

Twinshock Scramble Club Scotland
Round 9 Southalls Farm Drumclog
Sunday 2nd October 2011
Report by
Chris Montignani

During one of their most difficult years to date the Scottish Twinshock Scramble Club endeavoured to hold round nine of their current championship campaign at Southalls Farm Drumclog last weekend.

Unfortunately the club had to cancel their scheduled round eight event at Alloa on the 25th of September due to the recent wet weather and the late harvesting of crops. And to compound their misery their scheduled round nine at Kincardine on the 2nd of October would encounter the very same fate for exactly this same reason. And so it looked like their current championship campaign was going to finish prematurely at their last meeting which was round seven at Stirling held more than five weeks previous.

However with a quick phone call from club secretary Joe McLean Southalls Farm at Drumclog in Ayrshire came to their rescue with an offer of help. And almost immediately things took on a brighter view as it looked like the final Scottish Twinshock round for 2011 may still get the go ahead.

This former Scottish championship motocross venue with its deep sandy berms and those formidable tabletop jumps were certainly going to test the endurance of those mature Twinshock competitors and their even older vintage machines.

A hectic week's work took place in order this event could proceed and by Friday evening the course was fit for any British Championship occasion let alone a meagre Scottish Twinshock event. Although elation soon turned to desolation as the dreaded heavens opened on Saturday afternoon with some of the most torrential rain this part of the country has seen all year. Come Sunday morning the course was completely waterlogged and the rain still persistent, things were again looking very ominous as to whether it would be practical to even put riders on the track.

However the Scottish riders have raced in horrendous conditions for most of the season and this final round at Drumclog was certainly no different to what they had already encountered. They were not about to let a little matter of a saturated racetrack dampen their spirits as they signed on in their droves to take part in their grand finale end to the Scottish racing year.

The Pre 77 class were first to the gate and it was James McLean who was the class of the field on his very quick CZ with three race wins. Calum Wilson ended the runner up in this class on the day but he still won the championship title overall for 2011. Motor mechanic and all round club worker Don Fullarton rode well enough to fill the last podium spot in third.

Davie Murie made the Pre 1983 125cc class his own as he screamed his little Suzuki round the water logged sandy racetrack to the overall win. William Penrice was never far from the leaders over the piece as he finished in second. A third place finish for Gary Britton would be a fitting end to a difficult day for him as he would now be crowned 125 champion for 2011, and it looked like once again that "Britton indeed does have some talent".

The Over 40's class has been one of the best contested formulas all season and has gone right to the last round of the year to decide the eventual winner. Tony Reid put in a very consistent ride to take the overall win at Drumclog with local Ayrshire man Gary Whyte in second on the YZ Yamaha. Current championship leader James Colligan only required a fourth place finish at Drumclog to secure him the title for 2011. So a win in race one was more than enough to assure him the silverware as the top man in the over 40's for the current campaign.

The over 50's was hotly contested over the piece with John Walker taking three wins out of three starts and the overall result. Walker would also secure the over 50's championship title for the second time of asking with this superb win. Steve Mower took the runner up spot from local Ayrshire man John McKell in third who also rode superbly round the extremely water sodden race course.

There was a brand new name on the winner's rostrum in the Twinshock 250 class as Chris Woodward took the overall win from Durham man Neil Robinson on the Honda in second. Mike VanDerMerWe was very happy with his third place finish at Drumclog as this would also secure him the 250 title for this racing year. Davie McKell from team Ayrshire also brought his Honda home to rapturous applause from the very appreciative but wind swept Drumclog spectators.

