

CRMC Pembrey – 16-17 April 2022

The CRMC opened their 2022 curtain in South Wales and were greeted by beautiful sunshine and some of the closest racing in recent CRMC history. Here is the round up....

Race 1, 11, 22 & 33 – Formula 750, Post Classic Superbike, Post Classic Superstock

It was Richard Molnar who took pole for Race 1, but quickly after decided he fancied a lay down at Hatchets, accompanied by John Chambers and George Hogton Rusling on the front row, but Hogton-Rusling gave it too much coming out of Brooklands on the first lap, sending himself to space and bringing a premature end to his weekend. On the restart it was Molnar who took victory, overall and in the Superbike Class, from Chambers 2nd overall and 1st in the Superstock Class, with Joe Woodward taking 3rd overall, 2nd in the Stock class. Wayne Axon came home in a solid fourth, to take 16 points in the Stock class. Daniel Frame came in next to take 2nd in the Superbike class with George Downham taking third in class. In the Formula 750 class it was Graham Higlett that took the victory from Andrew Kirk with Paul Bowling in third.

Race 2 saw another dominant victory from Molnar, gapping 2nd place man and Stock class winner Woodward by 6 seconds. Chambers came third overall to take 2nd in class with Axon taking 3rd in class, 4th on the road again. Frame took another 2nd in class in the Superbike class with Downham another solid 3rd in class. Higlett took another victory in the Formula 750 Class, and Andrew Kirk put 20 points on the board for his F750 title contention. Race 3 saw more of the same with Molnar, Woodward, Chambers and Axon taking the top 4 spots. Frame took another 2nd in the Superbike class with Downham another third place. Higlett took another F750 victory from Kirk and Bowling, who DNF's in Race 2 grabbed himself another 16 points.

Molnar checked out exactly the way he wanted to in race 4, taking a 10 second victory from Woodward with Frame coming third overall to stick 80 points overall on his Superbike title charge. Chambers took another 2nd in class in the Superstock class with Mark Roxborough piping Axon to the 3rd in class in the final race. Downham took another 3rd in class in the Superbike class, Higlett cleared up the F750 class and Kirk took another 20 as Bowling didn't start this race.



Race 2, 12, 23 & 34 – Classic 200, 250, 350 Goldstars and PC250 Air Cooled

Symon Woodward dominated the qualifying session, taking pole by 2 seconds from Jerry Longland and Andrew Thornton making good company on the front row. Race 1 saw a cat and mouse race between Woodward and Longland, Woodward taking the victory by 0.989 seconds with Graeme Acott coming third in class in the PC250 Air Cooled. Andrew Guy took the victory in the 250 class, from Charles Murdoch and Iain Green, returning after a short break from racing, obviously hasn't forgotten how to ride his 250, taking third in class. In the 350 Goldstars it was Gary Abbott who took the class victory from Robert Coley and Mark Walker taking third in class. Robert Murdoch continued his great form from 2021 taking the first 200 class victory of 2022, from James Williamson and Nigel Parker took third.

Race 2 saw an even closer feat between Woodward and Longland, Woodward only taking the victory by 0.101 seconds this time. Guy took third overall and first in the 250 class again, with Charles Murdoch in second and Green taking another third. Acott took another third place in the Air Cooled class. Over in the Goldstars, Abbott had a super Saturday taking 2 from 2 victories, from Barry Mason this time with Coley taking third. 200s again saw Robert Murdoch take victory from Williamson and Parker.

Race 3 saw another victory for Woodward, from Longland and Acott, but with Acott 22 seconds behind the front two, he really needs to find some more pace going into Brands to keep his championship hopes alive! Charles Murdoch took another 250 victory from Green in second this time with Stuart McDonald getting his first rostrum finish of the year, coming third in class. Abbott took another Goldstars victory from Mason and Coley took another third. Robert Murdoch took another 200s class win from Williamson and Parker in third.

