

Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club

Round 8 Whitekirk East Lothian

Sunday 1st October

Report by Chris Montignani

Another bumper year of classic motocross was brought to an unfortunate close as the Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club held their last meeting of their 2017 championship at Whitekirk East Lothian last weekend.

In what has been another superb racing season for all concerned this grass park racetrack at Whitekirk was a fitting venue to hold a grand finale finish to top off another memorable season of racing classic dirt bikes. Many of the class champions for 2017 had yet to be decided so there was still a lot of racing to get through before the eventual lucky winners took their final places on the end of the year rostrum.

Unfortunately there was no commentary available for this Round 7 event due to the electrical gremlins getting into Richard's PA system once more, and despite his and others best efforts on the day the little bugger would still not work as instructed, although hopefully it will all be sorted in time for the start of our 2018 campaign next year.

The track at Whitekirk was in excellent condition on arrival albeit a bit wet and slippery for this final bash, although the forecast was not good for later in the day so immediately after scrutineering and all the preliminaries of signing-on were completed it was down to business as the first race lined up at the start gate.

In the Pre 68 Upto 350cc class it was a clean sweep of wins for young Andrew King on the Charlie Robertson sponsored AJS Stormer. The tight and twisty track at Whitekirk appeared to suit the light and flickable British stroker and King was seldom troubled by any would be challengers over the course of the three legs. Ian Ridley as usual was very consistent in this class and never put a wheel out of place all day, although Ian could not match the speed of the flying King to make any kind of attempt for the lead and a runner up spot was the

best he could muster. Robert Kennedy Jnr on the big 560 CCM filled the last and final podium spot with another decent performance in the very slippery track conditions.

The Pre 75 Under 350cc turned into another good scrap for the overall win on the day between Ian Robertson on the old Can-Am and Daryl Wylie on the hybrid Honda. Since returning from his exploits in the USA earlier in the year Robertson has been riding at the top of his game in this year's 2017 championship. Robertson would go on to take the eventual win on the day from Daryl Wylie second and Kenny Harper on that immaculate Bultaco in third.

In the big boys Pre 75 Over 350cc class it was a one-two finish for the AMD Contracts sponsored riders of John Fleming on the CZ and Derek Faulds on the Bultaco. These two have supplied some excellent racing for the crowds during 2017 and this round at Whitekirk was no exception. In race two it was Fleming who sprung from the gate into an early lead with Les Calderwood and Derek Faulds hot on his heels. Fleming soon opened up a commanding lead on his pursuers to take the win from Faulds in second and Calderwood on the Rolling Thunder Joe Maxwell CCM in third. The remaining two moto's followed a similar pattern although at the end of the day it would finish Fleming as top dog from Faulds second and Calderwood third.

Fergus Moodie was in fine form at this final round at Whitekirk and fully deserved his winner's title in the Pre 68 Over 350cc class and a position on the top step of the podium for his brave efforts on the day. In race 1 Moodie did not get the best of starts but managed to stay ahead of Dougie Meek for the first leg win. In race two Moodie got the holeshot and opened a substantial lead on Meek and managed to keep his BSA upright on the greasy racing surface to cross the line for the overall win. Dougie Meek took runner-up spot from Tommy Anderson in third who of course was not riding his beloved Husqvarna this time but dad Blair's big Metisse Jawa.

The Pre 1984 class this year has been well supported at all our Classic events and we thank each and every rider who takes the time to enter this very popular formula. This round at Whitekirk was again well attended and with

more than sixteen competitors lined up at the start line for the start of race two some good racing was on the cards.

From the gate it was Jason Martin on the Raymond Thomson sponsored MadMaxmedia 490 Maico who shot from the start gate followed closely by Nigel Sowerby and Jim Grieve. Martin was very quick and smooth over the six races although while leading race four he would drop his "Saltire" Maico in the Whitekirk mud but would soon remount to finish in a very credible fourth spot. David Loudon was also fast on the YZ Yamaha over the course of the day and was always ready to pounce should the front runner's make any mistakes. Although Martin took the first No1 spot overall on the day, and as he was registered as a day member would not appear on the score sheet when the points were calculated, the official entry for the Pre 1984's would go to Nigel Sowerby 1st, David Loudon 2nd and Jim Grieve in 3rd.

