

Lydden Hill race report July 2015

British Historic Racing Club at Lydden Hill Round 7 & 8



Ian Henshaw Royal Enfield Crusader 1958 250cc Lee Hollick Photography

Lydden is always one of the highlights of the year for BHR and once again it didn't fail to meet expectations. The weather was kind on Saturday but abysmal on Sunday. The paddock atmosphere was as vibrant as ever, and the racing close and exciting. A great emphasis of the meeting was held in memory of a number fallen riders from both BHR and BSSO, and awards were presented in recognition of this. It was recently the tenth anniversary since the passing of Tim Johnson, who tragically died competing in the sport he loved the most with his brother Trevor. Tim's bike was pushed round a lap of the circuit by BHR members and attendees on Saturday evening to raise money; which was especially poignant for Trevor, who dearly misses him. We also had an award for Keith Nicholls who lost his life in a freak road accident on his way home from work; he was a regular competitor with BHR. In addition, an extra race and award for the scooter boys was held in memory of Jon Uffindell; and everyone within the BSSO was thinking of our dear friend Mark Hullah a.k.a. "Bogie" who has recently passed away. You could say this meeting was an emotional one!



Steve Radakovic

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Event 7 Bob Newby Racing Championship/Event 6: Footman James Championship

Saturday saw Mike Powell take two clear wins on his sponsored Seeley G50 MK4 over second place rider Steve Radakovic, a returning member to the club. The race of the weekend in this event was Sunday's first; which saw three riders go over the line with measly a three seconds between them: Ian Henshaw took a deserved win, followed by Mike Powell, with Dave Matravers completing the top three. Mike Powell took the final



Jack Hebb #59 Nick Bedford #3

Lee Hollick Photography

win of the weekend, which had been a great event to watch throughout!

Event 6 saw Jack Hebb and Nick Bedford battling all weekend. Nick had problems in the second race on Saturday which meant Jack took both wins. On Sunday, Nick came back with a vengeance and lots of bravery in the wet, taking both wins. The fastest Lap in the event did, however, go to Jack Hebb with a 50.92 in the opening race on Saturday.

Event 3: Villers Marketing & Promotions Championship/Event 2: Pre-1963 250cc Championship



Matt Hebb #157 battling hard with Geoff Mills #94

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Ian Henshaw had a storming weekend in this category, taking all four wins on his Royal Enfield Crusader 250cc. Event 2 welcomed a classic invite to BHR who took the first three wins of the weekend, but did not collect any points. In the first race, taking second position, but collecting top points was Nick Kennett. The second race saw Matt Hebb take full points with a narrow 0.18 of a second margin over Geoff Mills as they went over the line. Geoff also had a great second race on Sunday in the wet, taking the runners up position to Matt as they went over the line – a slender of 0.004 of a second between them! Too close for the human eye to call and we can be thankful for the technology and transponders to determine this result, compared to the older days of lap scoring and timekeeping.

Event 17: Penguin Speed Shops Championship/Event 15: Pre-1959 Sidecar Outfits Championship/Event 23a BSSO Scooter Sidecar Championship



Stephen Mann/Phil Wade #80 getting the upper hand on Bill and Maggie Tuer #34

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In Event 17, it was great to see Bill and Maggie Tuer out in their 1208cc Morgan, unfortunately there was not any of their fellow Morgan crews joining them on this occasion though. Bill wasn't given an easy time of it and took a solitary win. Stephen Mann and Phil Wade on their Triumph Twin Engine 1246cc took the other three wins in close contention with Bill, but sure as hell made their outfit as wide as possible to keep them at bay. Fantastic racing to watch.

It was also good to see Julian Bishop returning in Event 15, with a new lady on the side – Sylvia Hase. Julian's regular passenger Rebecca Howse was helping out Joe White who was also entered in this class. Julian and Sylvia took three wins over the weekend. Many congratulations go to Adam Pope and John Christopher, who not only took a clear win in the first race of the weekend, but also were presented with the "Trevor Johnson sidecar crew of the meeting Trophy".

Event 23a saw John Howe and David Bristow take all the wins as they were the only scooter sidecar entered! It would be great to see some more of these lovely outfits out on the grid. John Howe displayed complete madness

in the first race of Sunday in the pouring rain by taking to the circuit on slick tyres! He took it steady and brought it home in one piece but I definitely had bitten off my finger nails watching him do it! John is also supporting and sponsoring one of our Bantam Riders, Ian Scutt, and is providing him with his Lambretta to have a go. This emphasises the warm and friendly atmosphere between riders in our club and the opportunities offered.

Event 12: Lacey Ducati Championship/ Event 11: Rex Caunt Racing Championship (including the extra race: BSA Bantam Club Summer Series Fred Launchbury Race)



Nick Kennett #159 & Chris Bray #318 (classic invite)

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Entries in Event 12 always promise a very competitive field, and rarely fail to meet expectations. Andy Hunt took three wins, and Nick Kennett the other. However, the fastest laps on the time sheets didn't always correspond with the winner over the line, and it's important to mention Roger Farris who set the fastest lap in race one on Sunday in the wet; Chris Bray, a classic invite, who took the fastest lap in of Saturday's opener; Ian Henshaw taking fastest lap in the last race of Sunday; and Andy Hunt with the fastest lap of event twelve on Saturday. This shows just how close and competitive the racing is in this particular event, and I would encourage you to view the results for yourself, by visiting www.theresults.co.uk.