In the big boys Twinshock 500 open class Paul Chiappa was out gunned for the first time this year by his racing companion Craig Smith. With two race wins to his credit Smith was in electrifying form on his 490 Maico and fully deserved the overall result. Still it's probably fair to say that Chiappa had a few misdemeanours on the track throughout the day but there is still no denying

that he was beaten fair and square by the faster man and I'm sure that Paul would be the first person to acknowledge that very fact. John Richards I'm sure will be a contender for this title come 2012 as he ran with the front runners all day and fully deserved the last podium spot in third. Wet weather maestro Brian Allardyce also had a very productive day as he managed to keep his 490 Maico upright and on the race track throughout the three legs, and with a fourth place finish and no injuries to bike or rider to report that has to be a result at the end of what was an extremely difficult day.

Some of the best racing of the day was served up by the guys in the Evolution class. Tom Grant was once again top dog riding one of the Team Loudon Honda machines. Grant rode superbly and had a terrific dice with team mate Morton Hannah over the three legs, although Hannah would eventually finish in third spot come the chequered flag. Both these riders had their share of shunts throughout the day with Hannah bouncing across the track on the uphill table top in race two, and Grant also taking a tumble while racing in the modern monoshock support class in race three. Still at the end of the day it finished a team Loudon 1-2-3 with Grant first, Les Blair second, and Morton Hannah third.

The modern Monoshock support class were down in numbers mainly because of the dismal weather conditions and the sodden track. Although there was still more than enough hardy souls to fill the start gate to capacity and entertain the appreciative crowd. Jason Martin fresh from his recent title win in the Red Bull Junior Two Stroke Championship took to the Drumclog track like the proverbial duck to water. Both he and Mark Wilson supplied some great racing over the three legs with Martin taking the overall win from Wilson in second. This runner up spot for Mark Wilson would make him the overall Monoshock champion for 2011 for the third time of asking. Gordon Morrison deserved a better result than his third place finish suggested as he holeshotted all three legs and did much of the early running in this class but he was still very grateful of his eventual overall result.

The Grand National was the last race of the day and suffice to say it did not attract a full line up at the start gate. Personally I couldn't blame them as the riders have been put through the mill at almost every round this year battling the worst that the Scottish weather could throw at them. But in true die hard fashion the hardy competitors that did line up still had a smile on their faces as they crossed the finish line for the last time in 2011. Mark Dempsey (Big Deeps) took the win from Neil Robinson second and Morton Hannah in third.

On what had been a difficult day for all concerned it really was a wonder that this meeting went ahead at all because of the tricky track conditions. Still many thanks to all who participated and we as always are continually appreciative of your support under these extreme circumstances. It has been a battle royal against the elements this season with only one dry event at Tinto Moto Park in Ayrshire way back in April. This Tinto venue carries the accolade of being the sole contender for the sunny venue of the year award this season.

The Scottish Twinshock Scramble Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all who supported us throughout 2011, that is riders, sponsors, and spectators alike and we hope that you will continue to assist us in the future as we know that this organisation could not function without your very valuable involvement.

Not forgetting that we still have our annual Gary Allan memorial scramble to host at Forfar in December (that's "weather permitting" of course). If it went ahead this event would be a good opportunity for everyone to catch up on the gossip over the festive period.

As usual every meeting and indeed every single race of our 2011 season is available from me on DVD for a ridiculously small fee. Look out also for the latest "Twinshock Rider Down" Vol 7 disc which is now available and includes every spill, fall, and shunt from this year's eight championship rounds. I always think that these are great memories to watch over the long winter evenings when there is no racing as it keeps up your interest in our sport for the coming year. These also make great stocking fillers at Christmas for the Twinshock fanatic in your life, so go on give him (or her) a wee treat this chrimbo. Just call me or text 01383 720631 or e-mail monti2@sky.com to reserve your copy, or just see me at the dance on the 29th.

Next year I hope to upgrade my video equipment in order to film in Hi Definition, that is if I can get the necessary spondulas together. However if I can get some of my debtors to pay their overdue DVD bills that would be fantastic, some of which I have only been waiting since this time last year to be paid . . . "so you know who you are". Next year no goods will be supplied without the necessary payment!.

