to be so quick on a very strange bike but she apparently took to the bike like the proverbial duck to water and was absolutely flying around the Drumclog racetrack much to the astonishment of Daryl and the large Drumclog audience that were spurring her on. Sarah took the win which was much deserved although as far as I am aware she has no plans to change machines in the near future and is still faithful to her Billy Chisholm Swedish two stroke.

Daryl Wylie should really have won this class outright although during the start of race three he appeared to have hit the rear wheel of Brian Aird and was thrown from his machine and subsequently was immediately dealt with our expert medical staff whereby a dislocated shoulder was diagnosed and he would take no further part in the day's proceedings. Naturally it goes without saying that we all wish Daryl a speedy recovery and hope to see him back racing with us very soon. Let's not forget Andy Malloch who rode superbly all day and he would fill the final podium spot in third riding that very quick Armstrong Rotax.

Walter Bickmore once again cleaned up in the Pre 1984 Over 50's class with three wins from three starts. Davie Loudon is never far from Bickmore in this class round after round and I for one predict that we have not seen the best of him this year thus far and I am patiently waiting for his first overall win of the season which I am sure is not that far away. The young guns in the Pre 1984

Under 50's class was eventually won by the enthusiastic youngster Daniel McNally with Neil Glendinning taking the runner up position in second.

Summing up it was another cracking Scottish Classic encounter with more accidents than incidents than a Politician for Brexit. Nevertheless it was great to hold some racing under sunny skies for a change and not have to break out the thermal underwear once again. When I left at 6am Sunday morning to set out for Drumclog the weather was absolutely horrendous and I thought we were in for Tsunami type motocross although thankfully it all came good on the day.

Of course by the time you read this all the video clips from the paddock and the racing from this round three event will already be available on my You Tube Channel so if you like what you see please hit the like button and just subscribe if you want to see more of the same for the coming year. Because not only will I be covering all the Scottish Classic events this year I will be attending The Blencarn Grand National, The Nostalgia Scramble, The Scottish Grand National at Drumlanrig Castle, and I have a scheduled weekend of racing at a brand new track at Newtonards in Northern Ireland to cover in a few weeks' time which should show some cracking racing for my loyal You Tubers.

Anyhow our next event will be Kirkness or the Fife Scramble in a few weeks' time so don't miss it because this is a very popular track with all the riders and hopefully we will see a major improvement in our racing numbers as the last few events have been pretty disappointing to be truthful.

Finally a short word of thanks to Peter Dobinson who handed me a donation to my video cause at Drumclog and who sang my praises for my efforts toward my work with the Scottish Classic club. You restored my faith in humanity Peter and I thank you kindly and it's a great feeling knowing people respect and applaud what you are trying to do. Although it's not the filming or picture taking that is the bulk of my day's work it's the long hours at the computer day after day and sometimes week after week that you can never get back.

Anyhow rant over hope to see you all for more classic racing adventures when we all meet again at Kirkness Farm Ballingry for Round 4.

Chris Montignani (Monty)

