

Levis Cup Trial and Marjorie Cottle Trophy Trial - 28th September 2014.

As in previous years the week leading up to the event is one spent going over the preparations – mechanical or organisational and keeping an eye, or ear, on the old weather forecast! Fortunately the last couple of weeks in September remained settled and predominantly dry – and that included Levis Sunday – what a relief! Light early morning mist soon cleared and by 8.30 the signing-on table was being visited by a steady flow of entrants lead by Keith Sams (ABC) keen to receive route, number and time cards.



10.01am and this year's starter – Peter Ashen flagged away Bob Ashwin riding his 1913 Champion with, he told me later, lowered gearing so as to tackle the various hills and though Flagstaff and Farlow bank beat him he had no trouble on Whitbatch and his efforts gained him the George Yeomans Cup [Best Veteran]. Following Keith's

ABC came a brace of 500 Rudge Multis and a Blackburn engined Sun ridden by Jon Smith (the latter 3 are shown above). Mike Stephenson astride his Ariel 'E' closed the first batch of vintage machines and was followed by the first of the Marjorie Cottle competitors; Ian Harris [50cc Kreidler Florett]. Sadly clutch control cable problems lead to Ian's early retirement which was disappointing for all as many believe that this diminutive machine would have given a competitive performance. The next batch of six spanned the period from 1924 – Jon Phillips' L-24 BSA to 1942 – Reg Eyre's Ariel W/NG, the latter being the first of the WD machines, a class that included Martyn Griffiths and Bruce Grant both on Triumph 3HW's, Trevor Bull- Triumph T 100 and Jonathan Jinks – BSA M20.

With John Morris riding his ISDT DMW (seen right in Ludlow) awaiting the starters flag the sprinkling of Marjorie Cottle entrants throughout the starting line prompted a couple of spectators to ask why there were "modern" machines entered? Happy with the answer given they were somewhat surprised to realise that the youngest "modern machine" (Honda CB160) was 48 years old and that John rode the DMW in the Austrian ISDT amongst others.

Jenny Hart and Frances Arrow (BSA Trike - below) were the sole representatives of the three wheel fraternity this year as there were neither Morgans nor



sidecar outfits entered and once they were away it left the road clear for Tim and Trish Penn –BSA Empire Star. Sadly ‘cush-drive’ problems meant an early retirement for them whilst fuel and clutch problems on Flagstaff Hill prompted Dave Spencer – BSA Sloper to return to base and home – though an afternoon spent in the garage saw him return and crest Flagstaff a few days later – problem solved!

Once away there is little for the Clerk of Course to do other than chat with some of the spectators over coffee and wait for the returning riders. The day stayed fine and riders returned with smiles though maybe a little tired and as trailers were loaded and farewells said we waited for Steve Weller on his 98cc James Comet chaperoned by Adrian (Skippy) Lockrey (1919 Triumph) This was Steve’s first “vintage event” and though he walked up



a number of the hills he finished the event – just as Skippy ran out of fuel and paddled the last fifty yards! For his effort and tenacity Steve is the recipient of the Endeavour Award this year.

No report would be complete without mention of the effort put in by the teams of marshals without whom this event would not run, they are drawn from both within and without the VMCC and all pulled together by Bill Danks. My thanks to them and to those who rode.

Martyn Round.

Results:

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| Levis Cup: | Gordon Smith, | Levis Model A. |
| Alec Ross Cup: | Keith Sams, | Sopwith ABC. |
| Alice Round Cup: | Jenny Hart, | BSA TW-3. |
| Marjorie Cottle Trophy | Bob Sherras, | Francis Barnett Falcon. |
| Time Keepers Trophy: | Andy Geden, | BSA S29. |
| George Yeomans Cup: | Bob Ashwin, | Campion. |
| Bert LeVack Trophy: | Peter Kent, | Ariel Model D. |
| Omyga Trophy: | Richard Hobart, | Ariel NH. |
| Peter Ashen Rose Bowl: | Cathryn Barton, | BSA. |
| Sgt. H.J.Colley V.C. Trophy: | Bruce Grant, | Triumph 3HW. |
| Levis Tankard: | Stephen Nutt, | Levis Model A2. |
| Calthorpe 100gns Cup: | Mary Roberts, | AJS Model 22. |
| Endeavour Award: | Steve Weller, | James Comet. |
| Albert Mattox Trophy: | Peter Kent, Reg Eyre, Geoff Brown, Ariels Model D; W/NG; SQ-4. | |