

Stuart Hicken Classic – Meeting Review

A day destined for duck heaven with the rain on Saturday and a challenging day on the Sunday with noise issues meant that the first round at Mallory Park provided many thrills and spills, and although most classes lost one race due to the noise issues, this didn't stop every single one of the racers out on track giving it their all! Here is a round up of the meeting...

Race 1, 11 & 23 – Classic 1300cc, Superstock 400 and Supermono GB

It was Grant Goodings on his VFR400 that took pole for this race, with an impressive wet weather time of 1.12.029, from Peter Boast and George Hogton Rusling making up the front row. However, the power of George's 930 BSA lead him to the overall victory in Race 1 by just under 3 seconds from Goodings and Boast. Andrew Widdowson came across the line in 4th to take 2nd in the Supermono class and Tim Oliver behind him making up the top 3 for them. Graham Williams came 2nd in class in the 251-1300 class, with Ralph Coldwell coming in just behind him. An impressive ride from Ben Langton in his first meeting lead him to 2nd in the Superstock 400 class.

The second race of the weekend for this group saw GHR take victory again, this time Dan Ledger took the Supermono spoils with Peter Boast behind him. Goodings took another victory in the 400 class, Brian Alexander taking 2nd this time and Langton coming home 3rd in class.

The last outing for these riders saw GHR black flagged for noise, leading Graham Williams to take victory in the 251-1300 class and leaving Boast to take overall victory. It was an Supermono 1,2,3 over the line, Andrew Widdowson taking 2nd from Dan Ledger by 0.1 seconds! It was Simon Walsh that took the class win in the 400 class this time, with Alexander taking another 2nd and Langton taking third.

Race 2, 12 & 24 – Classic Formula 750 & Superbike Originals

George Hogton Rusling had a busy weekend, this time taking his Triumph 750 to pole, with Andy Hornby on his immaculate Trident 750 and Ian Steltner on his Seeley 750 making up the front row. GHR had a hard fought battle with Steltner and Hornby, coming over the line and taking the Race 1 victory by 1.2 seconds, Hornby narrowly missing out on 2nd by less than a tenth of a second. John Paget took the Superbike Originals victory from Garry Hirons and Chris Saltinstall on his beautiful yellow Moto Guzzi.

The second outing for this group saw Norfolk's Graham Higlett back to winning ways, dominating the race from Steltner and taking the flag 8 seconds in front. Daniel Ingham came to join the party to take third, and Graham Williams took 4th in a 3 way battle right to the end. It was "Mr Merchandise" himself Darren Cooper that took the SBKOriginals victory narrowly from Chris Mayhew and Saltinstall came over the line 3rd in class.

Race 3 saw GHR back out in winning ways, with Ingham taking 2nd and Williams back in 3rd. Cooper did the double in the SBKOriginals class, it was the younger Paget in Will that took 2nd in class and Garry Hirons came to say hello to take that final step on their podium. But it wasn't without fight, as Steven Panter missed out by a tenth of a second.

Race 3, 15 & 25 – Post Classic 125

It was great to see Tom Hayward back out after his interview with the club on Facebook, and he took no time to assert his dominance again, placing himself on pole from Oliver Cooper and James Wilmot. Hayward completely ran away with Race 1, taking victory from James Blackmore, who had a stellar ride gaining 11 places from his grid position. Stuart Cox took the Piston Port victory and came home in 3rd overall, from David Tetley and Nev Busson. Scott Harris finished 3rd in class in the Open category.

Race 2 saw Hayward continue his dominance, Cooper taking bridesmaid honours again and Blackmore home in third. Jerry Lodge proved that experience always prevails, taking a class victory from Cox and Tetley. Harris took 3rd in class again and David King picked up 20 points in his class further down the field.

Hayward did the hat trick, Cooper taking another 2nd and Blackmore 3rd, meaning that this is looking like the battle for the championship! Lodge took another class victory, from Cox and Tetley, whilst King bagged another 20 points to add to his title challenge.

Race 4 & 16 – Classic 200, 250 European, 350 Goldstars & PC250AC

Richard Cheetham continued his domination of the 200 class, firstly by placing it on pole from Andrew Thornton and Graeme Acott making up the front row. Cheetham took overall victory by a staggering 15 seconds, from Michael Titchmarsh and Andrew Thornton taking third over the line. Jerry Longland came home 2nd in class in the PC250 AC class, with Acott coming home third in class after being swallowed at the start. Charles Murdoch took 2nd in class in the 250 European class, with Scotland's Stuart McDonald taking 3rd. Peter Henwood took 2nd in the 200 class, with Adrian Warne on his trusty CB200 taking 3rd in class. It was Barry Mason that took victory in the 350 Goldstars class, from Steve Hands and Gary Abbott.