Finally look out for issue three of the "Evo Twinshock" magazine due out in December which will have a comprehensive run down of all our Scottish Twinshock events in 2011. It will be jam packed with results, pictures, rebuilds, race reports, and any other matters relating to Twinshock and Evo racing in the last year in the UK. Also around the same time issue 48 of the superb VMX

magazine will have a big feature on the Scottish Twinshock and vintage racing scene with loads of pictures and a thorough in depth story on how the club was first formed way back in 1993.

Until then keep those classic shockers in race trim until we meet in 2012 where we are surely guaranteed more racing adventures from the best vintage dirt bike organisation in the land the Scottish Twinshock Scramble Club.

Chris Montignani (Monty)

Results

Over 40's

- 1 T Reid
- 2 G Whyte
- 3 J Colligan
- 4 J Williamson
- 5 R Alexander
- 6 D Thomson

Over 50's

- 1 J Walker
- 2 S Mower
- 3 J McKell
- 4 R McQueen
- 5 A Britton
- 6 A Anderson

Pre 77 class

- 1 J McLean
- 2 C Wilson

3 D Fullarton

4 A Adair

5 S Eccles

6 S Laurel

Evolution Class

1 T Grant

2 L Blair

3 M Hannah

4 A Haddow

5 D Pullar

6 K Rosie

Fourstroke Class

1 R Caldwell

2 A Malloch

3 A Bean

4 Joe McLean

5 P Smith

6 J Stewart

Twinshock 500 Class

1 C Smith

2 P Chiappa

3 J Richards

4 B Allardyce

5 H Rain

6 A Sun

Twinshock 250 Class

1 C Woodward

2 N Robinson

3 M VanDerMerWe

4 D McKell

5 D Dryden

6 F Colligan

Pre 1983 125 Class

1 D Murie

2 W Penrice

3 G Britton

4 O Hardy

5 M Barriemore

6 B Forsyth

Monoshock Class

1 J Martin

2 M Wilson

3 G Morrison

4 R Devine

5 M Dempsey

6 R Crawford

Grand National

1 M Dempsey

2 N Robinson

3 M Hannah

4 M Barclay

5 S Loudon

6 J Frost

The Final Championship Standings for 2011 were. .

Over 40's

1 Jim Colligan

2 Gary Whyte

3 Tony Reid

4 Robert Alexander

5 Jeremy Williamson

6 John Mitchell

Over 50's

1 John Walker

2 Robin McQueen

3 Steve Mower

4 Albert Britton

5 Alisdair Aitken

6 Donald Penrice

Evolution Class

1 Tom Grant

2 Les Blair

3 Alex Haddow

4 Morton Hannah

5 Kevin Rosie

6 Stuart Thomson

Pre 77 Class

1 Calum Wilson

2 Donald Fullarton

3 Andrew King

4 James McLean

5 Ken Soutar

6 Grant McLure

Fourstroke Class

1 Andy Malloch

2 Rick Caldwell

3 Joe McLean

4 Andy Bean

5 Sy Grieg

6 Ian Robertson

Pre 1983 125 Class

1 Gary Britton

2 William Penrice

3 Davie Murie

4 Malcolm McNab

Twinshock 250 Class

1 Mike VanDerMerWe

2 Neil Robinson

3 Dougie Dryden

4 Tony Burrell

5 Davie McKell

6 Alistair Henderson

Twinshock 500 Open Class

1 Paul Chiappa

2 Craig Smith

3 John Richards

4 Brian Allardyce

5 Robert Smith

6 Walter Bickmore

Monoshock Class

1 Mark Wilson

2 Gordon Morrison

3 Jason Martin

4 Sean Doherty

5 Chris Davidson

6 Brian Alexander

The top ten riding numbers for 2012 will be . . .

No1- Paul Chiappa **No2** Mike VanDerMerWe **No3** – Neil Robinson **No4-** Craig Smith **No5-** Dougie Dryden **No6-** John Richards **No7-** Brian Allardyce **No8-** Tony Burrell **No9-** Davie McKell **No10-** Robert Smith