Robert Duesbury #150 not making things easy for Mike Powell in the wet

Lee Hollick Photography

The Bantam riders championship is well underway, and Mike Powell, following his hat-trick of wins this weekend leads the way with 353 points; with Robert Duesbury second on 240 points, and Ian Scutt in third with 194 points. However, the season is by no means over yet; and with Robert Duesbury taking a cracking win on Sunday in the wet means Mike Powell needs to keep his wits about him to stay on top. Ian Scutt, despite not having the best of seasons with his machinery issues is keeping a firm hold of third spot, and enjoyed a deserved win in the “Fred Launchbury Summer Series” to keep his motivation levels high, leaving the championship in this “Summer Series” with: Robert Duesbury on 56 points; Mike Powell on 41; and Ian Scutt on 38. We look forward to what our next fixture may bring for these guys. Robbie Brown still leads the 175 Championship with a clear lead of 101 points, from Tom Snow and Seb Roberts.

Event 14: D & M Engineering Championship/Event 1: Tuers Garage Championship



Mike Bevan #239, Graham Nicholls #167, Rob Stafford #105

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This event saw one of the largest entries of the weekend, with a prize of a free entry to be drawn out for the next meeting. Thanks to the sponsors of this event “D & M Engineering” for this kind donation. Mike Bevan took the first three wins of the weekend and also the fastest lap with a 48.65. John Warwick took the remaining win.

Mike was also voted for by the marshals for the Trevor Johnson “Solo Rider of The Meeting” trophy receiving this award on the Saturday evening.



Alan Lewis Norton CS I 1930 490cc machine

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Event one welcomed back Alan and Simon Lewis battling away on their pre-1948 machines, Simon taking a clean sweep of wins. Alan was voted for by the riders for the “Tim Johnson Memorial Trophy”, which he also received on the Saturday night. We hope to see the Lewis duo back out again with BHR in the remaining fixtures.

Event 10: Woodland Oil Championship/ Event 9: Pre 1963 over 500cc championship

Mike Bevan was already having a great weekend then



Nick Killworth BK Triumph T110 750cc 1961 machine

Lee Hollick Photography

went and took four deserved wins in Event 10, also receiving the “Les Kempster Award” for “Best Norton” in the process. In Event 9, Nick Killworth took all four wins, receiving the “Keith Nicholls Memorial Trophy”

presented by “BK Racing”. This award was presented to the rider who scored the most points on Saturday riding a pre-1963 machine in the 500-unlimited event. Keith Nicholls was a regular contender with BHR winning a number of championships in the early 1990’s but was tragically killed in a road accident. Keith borrowed one of the “BK Racing” team bikes to win one of his championships, with this award being put up by this team in his memory.



Great battle between Jack Hebb #59 and Paul Matravers #18

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Event 5: Goodwin Championship/ Event 4: Palletforce Championship

Graham Buller set the standard in the first two races on Saturday, with Nick Bedford taking both runners-up placings. Graham didn’t get out on Sunday and Nick capitalised, with both wins in the pouring rain. Mick Baldwin took second position in both races on Sunday. However, the main focus of both races on Sunday was the battle between Jack Hebb and Paul Matravers. Paul making a return to the grid after sustaining injuries at his crash at Anglesey was showing top form. Paul and Jack went over the line in Sunday’s races with only second



Dave Matravers #74

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separating them; Paul took third in the first race of Sunday and Jack reversed the result in the last outing. An absolute “nail-biter” to watch and thankfully son Dave Matravers didn’t have to spectate nervously on the sidelines, as he was competing in Event 4 taking a

pair of wins himself on Sunday. John Warwick took both wins on the Saturday.

Event 18: PB Mechanical Services Championship/ Event 16: Sidecar-Based Three Wheeler Championships



Top 3 runners in the championship John Lorriman/Jim Steel leading the pack in this picture

Event 18 gave spectators a mixture of different winners, retirements, sidecar “waltz’s” and passengers discharged from their platforms! John Lorriman had the most successful weekend with two wins but also spun on the climb to the hairpin, losing his passenger Jim Steel who thankfully escaped uninjured. 2014 Champions Phil Jones and Claire Duplock had a win, as did Adam Pope and John Christopher. The championship is far from being decided with two fixtures left.



Chris Wickett/Colin Banks having a tussle with classic invite Vincent Worthington/Paul Thomas #71

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Event 16 was not short of mis-haps either; the first race saw the Dawson father and son duo take the win, but unfortunately they failed to partake in the remainder of the weekend. Classic invites Vincent Worthington and Paul Thomas took two wins but no points in the championship; leaving Chris Wickett and Colin Banks taking full points in the last race of Saturday and all of Sundays. With no one else competing due to engine troubles, it means the Wickett-Banks pairing has made good progress in the championship table and proves it’s not just winning races that takes these championships but also consistency and reliability of the riders, passengers and their machines.

