

CRMC Pembrey – Meeting Report

A mixture of weathers greeted us as the CRMC rolled into South Wales a week later than expected. Nonetheless, the racing that this circuit produces is always fast, close, and competitive, and this weekend was no exception! Here is the lowdown:

Race 1, 11, 23 & 33 – Post Classic 250GP, Post Classic 350GP and Post Classic 500cc Air Cooled

It was the dominant Craven TZ of Harley Rushton that took pole position by the smallest of margins from Alex Sinclair and Dom Herbertson making up the outside of the front row for this race, with Sinclair taking the outright victory before a machine breakdown ruled him out of the class for the rest of the weekend! Harley Rushton took 2nd overall by 0.163 seconds, from Herbertson in 3rd, taking the class victory in the Air Cooled 500 class. Andrew Widdowson took 2nd in this class, with Clive Somerfield back to podium ways with a third in class. Jamie Edwards brought his TZ350 to 3rd in class in the PC350GP class and in the Over 55s category it was a class win for Mark Edge, with David Lenton and Philip Godber taking the remainder of the class podium.

Race 2 saw outright victory for Rushton, with Herbertson trying to keep up but only managing to take 2nd overall, however taking another class win to add to his title contentions. Jamie Edwards took 3rd on the road and 2nd in the PC350GP class, with Andrew Taylor taking 3rd in class, adding some crucial points to his campaign. It was Godber that won the over 55s class in Race 2, with Scotland's Robin Lamb learning his lesson after an issue on the startline in race 1, taking 2nd in class and Edge took third in class this time out. Vince Cundle showed his domination in Race 2, taking the PC250GP victory, from Jordan Wainwright.

Race 3 saw Herbertson fired up (must've been his girlfriend giving him lines around the track after her lap in the course car) and taking overall victory in this race, by 0.339 seconds from Rushton and Jordan Wainwright came home in 3rd overall, all the top 3 from different classes! The Air Cooled 500 podium was completed by Widdowson and Andrew Jones, the PC350GP was completed by Taylor, and in the over 55s class it was Edge taking victory from Lamb and David Lenton coming to say hello, taking 3rd in class. Cundle took 2nd in the PC250GP class.

Race 4 definitely proved that Herbertson's Mrs showed him the way round, as he did the outright double, from Taylor and Godber took third on the road. Jordan Wainwright took 4th overall, with the top 4 lads taking class victories as well. Widdowson came home as 2nd PC500AC from Robert Bevan. Jamie Edwards managed to get his bike back out after a couple of issues to take 2nd in the PC350GP class, Lamb made the trip from Scotland worth it by taking another 2nd place, with Edge taking third.

Race 2, 12, 23 & 34 – Post Classic 125

Jamie O'Brien made his intentions known right from the word go by setting a phenomenal pole lap time, from Jerry Lodge and James Blackmore making up the remainder of the front row. O'Brien dominated the first race, from William Grant and James Blackmore. Jerry Lodge came home as 1st in the Piston Port class, from Nev Busson and Stephen Cross took 3rd. In the Pre 1989 class, it was David King that came home to take the 25 points.

O'Brien had a bit more of a fight on his hands in race 2, when Blackmore fancied a charge at the victory, but the grit and determination of O'Brien held him off by 1.081 seconds. Lodge took third on the road in this race and another class victory, with Cross taking 2nd and Paul Dallas taking third after Busson had an issue with his bike. Scott Harris took home 16 points in this race in the Open class.

The hat-trick came for O'Brien in the third race, he could've stopped for a cuppa at the first corner and still won the race! Lodge came home in second overall, taking his hat-trick in class, with Blackmore coming home third and second in class, narrowly from Harris, who had to settle for the 16 points. Robin Lamb continued his good weekend by taking 2nd in the Piston Port class, with Busson sorting out his machine trouble to take third in class, 9th on the road.

In a very small grid for this class' last race, O'Brien took home a clean sweep of victories, which he dedicated to the late Jack Scriver. It was Luke Hindle that came up the ranks to take second in the Open Class, from Harris. Stephen Cross took 3rd on the road and 1st in class, as Jerry Lodge didn't fancy the wet conditions for the last race of the day, gifting Busson 2nd in class, and Dallas took another 3rd in class. David King took home 75 points after not starting the second race of the weekend in the Pre 1989 class.

Race 3, 14, 24 & 36 – Classic Formula 750 & PC750 Clubman

Andy Hornby took pole in this class, from Graham Higlett and Darren Cooper. However, race one saw George Hogton Rusling fight his way to the front after issues meant he missed qualifying, taking the victory by just over 2 seconds from Hornby and Higlett. Darren Cooper took 25 points in the PC750 Clubman class, from Chris Mayhew and the bright yellow Moto Guzzi of Chris Saltinstall took third in class.