In the age related classes it was an excellent overall victory for Dougie Meek on the Metisse BSA in the Over 60's class. In race one Meek shot from the gate for the holeshot with Stewart Riddell and Ian Ridley in hot pursuit. Meek was away and opening up a decent gap from Riddell on the CZ and Ridley on the BSA, Meek would cross the line for the victory and the overall win in this class with Jim McQuillan 2nd and Stewart Riddell 3rd.

In the Over 50's class it was Les Calderwood who thundered away from the line in race two into a good early lead with John Fleming keeping a watching brief in second spot. Calderwood was riding out of his skin to keep Fleming behind him with the CZ mounted rider looking this way and that way for any possible way to pass the very quick CCM rider. Eventually Fleming got his chance and hit the front and Calderwood was now under increasing pressure from a much focussed Fergus Moodie now on his tailpipe. When the wet dust had settled it would end with Fleming taking the overall top spot from Moodie second and Calderwood in third.

The old un's in the Over 40's was another good racing encounter with some good racing exchanges from these dedicated riders. It was AMD's Derek Faulds who got the holeshot in race two with Gary Smith on the ex-George Chricton 360 CZ hot on his heels. Faulds would take the overall in class on the day with Smith in second and Brian Aird on the BSA third.

The relatively young pup's in the Under 40's put in a decent show as they slipped and slid their way around the green ice of the Whitekirk track. Andrew King notched up overall win No 2 on the AJS Stormer with what can only be described as a very dominant display over the three races. Sarah Loiuise Nelson never fails to impress and controlled her bike well in the very tricky racing conditions to get the better of Daryl Wylie on the day and stand on the second spot of the podium riding her very quick little Husqvarna. Daryl Wylie also rode superbly although a third place finish and more valuable championship points was still a decent result considering the conditions trackside.

In the Pre 1984 Over 50's class Jim Grieve made up for a relatively mediocre third place finish in the Pre 84 class by winning the Over 50's in fine style on the Maico Only S1 490. Grieve has already won the Over 50's championship in 2017 with another Scottish racing club but fully deserved his Scottish Classic Club overall win on the day. I fear we did not see the best of David Loudon this year who took second spot overall on the day, although look out for him in 2018 as I am sure a championship win will be soon on the cards for the extremely quick YZ Yamaha rider. Jim Colligan on the 490 Maico finished his day's toil in third place on the day and is already looking forward to another racing season with the classic club next year.

Finally the Pre 1984 Under 50's saw Daniel McNally take the overall silverware from Nigel Sowerby 2nd and Adam Purdham in third.

Summing up it was another excellent day's racing for our final wee swaree and end of year event, and although the track conditions were not the best the rain thankfully stayed away and we got through the full race programme. Well done to each and every one of you who turned up and put on a show and I look forward to doing it all again in 2018.

As usual by the time you read this all the associated video's from this end of season event (and of course all the other rounds from 2017) will now be available to view on my You Tube Channel. Just log onto You Tube and in the search box type "chris montignani" to see more than 2,500 video's that are already posted on my channel.

One final thing the date for our big Scottish Grand National at Drumlanrig Castle in 2018 has now been fixed and it will be on the weekend of Saturday

and Sunday 14th and 15th of July, so get that date fixed in your diary and pass the word as we have already had major interest in this event already. This year's inaugural meeting at Drumlanrig was awesome considering the short time we had to promote the event, but we all dug deep and with lots of help we put on a fantastic show for the many spectators that took the time to visit. Naturally next year's Scottish Grand National will be massive so keep tuned to our Drumlanrig Castle Facebook page for all the going's on and any updates for 20178.

Next up of course will be our annual dance and trophy presentation night on Saturday the 18th November at The Radstone Hotel to finish off our racing year. And hopefully by now you will have purchased your ticket, and if not be quick and contact Agnes on 01294 833320 immediately to reserve your entry into what looks like being a good night out.

Anyhow be safe through the winter and I will see you all at the start of our new season in 2018.

Chris Montignani (Monty)