

The Levis Cup Trial and Marjorie Cottle Trophy Trial – September 25th 2016.

Sunday the 25th of September – it seemed such a long way off at the beginning of August but how those weeks flew by – and then – almost disaster, I'd forgotten to send off a declaration to the MSA, prompting them to 'phone on Friday 23rd to verbally obtain the information so as Event Authorisation Form E406 could be e-mailed that evening "must do better next year" as my school report would say.

The nice girl on the telly said that sporadic heavy showers would spread from the west by mid-day Sunday and I certainly saw clouds building as my course opening duties took me to Ludlow but although a couple of brief showers dampened the ground a bit I think the day was a stolen one between Saturday evening's torrential down-pour and Monday's soggy gloom.



Tony Eyre - Humber



Skippy (Adrian Lockrey) waiting for Bil Danks' starter flag to drop as John Stirman waits his turn, all overseen by Rachel Bull and Roger Slater.

Of the fifty-two potential competitors forty-six assembled in the car park of The Lenchford Inn and were guided or called to the starters table by Eric, Ron and John, with Tony Eyre's Humber being flagged away at 10.01am by Rachel Bull – which was fitting as the late Trevor Bull had been a long standing (36 yrs) and (very) active member of our section. Steve Weller (98cc James Comet) and Adrian Lockrey (1919 Triumph) were next away, with all

three opting for the 18mph schedule. John Stirman, also James mounted, lead the cohort of ten riders on the 20mph schedule. The first on the 24mph schedule



Glen Crook – waits his turn and goes on to win both the Levis Tankard and the John Greenwood salver.

was Glen Crook whose time keeping with his 600cc Levis resulted in both the award of The Levis Tankard and The John Greenwood Trophy for the best “Flexibility” time ratio (2.53).

The morning route through Abberley and over the first observed hill – Flagstaff – then wound its way up to Clows Top, down to Newnham Bridge then northward to Neen Savage

and the only ford in this year’s event. After Saturday night’s downpour the flow was fast, muddy and its challenge compounded with a fallen branch preventing anything wider than three feet passing! Fortunately, the foot bridge was wide enough for most things, even Bruce Grant’s Brough (only just) and so a hastily erected VMCC sign pointed the way, but what to do about Jenny Hart in the BSA



Dick Hobart about to start a successful day gaining The Levis Cup, and as team man, The Albert Mattox Trophy.

TW3 – simple – drop off the next set of Check Point signs and clocks then belt backward along the route to catch the BSA and dictate bypass instructions to passenger Marion. Meanwhile, back at the ford Sally Williams (Ariel) proved that water level or fallen branch were no real obstacle for a determined rider – her score of 29pts gained her the Peter Ashen Rose Bowl. Five

miles further on Farlow Bank caught out Bruce and Dianne Grant but that didn't stop them, along with John Webb (Scott) and Dick Hobart (Ariel), taking the Albert Mattox Trophy – the team award, though Dick's impressive score of 11pts helped but, importantly, resulted in his award of The Levis Cup – congratulations. Of the riders aboard pre 1966 sub-200cc machines, Andrew Rae showed the same level of skill with a score of 11pts and so is awarded the Marjorie Cottle Trophy.



Jenny Hart and Marion Canham – BSA TW3- setting off for a Best Opposite Class award with Andrew Rae awaiting his 10:15 start and the Marjorie Cottle Cup.

After lunch, which was again at The Squirrel, the riders faced Mr Danks' starter's flag to then directly ascend Whitbatch demonstrating slow speed control over the first eighty yards and attempting to attain a 24mph average over the second 120 yards. With a "Section Ratio" of 2.53 Glen Crook showed what his Levis is made of and is awarded the John Greenwood salver. In a change from last year's route the competitors headed south-westward beyond Ludlow for a tour

through the vintage scenery of Downton, The Goggin and Richards Castle before picking up the Teme valley again at Tenbury Wells then leaving it at Shelsley Beauchamp to climb over the hills to Holt Heath and so the finish at the Lenchford where the first man home was Alan Bromwich (BSA B31) grinning from ear-to-ear "I'm early" he said, "...it was just lovely, I set the throttle and just enjoyed the countryside..." As some will know, we extended the entry criteria this year to include machines of no more than 350cc, registered before 31st Dec 1960 and from within that group Andrew Leslie (BSA B31) achieved a 16pt score and so the class award while Robert Rendell (BSA C15) with 31pts is awarded the Calthorpe Cup.

Well boys and girls, another Levis Trial is over and as usual the thanks must go to those whose help is invaluable and absolutely essential – members of the Worcestershire and North Birmingham sections their families and friends together with the staff and proprietors of The Lenchford – Shrawley and The Squirrel – Ludlow. On behalf of myself and the competitors, many of whom have written to say so – Thank you.



Andrew Leslie.
1957 plunger B31

Results:

The Levis Cup (Premier award)	Richard Hobart (1936 Ariel)	11pts
Alec Ross Cup (Runner-up)	Ian Cole (1929 BSA)	15pts
Marjorie Cottle Cup	Andrew Rae (1960 Excelsior)	11pts
Levis Tankard	Glen Crook (1937 Levis)	17pt
Alice Round Cup (Best opposite class)	Jenny Hart & Marion Canham (1930 BSA TW3)	39pts
Bert LeVack (next best vintage)	Peter Kent (1926 Ariel)	16pts
Omyga Trophy (next best post vintage)	Ian Scott (1935 Ariel)	15pts
PW Classic Trophy	Andrew Leslie (1957 BSA)	16 pts
Sgt Colley VC Mem. Trophy	Ralph Taylor (1940 BSA WM20)	29pts
Peter Ashen Rose Bowl	Sally Williams (1930 Ariel)	29pts
Calthorpe 100gns Cup	Robert Rendell (1960 BSA)	31pts
John Greenwood Trophy	Glen Crook (1937 Levis)	Ratio: 2.53
Endeavour Award	John Stirman (1953 James)	40pts
Albert Mattox Mem. Rose Bowl	Bruce & Dianne Grant (1937 Brough)	30pts
	Dick Hobart (1936 Ariel)	11pts
	John Webb (1929 Scott)	18pts
	Team Total=	59 pts



Above: Ian Cole with the Bert LeVack trophy which he won last year before repeating his performance this year to gain the Alec Ross Cup.

Below: Dave Spencer : His own restoration, his wife's creation (the jumper) and her hard work – polished and presented trophies. Thanks Sarah.





(16): Alan Bromwich -BSA B31.

(19): Keith Sams – Sopwith ABC.

(20): Bruce & Dianne Grant -SS80.

(41) Ian Scott – Ariel.

(42) Robert Rendell – BSA C15.