The final race of the weekend was the closest between Woodward and Longland, at the line over 7 laps separated by just 0.038 seconds! Acott enjoyed the view from afar taking third in class, battling with 250 class winner Charles Murdoch throughout the race. Green took another 2nd in class in the 250s, with McDonald taking a further third place. It was Mason that found Sunday afternoon form taking the Goldstars victory from Abbott and Coley took third place again. Robert Murdoch cleared up in the 200s class, from Williamson, with Parker taking another third.



Race 3, 14, 24 & 35 – The Lansdowne Classic Series

The first of our guest classes this weekend, it was George Thomas who took pole from Mike Hose and Tony Perkin in third. Luke Bailey missed out on the front row by less than a tenth of a second – I'm sure he was kicking himself for that! Race 1 saw Thomas lead from the start and take the victory from Hose with Perkin in third, settling the British Championship easily. In the Clubman's championship it was Matthew Hebb who took victory, from Chris Bassett and Mike Farrall taking third in class. The 350s were won by John Cragg, who didn't seem to lose any confidence in his machine after a mechanical issue on the Friday Test Day, he took the class victory from David Hebb. In the Pre 55 class it was Tony Hazledine who took victory after a race long battle with Paul Stephen.

Race 2 saw another outright victory from Thomas, this time from Perkin as Hose had to retire at Hatchet's Hairpin with a mechanical issue. Bailey got onto the podium this time in third place in the British Championship. Hebb took another victory in the Clubman's category, from Bassett and Steve Parrott fancied a Saturday afternoon charge, taking third in class this time out. Cragg had to retire with issues in the second race, leaving the 350 class easily open to Hebb to take the victory, and Hazledine took another class victory from Stephen in the Pre 55 class.

Race 3 was event filled, with Thomas taking the victory again by only 0.404 seconds from Perkin, Hose suffered another mechanical issue causing a second retirement of the weekend, so Bailey again took full advantage to take third in class. Hebb, Bassett and Farrall took another 1,2,3 in the clubman class to replicate race one on the Saturday. Cragg managed to sort the issue with this bike for Race 3, going back to winning ways with Hebb having to settle for second in class, and it was Stephen who took the Pre 55 victory this time from Hazledine.

Race 4 saw the red flags out on lap 1 after John Smith's bike decided it fancied being a unicycle for a bit, splitting in half after a crash at Dibení. The restart saw Hose wanting to make up for lost points over the weekend, toying with Thomas over the whole race, Thomas managing to claim the full house by just 0.039 seconds. Perkin sat back and watched from afar taking third in class, with Matt Hebb clearing up in the Clubman class from Bassett and Robin Stokes got his first 16 points of the season. Cragg took another 350 victory from Hebb, and Hazledine was the only finisher in the Pre 55 class, adding 25 more points to his title assault for 2022.

Race 4, 15, 25 & 36 – Post Classic 750cc, Supermono GB

George Hogton-Rusling put his BSA on pole for this race from Dan Ledger and Dave Matravers on their Supermonos, however after Hogton-Rusling's off in Race 1 he didn't make the start, meaning the Classic 1300cc class has no competitors until Brands Hatch. It was a Supermono 1,2,3 in Race 1, with Ledger taking the victory, from Andrew Widdowson by 0.302 seconds and Alex Sinclair put his 50p in the meter and came and finished third. Jamie O'Brien took the PC750 class victory, from Mark George and Chris Saltinstall taking third in class. Race 2 saw Sinclair quick out the blocks, taking victory from Widdowson and Ledger third, the top 3 covered by less than a second. O'Brien took another class victory in the PC750 from George, and Rory Hill took third in class, finding his form and confidence again after a little tumble earlier on in the day.

Race 3 saw Sinclair take another victory from Ledger, this time by 0.212 seconds, with Widdowson third in class, battling with PC750 Class winner O'Brien throughout the race, narrowly missing out on 3rd overall. Hill took 2nd in the PC750 class this time with Leon Lerego taking third in class after a dreadful launch from George, leaving him dicing through the pack, only to regain 7th in class after 7 laps. Race 4 made it a Super Sunday for Sinclair, checking out winning by just over 3 seconds from Ledger, with Matravers coming back to say hello after finding some race pace, Widdowson narrowly missing out on 3rd in class by just over a tenth of a second. O'Brien cleared up the PC750 class, with Hill in 2nd and George, learning how to get his Ducati off the line again for Race 4, took another solid third in class.