The second race of the weekend saw Cheetham lose out on the overall victory, but still taking 1st in class. It was the RAF Team that took overall victory in the form of Andrew Green, just in front of youngster Joe Woodward with Longland taking third. Henwood took another 2nd in class in the 200 category, and Roy Hook beat Warne to 3rd in class by 0.04 seconds. Mason did the double in the 350 Goldstars class, from Hands and Abbott again. Murdoch did the double in the 250 European Class, from Titchmarsh and McDonald taking the rostrum.

Race 5 & 17 – PC250, PC350 and PC500 Air Cooled

It was Geordie boy Dom Herbertson that took pole convincingly from Alex Sinclair and Ant Hart in this category, always great to see the immaculately prepared Yamaha TX500 out at the front of the field. Dom the Bomb continued to live up to his name by taking victory in Race 1 from Sinclair and Jamie Edwards popping his nose into the party to take third overall and second in class. Andrew Widdowson continued his string of good results with 4th overall and a 2nd in class with Andrew Jones taking 3rd in the PC500 class. Neil Watson took 3rd place in the PC350 class and it was Cris Stephenson that took victory in the Over 55s class, from Derek Skinner and Mark Edge.

Race 2 saw Ant Hart take the victory from Dom by just 1.4 seconds. Edwards came home in third and Watson continued his string of good fortune at Mallory by taking another 3rd in class. Widdowson continued his string of bridesmaid performances by taking another 2nd in class and Clive Somerfield on his Honda Kerby took 3rd in the 500 AC Class. Further down the field, Battles were all round, a three way battle to the line between Vince Cundle, Jordan Wainwright and Nick Bedford, and another one between John Hannaford, David Lenton and Skinner made this one of the most entertaining races of the weekend!

Race 6 & 18 – Classic Sidecars

The only race I watched from the pit wall all weekend! Speculation was in the air to see what Kieran Clarke could do on his first time out were put to bed as he slammed in on pole in qualifying, from Adrian and Bob Dawson. Race 1 was a brilliant race, seeing Clarke and his passenger Patricia Visscher leading for most of the race until getting tangled with a backmarker going into Gerrard's on the last lap and handing the victory to Ade and Bob Dawson! Brian Gray and Ben Ransley brought their NSU out for a play and took 2nd in class, and a phenomenal battle between Danny Quirk/Dylan Simmons-Weston, Phil Luhr/Sharon Reeves, Doug Street/Thomas Street and David Lissamann/Mark Leeton made the mid pack very exciting! It was Shaun Motson/Lizzie Quinlan that took victory in the Period 1 Class, and Steve Brooks/Ben Stell took the spoils in the Period 4 class.

The second race was even more exciting but again saw a retirement from Clarke/Visscher, giving them a weekend to forget. It was Lissamann/Leeton that took the overall victory, by just 0.136 seconds from Jack Gristwood/Alice Smith – the closest sidecar finish we've had for a number of years. Gray/Ransley took third in class in Period 3 again, and it was Motson/Quinlan taking the spoils in Period 1 and Brooks/Stell in Period 4 in what was a hugely exciting race throughout!

Race 7 & 19 – Classic 500cc

We welcomed back Joe Barton after a 2020 off, and it didn't take him long to find his pace in qualifying, sticking the Minnovation G50 on pole from Peter Bardell on his Seeley G50 and Alex Sinclair finding pace to make up the front row. It was Bardell that took victory in race 1, from Barton and Sinclair, with Richard Molnar just missing out on a top 3 finish. Lee Jennings took the victory in the Over 55s class, from Stephen Atkin and Welshman Meredydd Owen taking 16 points in this class. In the Goldstar class, it was Gary Abbott that took the victory, from Barry Mason and Robert Knoyle taking third.

The second race saw a mighty close finish, with Richard Molnar taking victory by 0.032 seconds from Joe Barton, again one of the closest finishes the CRMC have ever had at Mallory Park. Bardell took third with Alan Oversby coming home in 4th. Next over the line was Atkin, taking 1st in class in the Over 55s again, with Owen adding 20 points to his assault in that championship, and Jennings moving down to third in class. Mason took a convincing victory in the Goldstar Class, from Steve Hands and Jamie Scholter all adding points to their championship contentions.