GHR continued his clean sweep in race 2, demolishing the pack with Hornby only able to finish 10 seconds behind him. Cooper took 3rd on the road and another 25 in the Clubman class, with Mayhew continuing his strong run of form, after a nasty highside in qualifying, and Saltinstall took another 3rd in class. Higlett continued his hunt for 16 points, struggling to keep with the pace of GHR and Hornby.

GHR's hat trick came in Race 3, Hornby managing to hold on for a few laps before GHR pulled the pin and flew away with the victory, Higlett still struggling to find that extra bit of power to keep with the top 2 to take another 3rd on the road and 3rd in class. Cooper joined GHR in his hat trick of victories this weekend, Saltinstall decided he wanted more than 3rd so pulled out all the stops to take 2nd in class, with Jerry Longland adding 16 points to his title hunt in the class.

GHR cleared up the weekend from Hornby, absolutely obliterating the pack to take victory by 25 seconds from Hornby and Higlett. It was Mark Foster that showed his expertise in the wet conditions, to take 1st in class in the PC750 class, from Ian Stanley, and Cooper showing he prefers the dry, only managed to take 3rd in class this time, weather conditions denying him from putting 100 points in his back pocket!

Race 4, 15, 25 & 37 – Classic 200, 250, 350 Goldstars and PC250 Air Cooled

Youth really is on Joe Woodward's side, the youngster taking pole from Charles Murdoch and Barry Mason took 3rd in qualifying ready for race one. Woodward had a comfortable lead before deciding that he wanted to see what life looked like from 10 foot in the air, highsiding himself on the exit of turn one, bringing out the red flags. The 4 lap dash restart saw Barry Mason take outright victory, from Steve Hands and Gary Abbott, meaning the 350 Goldstars took an outright podium. Michael Titchmarsh, Charles Murdoch and Mick Nash De-Villiers took 1,2,3 in the 250 class, in an exciting battle all the way to the line, separated by less than 0.1 seconds! James Williamson took the top step in the 200 class, from Peter Henwood and Robert Murdoch.

Race 2 saw Charles Murdoch take overall victory, from Mason and Hands, with Abbott coming home to replicate race 1 in the 350 Goldstar class. Titchmarsh took 2nd in the 250 class from Nash-De-Villiers, and Williamson continued his search for 100 points from Robert Murdoch and Terry Williamson joining the party to take third in class.

Charles Murdoch continued to prove that it's not just horsepower you need to win around Pembrey, taking another outright victory in Race 3 from Hands and Mason, with Robert Coley coming over the line 3rd in class in the 350 Goldstars class. Edinburgh's Stuart McDonald took 2nd in class in the 250 Class, from Titchmarsh, with Nash-De-Villiers narrowly missing out. Joe Woodward's efforts to rebuild his bike were well repaid with a victory in the PC250 Air Cooled class, but James Williamson in the 200 class really fancied taking all that was on offer from Pembrey, taking his third class victory of the weekend from Peter Henwood and Terry Williamson.

What a race these gentleman had in their last race of the weekend! The top 4 on the road, Woodward, Charles Murdoch, McDonald and Titchmarsh, all finished the race within 1 second of each other, showing that Woodward is a very up and coming racer in all conditions. Steve Hands took his first class victory of the weekend in the 350 Goldstars class, from Mason and Coley. Whoever said that lightweight machinery made for dull racing?!

Race 5, 16, 26 & 38 – MotoSuperbike & Superstock 750

Richard Molnar has put some serious development into his Ducati TTF1, and he made that show in qualifying sticking it on a dominant pole from John Dieterman and Joe Barton. Molnar made that pole count, taking victory from Dieterman, and Michael Russell, on his first outing with the CRMC in 2021, took third place overall and a tasty 16 points in the MotoSuperbike class. Mark Purslow took his VFR750 to class victory in the Superstock class, from Paul Kirkby and Neil Robinson taking 3rd in class.

Molnar continued his string of good luck, taking the victory this time from Joe Barton, with Russell taking another solid 3rd place. Dieterman was no where to be seen and didn't start the race, handing his rivals a tasty advantage. Kirkby took the victory in the Superstock class, after a jump start penalty demoted Purslow down to second, with Robinson maintaining his solid third places thus far this weekend.

It seemed to be a weekend of Hat-Tricks! Molnar took his third victory of the weekend in the class from Barton and Dieterman decided to come and say hello again for this race, taking third in class. Purslow went when everyone else did this time on the start and took another class victory, from Kirkby and Robinson.

In a wet last race, Molnar was having a great race until a crash at the second corner ruled him out! This left Barton and Dieterman to play literal cat and mouse throughout the whole race, with Barton winning by 0.029 seconds, I think this is the closest finish we have ever had at Pembrey. Purslow took third overall and another class victory, but it was Wayne Axon and John Chambers making up valuable points, as Kirkby retired during the race to give his rivals some more points on him!