Race 5, 15, 26 & 37 – Classic 350cc

I've got no idea what Mark Cronshaw had for breakfast in the weeks prior to the meeting, but whatever it was has worked! He took pole from Scott Wilson and Harley Rushton completed the front row for Race 1, which was won narrowly by Cronshaw from Rushton, with Scott Wilson taking 3rd overall, 2nd in the 350 Twins class. Cronshaw won the 350 European class as well, taking class victory from David Tetley, who was locked in a race long battle with Dean Widdowson to complete the rostrum for that class. Neil Watson took third in class in the 350 Twins class. Over in the Over 55s class, it was Gary Freeman picking up where he left off at Croft last year, taking the victory from Mark George with Tony Tuttle coming home a respectable third in class.

Race 2 saw a domination from Cronshaw, taking the victory by near 3 seconds from Rushton, with Wilson taking another 3rd on the road, 2nd in the twins class. Watson took 3rd in class in the twins, but back in the European class it was Tetley who took second in class this time, with Andrew Guy finding form and pace and taking third in class. Freeman took another victory in the Over 55s, finishing 5th overall, from George and Tuttle again.

Sunday saw Cronshaw really pushing, taking the victory by 8.8 seconds from Rushton with Andrew Guy taking 3rd on the road, 2nd in the European class. There was a great 4 way battle for third going on for about 5 laps between Guy, Tetley, Watson and Freeman, until Watson's machine expired just before Diben, and with nowhere to go Tetley launched himself to the moon off the back of Watson's rear tyre, causing some collarbone damage and ruling himself out of the remainder of the weekend. Freeman took another victory in the Over 55s class, this time it was Tuttle who took 2nd after a great all race battle with George, who finished 0.15 seconds behind him after 7 laps.

Cronshaw took a clean sweep and meant it, taking the final race victory by over 12 seconds from Rushton, Widdowson taking 2nd in the European class this time from Guy, whereas back in the twins it was Andy Hornby who took 2nd in class just behind Rushton, with Charles Murdoch putting 16 points on the board in third. Freeman didn't take part in the last race of the weekend, leaving the Over 55s victory open to Tuttle, from George and Richard Line took third.

Race 6, 16, 28 & 39 – Classic Sidecars

It was Kieran Clarke/Alan Cracknell that took pole for Race one, and they were accompanied on the front row by Jon Perkins/Ian Nickels. Clarke's domination from last year didn't seem to prevail in qualifying as Perkins was only 0.4 seconds slower than him. Race 1 saw the holeshoot go to Jack Gristwood/Alice Smith after Clarke/Cracknell bogged down on the start. Gristwood couldn't hold on though, giving the victory to Perkins/Nickels, ahead of Andrew and Thomas Street, with Clarke/Cracknell in third, after mechanical demons hit them in the last sector on the last lap. Period 1 had only one finisher with Luke & Mark Haskins, taking 25 points in that class.

Race 2 saw Clarke/Cracknell back to winning ways, taking the victory from Street/Street by over 5 seconds Perkins/Nickels placed third. Darren Chapman/Rob Cook took 1st in the Period 1 class from Haskins/Haskins, with Ian Champ/Samantha Lines taking third in class. Race 3 saw another victory for Clarke/Cracknell, this time only by 2 seconds from Street/Street, with Perkins/Nickels taking another solid third. Chapman/Cook took another Period 1 victory from Haskins/Haskins, as Champ/Lines suffered mechanical woes on the startline, putting an end to their race before it had begun.

Race 4 was an absolute thriller to watch, with Street/Street leading from the get go, right up until the last lap where Clarke/Cracknell made a dive up the inside at Hatchets and came out first. The battle continued around the circuit and it seemed that the Streets got the better drive out of the last corner, but Clarke/Cracknell had just done enough to take the overall victory by 0.093 seconds. Adrian and Bob Dawson took third overall and in class in Period 3, after a race long 4 way battle between them, Gristwood/Smith, Perkins/Nickels and Steve Mann/Phil Wade. Chapman/Cook took another Period victory from Haskins/Haskins, as Champ/Lines didn't line up for the final race of the weekend.



