

Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club

Round 2 Cumstone Farm Lockerbie

Sunday 22nd of April 2018

Report by Chris Montignani

After a hugely successful opening round at the picturesque hills of Finavon Forfar in early April the Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club and its eager entourage made the long journey south to the beautiful border town of Lockerbie near Dumfries to get their Round 2 event underway.

If you remember this meeting last year had to be curtailed after the third block of races due to some very inclement weather in the area although the forecast this time was for sunny skies and dry conditions . . .*yeah right* .

As the riders and spectators started to arrive thermal underwear and arctic clothing was the order of the day as it was bloody colder than the coldest day in January.

My usual pre-race paddock walkabout unearthed some really lovely old classic dirt bikes and in particular Colin Flockhart's lovely little 1968 B44 Cheney Victor BSA and Ian Ridley's show winning 1972 Clews Stroka which was one of the last six bikes that ever came out of the Clews factory. Ian brought the bike along purely for my benefit to get some video of the bike and thankfully he never signed it on to race it on the track.

Nevertheless there was an excellent turnout of riders for this round and in particular the Pre 84 class which looked like it was going to be packed to the rafters at the start line once again.

Due to the cold and rather inclement racing conditions and with a forecast of more bad weather on the way the organisers decided to combine some of the classes and only have three groups of racing in the first half of the programme to speed up the day's proceedings. Thankfully I for one was really glad they did because I was turning blue with hypothermia by the close of the event. Maybe I will have to have a word with my new 2018 sponsor about heavy duty arctic clothing for these extreme conditions.

When the racing finally got underway the Pre 68 Under 350 class were first to try out the brand new Cumstone Farm layout. In race one it was Robert Kennedy Jnr who made the dash for the hole-shot on his very quick little Cotton Starmaker 250 and went on to secure the overall on the day in this class. Although the final placings on the day would finish Robert Kennedy Jnr 1st, Clifford Hardistay 2nd and Jim McQuillan in third.

In the Pre 68 Over 350cc class it was another excellent performance from Liston Bell as he slid and roostered his way around the Cumstone hillside racetrack with the back end of the big Jawa single stepping out at each and every turn. Fergus Moodie was also in fine form in this class and never put a wheel out of place over the course of the three legs and would cross the line at the chequered flag to take his BSA to a fine runner-up spot. Peter Dobinson also made a welcome return for his first classic outing of 2018 at Lockerbie and made the long trip from Penrith worthwhile by taking home a worthy third place finish on that very quick Rickman Triumph.

There was some excellent racing supplied in the Pre 75 class and it was good to see the rider numbers improve vastly after a poor attendance at Round 1 at Forfar. In the Under 350cc class Daryl Wylie secured his first overall win of 2018 by taking the maximum

points for his days efforts on his fourstroke Honda. Kenny Harper was riding the best I've seen thus far in 2018 and he was well pleased to take home the 2nd place spot riding his very nice and very quick Bultaco Pursang. Derek McAulay should have been further up the score board with the speed he was carrying around the fast flowing Lockerbie track although in race two there was a bit of a coming together between himself and Stewart Roden on the CCM as they both exited turn one. Stewart was on the gas and had got a big powerslide on with the Clews bike as it moved across and into the path of McAulay's Bultaco where it then washed out the front wheel from the Angus man's machine and he hit the deck. Thankfully Derek appeared unhurt and eventually re-mounted to finish the day in third although for me personally and looking at the video replay it was just a racing incident and nobody was to blame.

After suffering some pre-season ignition trouble at Forfar in Round 1 which left him unable to take part at all in that round big Les Calderwood was true to his word and he came to this Round 2 event at Lockerbie with great expectations and the fire back in his belly and was determined to make up for lost time in the Pre 75 Over 350 class. With two 3rd place finishes in races one and two already under his belt Les was looking good and sitting third as he crossed the line for the last lap in race three. Unfortunately then the very quick CCM gave a few pops, bang's, and then spluttered and died on him at the side of the track leaving him with a DNF. The prognosis of the breakdown is that the small end pin on the crank broke damaging the piston, liner, and other critical parts and another major engine rebuild will have to be performed on the bike . . . but more importantly more invasive surgery would have to take place to Les's wallet before our next round at Drumclog.

Nevertheless the winners accolade for this Pre 75 Over 350cc class eventually went to Lewis Bell on the CCM with another fine display of riding. Although Lewis never got the best of starts over the three legs once he got the big Clews fourstroke hooked up into the Lockerbie landscape it wasn't long before he hit the front. John Fleming took two holeshots from three starts and was very quick on the 380 CZ over the piece and was seldom troubled by any wannabe front runners and he kept most challengers at bay over the three legs to take the runner up spot. Stewart Roden was again on fine form and continued to add valuable championship points to his 2018 campaign riding his immaculate CCM to a third place overall spot. Roden was very consistent over the piece despite stalling the big rolling thunder bike into turn one in one of the moto's, although he soon got her fired up again and back into the hunt without losing many track positions.