Race 6, 17, 27 & 39 – Classic 1300cc, Superstock 400 & Supermono GB

Dan Ledger took his Supermono KTM to pole position, with Andrew Widdowson and Neil Robinson sharing the front row with him. But it was regular George Hogton-Rusling on his ruthless 930 BSA that took overall victory and class victory in the Clubman 251-1300cc, from Ralph Coldwell taking 2nd in class. Andrew Widdowson came second on the road and first in the Supermono class, from Ledger and Andrew's 14 year old son Dean Widdowson took 3rd place – an astounding achievement! Robinson took the class victory in the Superstock 400 class, from Jason Lamb and Ben Langton adding more decent points to his championship assault in his novice season.

Ledger took the victory in Race 2, from Neil Robinson and the younger Widdowson taking third. Lamb took 2nd in the Stock 400, and Langton taking 3rd. The grid was mainly made up of Supermonos for this race, with a few tasty battles through the field, however most came home sensibly by themselves.

Race 3 saw the older Widdowson (he'll hate me for that!) take the overall victory from Ledger and Robinson took third overall and the class victory for the third time this weekend. Younger Widdowson came home third in the Supermono class, with Jason Lamb and Langton taking the remainder of the podium in the Stock 400. Coldwell continued adding points to his title challenge, taking the victory in the clubman 251-1300cc class, from Stephen Saint.

Wet conditions put a majority off, however Ledger took another victory in Race 4, from Andrew Widdowson and Nil Robinson third on the road again. Tim Oliver took third in class for the Supermonos, and Ben Langton stepped up to the mark to take 2nd in class in the Stock 400 class, with Shelley Pike getting her first podium finish in the class, finishing 3rd. Coldwell took another 25 points in the Clubman class, to end him a decent weekends racing at Pembrey.

Race 7, 18, 28 & 40 – Classic 500cc

Joe Barton and his Minnovation G50 just seem to click everytime they get together, like an old school friendship, and this continued as he put it on pole from Richard Molnar and Pete Bardell. Barton hardly needed to work to take the victory in Race 1, the front row taking the top 3 places in the race. Michael Bevan took victory in the Over 55s class, from Lee Jennings and Pete Gibson, with Robert Coley, Steve Hands and Robert Knoyle taking a 1,2,3 in the Goldstars class.

Barton continued his domination, but Bardell managed to pip Molnar to the line to take 2nd place, but it was the battle for 5th that caught eyes, between Alex Sinclair and Will Loder, the pair finishing just 0.117 seconds apart! Bevan continued his domination of the Over 55s weekend, with Jennings and Gibson picking up more valuable points, and over in the Goldstars class it was Gary Abbott that took victory, from Coley and Hands.

You can probably guess who won the third race, can't you? Barton took another great victory, pipping Molnar to the post by 2 seconds, and Bardell came in third place. These three all like Pembrey, does it tell? Bevan also likes the circuit, taking another 25 points, from Jennings and Gibson, and Coley decided he fancied a bit of winning ways in the Goldstar class, taking the victory from Abbott and Hands.

Barton made a clean sweep of victories, but only just! Bardell fancied a go and lost out by just 0.14 seconds. Molnar was no where to be seen this time, but Alex Sinclair picked up where Molnar fancied a cuppa instead, taking third in class. Bevan took all 100 points from Pembrey in the Over 55s, from Gibson and Abbott finished off the weekend with another win in the Goldstar class, from Barry Mason and Hands coming home in 3rd.

Race 8, 19, 29 & 41 – Production

Ex Bemsee racer Mark Taylor took pole on his FZ600 from Darren Cooper and Jamie Edwards. Race 1 saw a huge crash at turn one on the third lap, with Dominic Clegg coming together with Mark Foster and the remains of his bike sadly made for a great place to toast marshmallows, bringing out the red flags. The restart saw Taylor taking the victory by 2 seconds from Richard Justice and Darren Cooper came home in third. Race 2 saw the same 3 take the top 3 spots, but this was the ride that earned Justice “Rider of the Day” – having a huge front wheel in the air off the start, controlling it and managing to take home a consistent and steady second place.

Justice pushed that little bit too much in the third race of the day, highsiding himself out of the second corner as he got a wheel on the grass, leaving Taylor to take a comfortable victory, 14 seconds ahead of Graham Higlett, with Cooper coming home in third. Taylor continued his winning streak all weekend, to take home 4 trophy pots and 100 points, but this time Dominic Clegg thought about a challenge, as did Malc Sampson, the pairing having a good battle, with Clegg coming out just on top.

