

Levis Cup Trial & Marjorie Cottle Trophy Trial 27th September 2015.

Sunday the 27th of September... Levis Cup Day! Once again The Lenchford Hotel at Shrawley



Dave Davies inspecting the Calthorpe 100gns Cup.

provided our venue for the event, with some competitors arriving on the Saturday evening to camp or lodge overnight ready for the Sunday Trial though the first machine heard was the sweet burble of an ABC which announced that Keith Sams had arrived from Chesterfield and was ready for the day. The Levis Cup Trial doubles as a social event for many who come to view the start and catch-up with old mates or even spar over the potential of a few Western Region Championship points and so this year was no different with the cheery mingling of competitors, marshals and supporters preparing for the day, fitting route sheets,

riding numbers, confirming check-points or selecting a favourable vantage

point.

The Clerk of the Course set off at 9.15am with a car full of signs, record sheets and clocks and crossed fingers trusting that the various officials had found their allotted sites and were comfortably ensconced, so it was with relief that the first team were found on Flagstaff Hill – just where they should be! On his arrival at the second observation point Roger and Trevor were



Bob Ashwin 1913 Champion with 3-speed hub gear watched by fellow belt drive rider and long-time Levis supporter Jim Wheeler. [Award: Geo Yeomans Cup]

comfortably set with flask and deck chairs – excellent, meanwhile back at the start Bob Ashwin astride his 1913 Champion was being flagged off by Starter John Shaw who was suitably clad in period white overalls and flat cap whilst lined-up awaiting their allotted start times were Dennis Beale [Rex], Keith Sams [Sopwith ABC] and Ian Hirons [Triumph].

The steady and timely flow of machines to the Starters flag was assured by Eric, John, Julian and Richard such that by 11.04 Dave Thomas's Model 6 Sunbeam was disappearing into the distance toward Holt Heath and thence Wichenford and Martley leaving The Lenchford Hotel once again a tranquil Severn side location.

Out on the course the Flagstaff team had rendered pushing assistance to Pat & Brian's 1926 Triumph outfit whilst Ian's Triumph and Andrew Rae's 148cc Excelsior needed a little LFA [Light Footing Assistance]. Flagstaff is a long climb and the observed section though reasonably short is probably just below the mid- point of the hill. It is surely a test of stamina and determination especially for the earlier machines and their riders. Once crested the route meandered out to the Teme valley then climbed back toward Titterstone Clee Hill. The ford at Neene Savage was not observed this year though any casual spectator could be forgiven for their confusion regarding the order in which machines passed through



Colin Lloyd waved off by John Shaw. [Award: Levis Cup]

since by now the faster 24mph average competitors were passing the slower 20mph chaps. At thirty seven miles out the second observed section, Farlow Bank, provided the usual challenge with a left hand hair-pin included in the climb. Un-characteristically caught-out was Reg Eyre [Ariel] with a 'footing' penalty whilst the Triumph outfit needed some assistance and Bob Ashwin resorted to a steady walk alongside the Champion.

Ludlow Council's permit restriction of twenty five machines only in the Town Square had forced a change of lunchtime venue. The Squirrel –

Foldgate Lane, proved to be a welcome alternative, doubly so since the pub's management team had allowed us exclusive use of one area of their car park and, un-requested but greatly appreciated, had provided a 'VIP' area within the pub for competitors to find refreshment and a place to eat – though the day was dry and warm and many chose to eat outside. By noon a good selection of spectators and some of the earlier marshals had gathered on a range of machinery from modern sports bikes, a gamut of triumph twins, a couple of BSA's to a 30's Enfield – all waiting for the arrival of the competitors. Clearly nervous and having been asked a number of times when the riders were due the Clerk of the Course (CotC) waited out by the main A49 junction looking back toward Ledwyche [the last time check] wondering whether some un-seen route-sheet error had sent fifty four riders scattered over the Shropshire countryside – but no – first man in was Keith [ABC] followed by Pete Tustin [Model 50 Norton] then a cheery wave from eventual Levis Cup winner Colin Lloyd [Model Q Triumph]. After a short break Bruce and Dianne Grant [Triumph 3HW]



