Beamish Trophy Trial

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The Vintage Motorcycle Club Ltd.
South Durham Section
53rd BEAMISH TROPHY TRIAL RESULTS
Sunday 20 September 2026

The results of the 53rd Beamish Trophy Trial held on 20 September 2026 are attached. Trophies are awarded by category. Each entrant can win only one main and one class award. This means that the trophies are spread wider and one person does not, for example, win six. In the event of entrants tying on the same number of points, the trophy will be awarded to the rider on the oldest bike.

In total there were 124 starters on the day from an initial total entry limited to 150. The event seems to maintain its popularity and once again we had more than 200 applications. There were 109 finishers, as 15 riders failed to finish. Entrants retire before the event for a wide variety of reasons but the principal reasons are health or because their bike is not ready.

Having taken account of the weather in the preceding two years, this year we procured waterproof machine numbers and waterproof score sheets for our courageous Marshals and Observers.
This was a magnificent success as the sun shone most of the day, it was windy but with almost no rain. Clearly, we aim to continue with these waterproof ancillaries in future years!

The fine weather meant that those sections which are susceptible to rainfall – particularly Westgate Ford and High House Lonnen, presented few challenges this year.

We had to omit Raise Head from the route this year due to one landowner refusing permission. We are aware that this disappointed many entrants but we hope to have an alternative in place for next year.

The lunch-stop at Nenthead worked well as always. Both the burgers and the cakes were excellent, many thanks to the The Hive and Nenthead W.I. for making us so welcome and to the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society for allowing us the use of their car park.

A straw poll of the Marshals and Observers regarding the **Robert Atkinson Cup** for Outstanding achievement by a BTT entrant was unanimous – Ken Ward on his beautiful and highly original bathtub Triumph 5ta. Ken completed all off-road sections on a virtually standard road-going machine. This was a performance of which the BTT founder – the late Robert Atkinson, would have very much approved.

There are literally hundred of pictures on our Facebook page – unsurprisingly called – ‘BEAMISH TROPHY TRIAL’. Many thanks to everybody who has uploaded them especially Brian Bolt of Avery Images.

Thanks to all our many helpers including: North Durham Motor Club, The Friends of Killhope Lead Mine, North East Classic Motorcycle Club, Rievers Section VMCC and Northumbrian Section VMCC. Thanks also to the many members, partners and friends of South Durham VMCC who

worked so hard prior to & on the day to enable all of the sections to be open & the event to be completed successfully.

I should also mention Brian Smith and Mike Laidler for providing the recovery service and Dave Crone and Matt Morris for performing back-marker duties and ensuring nobody was abandoned on a remote moortop..

We are also indebted to Mark and the team at The New Board Inn, who allowed us to use the pub site for the start/finish again and the facilities at the pub for tea/coffee/meals/toilets. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, Martin Adams of HR Blowers and Peter Hallam we were once again able to arrange two onsite portable toilet cabins – much appreciated when the pub was shut. We would also like to thank all of our trophy sponsors. A massive 'thank you' to all the landowners and users who allowed us access to their land and property once again.

As you may be aware we are strong supporters of LARA (Land Access Recreation Association). Their work is vitally important in protecting our use of green lanes and minor roads. This year we raised £372 as a donation to the Lara Fighting Fund.

In past years we have collected donations on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support. Once again you were pursued at the lunch-stop by three of my grand-daughters who appear to have worked their charms on you because we collected £328 for MacMillan. This is a significant increase on last year.

The 'Beamish Awards Night' will be at our regular venue: Middleton St George Cricket & Social Club, Water View, Middleton St. George, Darlington, DL2 1JQ starting at 7:30pm on **Thursday 19 November 2026.** There will be a buffet, distribution of goodies donated for the marshals, and a still photograph display and the presentation of trophies. We are also inviting all the marshals, observers and helpers so it is an opportunity to thank them. We really hope you can make it.

Looking ahead, the date of the 2027 Beamish Trophy Trial will be Sunday 20 September 2026. Entry invitations will be sent out by email in the second week of February 2027 and notified on the Beamish Trophy Trial Facebook page and the South Durham VMCC website.



WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

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