Race 9, 20, 30 & 42 – Classic 350cc

Harley Rushton took his Honda to pole position, with Dom Herbertson and Will Loder making up the remains of the front row. Pole proved a good place to start for Rushton as he took overall victory from Herbertson and Joe Barton came home in third, winning the 350 European class, from Will Loder and Shelley Pike took 16 points. Ben Cole took third in the 350 twins class and Gary Freeman took another victory in the Over 55s class, adding to his Mallory Park tally, from John Leigh-Pemberton and Richard Llewellyn.

Race 2 saw Herbertson take a comfortable win from Rushton and Barton taking third again, another 1st in class, from Loder and Pike took another 16 points. Cole remained very much the bridesmaid in the twins class, but, nonetheless, took a respectable 16 points in the category. It’s all about consistency! Freeman continued to charge in the Over 55s, with Llewellyn finishing just 0.26 seconds ahead of Leigh-Pemberton.

Rushton narrowly took the race 3 victory by 0.115 seconds from Herbertson, with Barton having a lonely race to take another 3rd. Shelley Pike took a 2nd in class this time, with Will Loder not out in this race. Ben Cole put more points in on his championship assault taking another third place. Freeman fancied the quadruple here in the Over 55s, and got the Hat-Trick in race 3, from Llewellyn again, but it was Tony Tuttle that took third this time round!

The grid reduced for the last race because of the conditions, including Harley Rushton, leaving Herbertson to take outright victory from Joe Barton and Charles Murdoch took 2nd in class and 3rd on the road in this race. Kieran Albitt also took advantage of Rushton’s absence, taking a 3rd in class. Loder returned for the final race in the 350 European class, taking 2nd in class, and it was Shelley Pike that took 3rd in class for the final outing. Llewellyn denied Freeman of his quadruple, taking victory in the final Over 55s assault, with Freeman finishing second and Christopher Morgan taking third in class.

Race 10, 21, 32 & 43 – Classic Sidecars

It was Andrew and Thomas Street that put their MRE Imp on pole from Kieran Clarke and Patricia Visscher and Jack Gristwood and Alice Smith made up the top 3 in qualifying, and the Streets used that to their advantage, taking the race 1 victory by 0.6 seconds from Clarke/Visscher with Gristwood/Smith finishing third. Shaun Motson and Lizzie Quinlan were having a good battle with Ian Champ and Samantha Line, until a technical issue ruled Champ out and he had to watch from the sidelines.

Race 2 saw the mean comb of Clarke and Visscher pounce into action, taking the victory from the Streets and Gristwood/Smith . Further down the pack, a thoroughly enjoyable 4 way battle between John Clancy/Nancy Clancy, David Lissamann / Mark Leeton, Danny Quirk/Dylan Simmons Weston and Steve Mann/Phil Wade made for entertainment throughout. Motson/Quinlan took another victory in the Period 1 class.

Kieran continued his domination during his novice season in race 3, taking another convincing victory from the Streets and Gristwood/Smith came home in third. The Clancy's and the combination of Mann/Wade had a great battle throughout, finishing 0.8 seconds between each other.

Race 4 saw Kieran and Patricia take another victory, with the Streets taking second, proving that there is going to be some serious competition in the Period 3 class this year! Adrian Dawson / Bob Dawson took third in class, with Jack and Alice taking 4th.

The CRMC would like to extend its condolences to Lizzie Quinlan and the family of her partner, Joe Gaunt, who passed away over the Pembrey weekend.

Race 31 – ACU Classic 350 & 500

Joe Barton really proved his 500 has some power, sticking it on a convincing pole on Saturday morning, from Richard Molnar and Pete Bardell, a carbon copy of the Classic 500 race. Barton ran away with the race, but the battle for the next positions was exciting! Molnar had a brilliant battle with Alan Oversby throughout, however it was the Preston man that came out on top. Dom Herbertson came home as top 350, after a cracking battle with Harley Rushton and Bardell, making this truly exciting all the way down the field! In the 350 class, Ben Cole took 2nd and Gary Freeman took third.

Race 35 – ACU Post Classic

Joe Barton took pole position from Richard Molnar and John Dieterman in this race, but it was Mark Purslow that came home first, from Dieterman and Barton! Richard Molnar decided he wanted to see what was happening in the sky when a white line sent him to the moon on the last lap, bringing any hopes of the race victory to a firm halt. Paul Kirkby took 2nd in the 750 class, with Dom Herbertson taking third in class. It was a great day for Shaun Mulligan, who can now add his name to the list of podium finishers in a national championship, as he finished third in the 750cc class!

PHEW! What a race meeting – and no competitors went to hospital again! Thank you to all marshals, medics, officials, circuit staff, technical officials, noise testers, race admin staff, everyone that made the meeting happen.

WE DON'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT UNTIL OUR NEXT MEETING! It's at Cadwell Park on 3rd-4th July, and with most classes sold out, I cannot wait to see what the "Mini-Nurburgring" is going to bring for the racing! Make sure you join us there!