

Smeatharpe 5/7/2025

Just a quick one this time.

Although the weather forecast might have put some people off, actually despite some occasional light drizzle that blew through quickly, it wasn't a bad day at all, and the slightly gusty wind was at least a tail wind for a change!

In 125 GP / 250 4 stroke single unrestricted 13 years, Max Curtis on his CBR250 took some off his class record (10.43s) with a 10.30s@65 mph, Jorja Cleall on her Kwacker 250 was just behind and also under the previous record with a 10.34s@66.4 mph.

In 250cc Racing, with Stuart Buchanan absent, Andy Webb on his Harley/Aermacchi 250 was the only runner, running a 8.77s@84.5 mph.

In 500cc Racing, Kerry Phillips was a very happy man, getting the KH500 into the 6s for the first time with a final run at 6.98s@99.6 mph, there's more to this which will become clearer later!

In 750cc Racing, Conrad Sinclair-Peek on his Bandit 600 was quickest, 7.83s@89 mph, from Pete Smith on his CBR600 which seems to be running ok after its unfortunate dunking at Manston, 7.98s@93.9 mph and Jason Winterson on his XS750 who only got a couple of runs as, on his second run, the chain snapped just as he changed into second, bunching up inside the primary case but luckily allowing the rear wheel to continue to turn. The chain was too tight to pull out to check for damage but it was an early end to the day sadly, 8.16s@80.3 mph.

In 1000cc Racing, Paul Houghton on his GSXR1000 was slightly shy of his class record, with a best of 6.36s@116.2 mph, from Libby Curtis now running on the GPZ1000 drag style machine and really enjoying it, 7.7s@96.2 mph.

In Unlimited Racing, Pete Ford was on top form, taking some off his class and the course record, (5.91s), 5.87s@121.6 mph whilst also jumping into his immaculate '57 Chevy to run with the cars! Then it was Steve Everett on his 'Busa, 6.25s@116 mph and Ian Wicks on his 'Busa, between time on starting duties trying to keep those pesky cars under control, 7.0s@102.8 mph.

In Vintage up to 350, Allen Randle on his Ducati 250 was under Richard Morgans class record, (10.023s), running 9.95s@68.8 mph, Noah Harrison was running his BSA/JAP 350 and was just outside the old mark, 10.028s@68.5 mph, and Doug Kenyon with an interesting machine. It was its first outing after a couple of years being rebuilt. Originally built as a hillclimber it has the more highly tuned Velocette Viper 350 engine fitted into a Norton frame. Doug was just bedding things in and getting used to the gearchange but said it was running well with a best of 11.0s@65.4 mph. Another interesting machine, running as a day entry, was that of Peter Evans. It had been, I believe, his Grandfather's sprint bike, originally built and run by Jim Still back in the day. A BSA C15 powered bike running on methanol it really looked the part. It had been 'in the shed' for some 30 years and this was its first outing. Although it started and sounded really strong, as it warmed up the oil seal on the gearchange shaft began to leak and rather than leave a trail of oil and incur the wrath of fellow riders, Peter sadly decided not to run.

In Unlimited Vintage, Mark Richards was alone on his Triumph T110, but having experimented with strapping the front was now getting ridiculous amounts of wheelspin and called it a day after a few runs with a best of 8.56s@85.5 mph.

In Classic Scooters, which was the most populated class, it was Vespas ruling, with Nigel Howard

quickest, Vespa 210, 8.39s@87.2 mph, from Jamie Lawn, Vespa 180, 8.82s@75.5 mph, then it was Stuart McVicker, Lambretta 240, 8.87s@77.5 mph and Paul Leonard, Lambretta 246, 9.3s@74 mph.

In Open Scooter, Eric Cope took his very noisy Lambretta 249 under his class record, (8.039s) with a 8.028s@87.6 mph, from Paul Gurney on his Lambretta 265, 8.545s@79.4 mph and Mike Pacey on his Rotax powered machine, still not quite happy with the way it's running, 8.547s@81.7 mph.

In Classic Open, Steve Mundy on the 'Foale' Z1 was the only runner, with a best of 7.32s@103.8 mph.

The only Road Bike class was the 750cc, on my Triumph 675 I managed to take a bit off my class record, (7.31s), running 7.26s@100.5 mph, probably helped by the tail wind, from Gill Pacey on her CBR500, 8.94s@76.8 mph.

Just a quick rundown on the eliminations. My first round was against Nigel Howard, he was off first and I couldn't catch him, but he went to quickly and broke out, my index was 7.26 and I ran..7.26, clearly a fluke! The second round was against Gill Pacey, she was away first but I caught her before the line, although she also broke out. The semi was against Kerry, I was away first but Kerry caught me before the line and had time to lift off, unfortunately not enough as he still broke out by 3/1000s, he was even more annoyed as he was convinced that would have been a 6 second run had he not lifted, still he got the 6 second run later on!

I was sure I had lost and had parked back at the van only for Steve Everett to come running up to tell me I had actually got through and I was now in the final, against him!

Well that was probably a forgone result, particularly as I tried to hard and went up rather than along and by the time I'd sorted it all out Steve was long gone to take the win.

As always, a huge thank you to everyone who makes the racing possible and to my fellow competitors for another great days racing!