Dave Spencer BSA Sloper (left) & Keith Sams, ABC, arrive at The Squirrel.



followed by a grinning Ian Harris [Kreidler Florett 50cc] and a salute from section secretary Dave Spencer [BSA Sloper] – obviously pleased that his machine had coped well on its second Levis Trial – suggested his fears were unfounded. Happy that the route sheet worked and that timings were about right the CotC departed to confirm afternoon check-points and put in place the various "VMCC This Way" signs at

Furnace Mill near Bewdley letting the riders know that the Road Closed signs (which were not on the local Highways/Council



Jenny Hart & Frances Arrow [Award: Alice Round Cup]

information web site) did not apply and that safe passage past the numerous Water Board holes could be had by all – including Jenny and Frances’s BSA TW3 and the outfits of Fred Smith and Sue Hudson [BSA G29] and Pat and Brian [Triumph].

The afternoon section of 42 miles began with the ascent of Whitbatch hill on which the Flexibility Trial was conducted – for those who do not know it was a simple test of riding up the hill in first gear as slow as possible to the mid-point and as fast as possible to the top and the ratio of slow over fast time used to identify the machine of greatest “flexibility”. However due to an issue regarding permitting the presentation and description was changed slightly to satisfy the oversight authorities, never the less the ascent presents a challenge and an

element of competition unique to this event. Other than time checks there were no more formal observed sections on the afternoon route back to The Lenchford though the long ford at Clee St Margaret and the 1920’s trial hill at Buckeridge were included for fun! Back at the paddock, after a day riding over 93 miles of Worcestershire and Shropshire hills and byways time cards were handed in, machines loaded and farewells said.

As usual thanks must be extended to those who support the event by participating – It is a long day and at times a tough trial especially when the test hills get the better of a machine. Likewise thanks and appreciation must be extended to all of those who have helped out marshalling, overseeing car-parks, providing a break-down service, all of whom have been drawn from the ranks of the Worcester and North Birmingham Sections, The NACC and The Sunbeam Register. Nor must we forget the staff at both The Lenchford, Shrawley and at The Squirrel – Foldgate Lane [Ludlow]. Thank you.

Martyn Round



Ian Harris [Award: Marjorie Cottle Trophy]



Previous page: Jeff Stirrop's Tiger 80 [Award: Omyder Trophy]; Dave Thomas 1926 Model 6 Sunbeam – the last man away!

This Page: John Makinson's Coventry Eagle Flying 8. (top left). Peter Kent [Award: Alec Ross Cup]. Stephen Nut & Christine Bellamy [Award: Levis Tankard]. Ralph Taylor [Award: Sgt Colley Trophy]



Right : Ian Hirons [Award: Endeavour Trophy]

Following page: Martyn Griffiths, Mike Stephenson, lunch-time parking.





Levis Cup Results 27th Sep 2015

Levis Cup:	Colin Lloyd	1926 Triumph model Q.
Alec Ross Cup:	Peter Kent	1929 Ariel Model B.
Alice Round Cup:	Jenny Hart & Frances Arrow	1930 BSA TW3.
Bert LeVack Trophy:	Ian Cole	1929 BSA model H.
George Yeomans Trophy:	Bob Ashwin	1913 Champion.
Omyga Trophy:	Jeff Stirrop	1939 Triumph Tiger 80.
Calthorpe 100gns Cup:	Mary Roberts	1937 AJS model 22.
Marjorie Cottle Trophy:	Ian Harris	Kreidler Florett.
Rolley Newton Cup:	Brian and Pat Empsall	1928 Triumph Model N Delux.
Sgt H.J.Colley VC MM Memorial Trophy:	Ralph Taylor	1940 BSA W/M20.
Levis Tankard:	Stephen Nutt and Christine Bellamy	1935 Levis (A2).
John Greenwood Salver:	Roland Robinson	1929 Ariel Model LF.
Time Keepers Trophy:	Dave Hayward	1930 BSA Sloper.
Endeavour Award:	Ian Hirons	1921 Triumph
Albert Mattox Rose Bowl. (Team of 3):	Andy Geden [1929 BSA S29], Ian Cole [1929 BSA (H)]	Bob Ashwin [1913 Champion]