Race 7, 17, 29 & 40 – Post Classic 250, Post Classic 350, Air Cooled 500

Harley Rushton took pole for the opening race from Ant Hart, and later ruled out George Hogton-Rusling took third on the grid. Race on saw Rushton pull away and do what he needed to do to take the victory from Hart, with Neil Watson coming home in third, a 1,2,3 overall for the PC350 class. In the PC250 Class it was Vince Cundle that took victory, from Stuart Thomas and David Gilbert in third. Air Cooled 500s saw Andrew Widdowson take class victory, from Ian Lucas and Andrew Jones from SCARS racing taking third in class. The over 55s PC350 class saw victory for Robin Lamb, on his Rotax 250 that was presented as machine of the meeting at the prize giving on Saturday evening, from Bob Farrington and David Gilbert taking third.

Race 2 saw a real race throughout the 6 laps, with Hart and Rushton playing cat and mouse throughout. It was Hart that pipped it on the line by 0.034 seconds from Rushton, with Watson coming another lonely third place. Cundle took another victory in the PC250 class, from Thomas and Gilbert didn't finish this time. Lamb took another class victory in the Over 55s from Farrington and David Lenton took third in class this time. In the Air Cooled 500s it was another victory for Widdowson, from Lucas and Jones again.

Race 3 saw a hugely dominant victory for Hart, after Rushton retired with mechanical issues on lap 4. Watson took 2nd in class this time with Jamie Edwards creeping onto the PC350 podium for the first time in 2022. Cundle took his aht trick in the PC250 class, from Thomas with Gilbert suffering another unfortunate retirement. Over 55s saw Lamb take his third victory of the weekend, this time by 0.3 seconds from Farrington and Lenton taking another third. Air Cooled 500s saw another victory for Widdowson, from Jones and Sam Broad took 16 points this time out.

Race 4 saw a depleted grid of only 11, but this didn't stop exciting racing throughout the field, with Rushton taking victory by 0.107 seconds from Hart, with Watson taking another third. Cundle took his full house of victories in the PC250 class from Thomas, Lamb cleaning up as well in the Over 55s from Farrington and Lenton and Widdowson taking another victory from Jones.

Race 8 ,19, 30, 41 – Production & Superstock 400

Scott Carson has switched to an FZ600 for the 2022 season and proved straight away the move from 250 to 600 didn't bother him and he put it straight on pole for Race 1, from Graham Higlett and Dominic Clegg. It was Higlett on his Stock 400 that took overall victory from Carson and Clegg coming home third overall in Race 1, in a thrilling battle all the way to the line. Joe Woodward took third in class in the Production class, whereas over in the Superstock 400 class Shelley Pike and Angela Cragg proved that they aren't slouches either, taking 2nd and third in class respectively.

Race 2 saw Carson's first victory of the season, from Higlett and Clegg, with Woodward taking another third in class in the Production class. Pike took another second in class in the 400s and Cragg repeated her performance from earlier in the day as well to take another third in class. Race 3 saw another victory for Carson, from Clegg and Woodward, with a retirement from Higlett due to mechanical issues. Pike took victory in the 400s this time from Cragg and Michael Gilson.

Race 4 saw Clegg step up the mark and take victory from Carson and Woodward, completing the Production top 3. Higlett was forced to another retirement, leaving a super Sunday wide open for Pike to take her second victory of the weekend, from Cragg and Gilson.



Race 9, 20, 31, 42 – Classic 500cc

Mark Cronshaw continued his great weekend by setting a blistering pole lap 1.5 seconds quicker than 2nd place man Alex Sinclair with Richard Molnar taking third on the grid. Race 1 saw Cronshaw lead from flag to flag, with Molnar taking second by only 0.2 seconds from Sinclair, completing the 500cc class. In the Over 55s it was Pete Gibson that took the class victory, from Michael Bevan and Philip Jonker took third in class. Over in the Goldstars, Andrew Guy took victory from Robert Knoyle and Gary Abbott took third.