Another packed gate of Pre 1984 riders lined up at the start line for this round two event at Lockerbie and for me personally it was a magical sight to see all these twinshock and early monoshock machines racing with this club when other organisations are struggling to fill their start gates with these period correct machines.

Walter Bickmore was the man of the moment at our first round at Forfar and he continued to impress again when he made a clean sweep of wins at this round two here at Lockerbie. With six holeshot's and six wins in all the Pre 84 class races he was without doubt the man on form on the day. Nevertheless Davie Loudon was always on the case and still kept Bickmore in his sights over the course of all six races as he was swapping from his very quick KX Kawasaki to his YZ Yamaha after alternate moto's. John Stokes had a decent scrap over the six moto's trying to do a number on Loudon and make the pass for track position although Loudon was extremely

quick on the day and held on to make it finish Bickmore 1st, Loudon 2nd and Stokes in 3rd.

In the age related races after a quick half hour break due to the weather it was Fergus Moodie who took the title in the Pre 75 Over 60's class. Moodie once again was very quick on the BSA and kept both Peter Dobinson and Ian Ridley at arm's length to secure the overall win. Their namesakes the Pre 75 Over 65's win was secured by Clifford Hardistay in 1st with Stephen Shaw in second.

No one was going to beat John Fleming in the Pre 75 Over 50's class as he took two out of three holeshot's and three very dominant wins for a good days racing to open his racing account for 2018. Derek McAulay as mentioned earlier was racing superbly at this Round 2 event and always kept Fleming within earshot should a mishap or other chance to snatch something should the Coppins CZ rider step out of place at the front. Although McAulay's second place position at the end of the day was a decent result for him considering he has been in similar positions in the past when his old Bultaco has let him down. Ian Robertson had a kind of indifferent day for this second round encounter although a third place spot was still a good consolation for him and his newly built hybrid Yamaha.

Stephen McNally showed he certainly still had the speed on his KX 400 Kawasaki at Cumstone, and having now sorted the problem of falling motorcycle exhaust pipes he seems to have got his mojo back with a win in the Pre 75 Over 40's class. Gary Smith showed some good turns of speed on the ex-George Crichton 360 CZ and brought the AMD classic racer home to a well-earned runner up spot. Bryan Aird filled the final podium spot in third with another very consistent performance on the BSA.

Lewis Bell was unbeatable on the day and appeared to revel in the slippery track conditions on the big bang CCM to take the win in the Pre 75 Under 40's class. Daryl Wylie also secured another good class finish with a runner spot on the fourbanger Honda. Sarah Louise Nelson managed to keep her Husqvarna upright and avoid any trackside banners on the track this time for this round 2 event at Lockerbie and she would go on to take the final third place position in this very competitive class.

Another good turnout of riders in the Pre 84 Over 60's class supplied some good racing for the very cold and frost bitten spectators that braved the bracing wind. Wulfsport supremo Bill Brown took the win from SCRMC secretary Brian Hamilton in second. Maurice Wharton made the trek from the south to fill the final podium spot in third riding a very quick 490 Maico. In the Pre 84 Over 50's class it was another complete sweep of wins for Walter Bickmore who was without doubt the best rider on the track on the day at this event. Davie Loudon once again secured the coveted runner up spot from Angus man Andy Malloch on the 500 Armstrong in third.

Malloch had a major mechanical incident early on when the cam belt broke on his Armstrong Rotax and killed the motor. "No problem said Andy you just simply lace another belt onto the pulleys and then fire her up again because when these motors break their cam belts there is no contact with pistons and valves. Try doing that with a modern fourstroke machine . . normally when they go bang you have to re-mortgage the house to fix it.

The Young un's in the Pre 84 Under 50's supplied some good racing and it was Neil Glendinning on the 480 Honda who was the best of the field with the overall win. Richard Huston gave as good as he got and was never far from the rear wheel of Glendinning over the three

legs although a decent second place spot and more championship points was still an excellent result come close of play. Daniel McNally brought his very quick Husqvarna home to fill the third place position on the podium and take a host of valuable points to add to his 2018 championship challenge.

Anyhow another Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club quality event done and dusted although the weather was possibly the coldest you could imagine for an early spring in Scotland.

All the videos from this event should now be posted and up and running on my You Tube Channel so there is no excuse for seeing how fast or how slow you were on the day if you take the time to look, and don't forget to hit the like button or subscribe to my channel if you would like to see more of the same for the coming season.

Next up of course is round three from Bank Farm Drumclog in May where we are surely guaranteed another superb bout of good spring weather and another cracking display of Scottish Classic motocross so be there or as they say . . . *be somewhere else!*

Chris Montignani (Monty)