Events 13: BEARS Solo Championship/Event 8: Three Bears Championship



Scott Harris Norton Kirby 920cc 1972

Lee Hollick Photography

Event 13 also sub-divides into F1, F2 and F3 according to engine capacity when it comes to awarding championship points and end of season awards in each class. Please visit the website and also the forum to view the championship tables to keep you up to date on where competitors stand. Scott Harris took a clean sweep of wins over the weekend and will be happy with the points accumulated in the F1 championship on his Norton Kirby 920cc machine.

In Event 8, Mike Bevan continued his success, dominating on his Norton Atlas, with four wins, and I'm sure with his other successes over the weekend returned home very happy.

Event 19 & 20 BSSO Scooter Championships (also Jon Uffindell Memorial Race included)

To keep you all up to speed on how this championship works there are five groups. Three groups are for the geared scooters and two for the automatics. Group Four is the piston ported geared scooters, Darren Conneely was leading this championship going into Lydden and took the first win of the weekend comfortably but then did not have the best of luck having two "offs" which put him out of contention for the final race. James Lancaster took the win in the second race of Saturday, with just less than a second separating him from David Bristow. David showed extreme skill and courage on Sunday taking both wins in the wet.



Ryan Clipston #7 (Group 6a) leading Stuart Day #41 (Group 6)

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Group Six (reed induced machines) is fiercely competitive: Stuart Day lead the championship arriving at Lydden and had a good weekend with a win in the final race of Sunday and prominent positions in the other races. Team mate Damon Tunnicliffe took the first race of the weekend but had problems in the others, bringing the machine home as best he could to keep collecting the points for Team SRP. Mike Bonett had a great weekend taking two wins for JB Tuning and also smashed the Lap record with a 50.39 that had been held by Guy Topper since 2009. Steve Conneely had two good second positions on the Saturday for Team Replay. This Group I'm sure will go down to the wire at our last fixture at Cadwell Park.

Group 6a, the automatic scooters (runners) saw Ryan Clipstone take four clear wins, but was still shy of breaking the lap record set in 2013 by Joe Ravenscroft. John Woods had a good consistent weekend with three second positions, spoilt only by an unfortunate DNF. Group 10 (Zips) saw a clean sweep for Justin Price, and it was good to see Tom Russell back out mixing it up.

Scooter fanatics were blessed with an extra race and also one that meant a lot to all the BSSO



Left to right: Jon Gilbert (tresurer for BSSO), Damon Tunnicliffe #1 2014 championship winner for group 6 and overall and uffy memorial race Team SRP, Ryan Clipstone 2015 Uffy Memorial winner and 2014 group 6a winner PSN Tuning, Stuart Day #41 and multiple championship winner Team SRP

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competitors and supporters – “The Jon Uffindell Memorial race”. Unlike the main event races which give a timed delay between the geared and automatic scooters, the entire field were all set off together. Stuart Day led the race with Ryan Clipstone moving through the field to join him. Stuart, a close friend and team mate to Jon Uffindell rides with Jon’s number – 41 – in his memory and spectators were willing him on to win the race. With Damon Tunnicliffe who had won this race last season losing his back end going into the hairpin it looked increasingly likely to be Stuart’s race. Ryan Clipstone of PSN tuning battled on and Stuart and Ryan overtook one another several times before Ryan edged away having a great advantage in not having to change gear, unlike Stuart, and using this advantage to take a deserved win and the Jon Uffindell award. Congratulations to Ryan who was over the moon to receive this trophy, chatting with him in the paddock shortly after he was as he put it “still in shock”. The championship tables for each of the groups have yet to be updated, but please visit the Facebook page or join their forum to stay in touch with all the news.

Event 21; Dijon Home And Flooring Championship

Congratulations to Seb Roberts, who took a clear win by ten seconds from second placed Rian Hamilton, with Andrew Piggott third. However Rian took the fastest lap of the race with a very respectable 51.25 in this VMCC member’s solo novice championship.

I would like to thank, on behalf of all of BHR, the marshals for their excellent commitment and work over the weekend in what was a very wet and unpleasant Sunday. Also to all officials who made the meeting happen and that gave us a very organised flowing weekend. To Sue Whittaker for her hard work in organising the BBQ on the Saturday evening and to all the helpers flipping burgers and keeping everyone fed after a busy day; and to Gerry Daine for the organisation of the entertainment on Saturday night. In all, it was an excellent meeting. Our next fixture is Darley Moor in three weeks time. Please visit the new website to view all BHR related information and join our forum to get in on all discussions and updates as they happen at www.britishhistoricroacingclub.co.uk. Thanks to Lee Hollick for his continued hard work and dedication with all our photographs please visit: <http://leehollickphotography.zenfolio.com/f1010273017>