Race 2 saw another outstanding victory from Cronshaw, with Molnar placing second again, this time comfortably, from Sinclair. Guy took another victory in the Goldstars, from Knoyle and Barry Mason took third in class this time out. Gibson took another Over 55s victory from Bevan and Jonker. Race 3 saw Cronshaw continue his utter domination from Molnar, and Mark Taylor took third place this time in his first season on the 500 Molnar Manx, changing from Post Classic to Classic after winning the Production class in 2021. Guy took a third Goldstars victory from Knoyle and Abbott came back for another third in class. Over 55s victory went to Gibson again, from Michael Bevan and Meredydd Owen in third.

Race 4 saw Cronshaw take the full house, Molnar a weekend of being bridesmaid in the class and Taylor, getting to grips with the Manx very quickly took a very neat and tidy third after a good battle throughout the race with his teammate. Bevan took the Over 55s class win this time out from Gibson and Owen made the journey from North Wales worthwhile to take home another 3rd in class. Knoyle took the final Goldstars victory of the weekend from Abbott and Robert Coley in third.

Race 10, 21, 32 & 43 – Post Classic 125cc

Jamie O'Brien woke up on form on his Windy Shed RS-125 taking pole by 1.6 seconds from Dean Edwards and Oli Cooper made up the front row for the first race. O'Brien held off Edwards by 0.279 at the line to take the first victory and open class victory in Race 1, with Oli Cooper taking the Pre-89 class victory and third on the road. John Smith took third in class in the Open class coming 4th on the road. Meanwhile it was 125cc legend Jerry Lodge with the Piston Port victory, from Robin Lamb and Eddy Wormald in 3rd place. Steven Colville took 2nd in the pre-89 class.

Race 2 saw Cooper take the overall victory from Smith and James Wilmot took 3rd on the road, 2nd in class in the Open category with Scott Harris third in class. Pre-89 2nd place went to Colville again. The Piston Port class saw another victory for Lodge, with Lamb in 2nd and Nev Busson making his intentions clear for the season, with a confident third in class. Race 3 saw the victory this time for Edwards by 0.104 seconds from Cooper, with Wilmot 3rd on the road, 2nd in the open class. Smith fought hard to the end but had to settle with third in class, missing out on 2nd by 0.13 seconds. Lamb took victory in the Piston Port this time out from Lodge and Busson, and Colville took another confident second in class in the Pre-89 after an unfortunate retirement for Peter Roberts.

Race 4 saw an assured victory from Cooper, with Edwards in second and Smith a solid 3rd on the road, another 2nd in the open class. Wilmot took third in the open, again narrowly holding on by 0.3 seconds from James Blackmore, who took 4th in class. Lamb took the final Piston Port victory of the weekend, from Busson and Wormald, after a retirement from Lodge in the final race of the day. Colville rounded off the weekend with another second in class to add a solid 80 points to the start of his 2022 campaign.

Race 27 – ACU Classic 350/500

Mark Cronshaw wanted to really clean up this weekend and pulled the pin in qualifying, taking pole position by 1.6 seconds from Richard Molnar with Alex Sinclair rounding off the front row. In Sunday's race Cronshaw ran away, taking the victory by 10 seconds from Molnar and Sinclair. In a spread out field Harley Rushton was first 350 home comfortably from Dean Widdowson, with Brighton man Kieran Ablitt starting off his National Championship pursuit well with a comfortable third in class.



Race 38 – ACU Post Classic 750/1300

Ant Hart took overall victory in the Post Classic race, with a convincing victory over Richard Molnar, who commendable held onto Hart for a good 4 laps – the TZ350 just having that little bit more around the South Welsh circuit than Molnar’s Ducati. Joe Woodward took a good 3rd overall and 2nd in the 750 class with John Chambers taking 3rd in class. Sam Broad added 20 points to his initial charge for the 1300 title, finishing 2nd in class.

What a meeting! What’s even better, is we get to do it all over again in three weeks’ time at the world famous Brands Hatch Circuit – don’t delay, get your entry in today!