Race 8 & 20 – Junior & Senior Production

Mark Taylor started the season how he would want to continue it by putting his FZ600 on pole, from Joe Thompson and Dominic Clegg and he continued that dominance to take the Race 1 victory by 2 seconds from Clegg. Malc Sampson put in a great ride to come home in 3rd and John Chambers came home in 4th. John Paget and Richard Justice had a race long battle, crossing the line 0.2 seconds between each other in 6th and 7th, and further down the field the battle for 15th consisted of Eddy Wormald, Darren Cooper and William Paget, all finishing within a second of each other.

Taylor dominated the weekend by taking the 2nd race spoils as well, from Dominic Clegg, and the ride of the day must have been from Richard Justice, taking his first podium in only his 2nd season of racing! Edwards came home in 4th, nearly upsetting Justice by finishing 0.04 seconds behind him, but the top 4 came over the line within a second of each other. Mark Foster and John Paget continued their scraps over the weekend, Foster coming out just on top in 15th, denying Paget Snr of that final point in class.

Race 9 & 21 – Classic 350cc

Mark Cronshaw knew what he meant when he took pole on Saturday morning from Joe Barton and Peter Boast, with David Tetley, Simon Walsh and Will Loder on the second row. Both of the 350 races were held on the Sunday, so any mechanical issues that they faced would be easily fixed overnight with no stress! Race 1 saw David Tetley back to winning ways, pipping Cronshaw and Boast to the line. In the Twin Cylinder Class, it was Simon Walsh asserting early dominance, from Dom Herbertson and Richard Parker taking 3rd in class. Steven Elliot took 2nd in class in the Over 55s category, closely followed by Karl Fox, just 0.1 seconds behind him.

Race 2 saw Dom Herbertson saying hello to the chequered flag first, beating Cronshaw by 0.3 seconds, Joe Barton came home in third, 12 seconds adrift from the leading man, taking 2nd in class. Tetley added 16 points onto his totals coming 3rd in class. Walsh took 2nd in the twins class with Parker taking another 3rd place and in the Over 55s it was Elliot that took the victory, from Stoke's Gary Freeman and Tony Tuttle taking third in class.

Race 10 & 22 – Superstock 750cc & MotoSuperbike

John Dieterman started well in the 2021 championship, putting his Ducati TTF1 on pole, 2 seconds quicker than Ant Hart and Simon Sloan making up the front row for the first race. Dieterman smashed the first race, winning by 21 seconds from Simon Bastow, who just managed to pipp Mark Bostock by 0.2 seconds, taking 1st and 2nd in the 750STK class, with Wayne Axon coming home 3rd in class. Over in the MotoSuperbike class, Joe Barton took 2nd in class and Richard Molnar took 16 points to start his campaign on the Ducati off well.

Race 2 saw a much closer race, with a lot of overtaking between Barton and Dieterman, Barton eventually taking the victory by less than half a second. Molnar came home in a lonely third, and it was Malc Sampson that took the honours in the 750STK class, with Neil Robinson 2nd and John Chambers taking 3rd. That class is proving to be a really wide open class, with the chance for anyone to take good points!

Race 14- ACU Classic

Qualifying saw Pete Bardell take pole from Richard Molnar and Alex Sinclair, but the man that made it matter when it mattered most was Joe Barton, storming to victory by 2.9 seconds over Mark Cronshaw, with Molnar coming 3rd. Dom Herbertson again took the victory in the 350 segment of the race, from David Tetley and Simon Walsh, who were all intertwined in a great battle throughout the race.

Race 26 – ACU Post Classic

Qualifying saw John Dieterman take the pole position from Simon Sloan and Dom Herbertson in wet conditions, but on raceday it was dry and Dieterman proved that he's not just a wet weather expert, taking the victory from Joe Barton by 0.3 seconds. Ant Hart came home in 3rd place, with Molnar taking 4th. Dom Herbertson came home in 5th, taking the win in the 750cc class, followed by Neil Robinson and Martin Ingham in third place.

What a Race Meeting! Despite the issues we had with the noise, some of the racing was some of the best we've ever seen at the CRMC. What's more, NONE of our competitors had a trip to hospital! Unfortunately our meeting at Pembrey has been cancelled as a result of the ongoing Covid situation, but fasten your seatbelts for more of the same at Cadwell Park on 3-4 July!

