



The Vintage Motorcycle Club Ltd.
South Durham Section
50th BEAMISH TROPHY TRIAL RESULTS
Sunday 17 September 2023

25 September 2023

In total there were 129 starters on the day from an initial total entry of 150. There were 109 finishers, as 20 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.

The weather on the morning of the 17th was dire. The score cards bear mute testimony to the conditions that both the marshals and riders endured. The greatest respect is due to them all.

The off-site parking arrangements at The New Board Inn were as before. The reason for this is that the site is limited in space and the pub must retain parking for their lunchtime paying customers. Those who are camping with the pub's blessing, free of charge, can usually leave their vehicles on the field on the Sunday morning, however there is not enough space to accommodate all entrants' vehicles without occupying the pub's car park, hence we arrange overflow parking at Hairey Hill farm about 500 yards away. Unfortunately, the rain caused this field to become very soft and proved to be quite a challenge in itself.

We printed two separate route cards again this year – one for tarmac only and one including the green lane sections. We also emailed the route cards in advance to all entrants so that they could, if they wished, print them at home before the event. This seemed popular as we had a lot of printed ones left over. We are very grateful to Mike Carruthers for all his work preparing our route cards.

The lunchstop at Nenthead worked well as always. Both the burgers and the cakes were excellent, many thanks to the Nenthead community for making us so welcome.

I have been asked how we go about arriving at the final scores for the Beamish Trophy Trial:-

Points.

This event is a little unusual in that we have quiz style questions – the more correct answers the higher the score, whereas the observed sections, traditionally, would be scored by losing marks – the lower the score the better. To get round this, although the marking is the same as any trial – clean, one foot, multiple footing etc, we turn it round and award 20 points for a clean and lesser numbers for the various footing/stopping options. The quiz-type checkpoints generally give a maximum of 10 points and then there are bonus points as listed in the Regulations:-

BONUS POINTS

- These will count towards all trophies listed above, as follows:

Machine built before 1930	30pts	Two speed	12pts	Single speed	20pts
Machine built 1931-1945	20pts	Each passenger	6pts	Road tyres(normal road tread)	10pts
Machine built 1946-1960	10pts	Sidecar	5pts	Under 200cc	10pts

Trophies.

Our trophies are split into two categories – Main Awards and Class Awards. We only award a single trophy to any rider in each category. For example, if you were to win the *Richard Hore Memorial Trophy* for *Best Overall Performance* and you also happened to be riding the oldest machine in the event you would not be awarded the *Northumbria VMCC Trophy for Oldest Vehicle to complete the Trial* – that trophy would be awarded to the next oldest vehicle to complete the trial. It would be possible for example to win both – *Northumbria VMCC Trophy for Oldest Vehicle to complete the Trial* in the Main Awards as well as *South Durham VMCC Trophy for Best Performance by a pre-1931 motorcycle (unlimited)* in the Class Awards.

In summary, it should be remembered that the Beamish Trophy Trial is first and foremost intended to be a good day out and the competitive element is very secondary.

The **Robert Atkinson Cup** is named after the founder of the event and is for outstanding achievement. This year it has been awarded to John Duguid (No.9) from Whitley Bay, who performed one of the most spectacular 'Fives' that has been seen at a very full Westgate Ford for many years. Being thoroughly soaked after only 29 miles and to carry on for a further 82 miles is indeed an outstanding achievement.

Thanks to all our many helpers including: North Durham Motor Club, The Friends of Killhope Lead Mine, North East Classic Motorcycle Club, BSA Owners 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 Dave Crone and Mike Laidler for providing the recovery service and Brian Smith and Ged Watson for performing back-marker duties and ensuring nobody was abandoned on a remote moortop. The last-minute route change due to a closed road near Blanchland went off smoothly thanks to Derek Cooper, Mick Stead and Rob and Sophie Parker-Norman who stepped in as temporary marshals.

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. We arranged on-site portable toilets this year which appear to have been popular. We would also like to thank all of our trophy sponsors. Thanks to the generosity of Martin Adams we have been able to update some of our trophies this year. 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 £426 as a donation to the Lara Fighting Fund.

In past years we have collected donations on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support. This year you were pursued at the lunchstop by three of my grand-daughters who appear to have worked their charms on you because we collected £214.59 for MacMillan

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 9 November 2023**. There will be a buffet, distribution of goodies for the marshals, and a still photograph display and the presentation of trophies by VMCC Chair and President-Elect, Neil Lewis. 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 2024 Beamish Trophy Trial is not yet finalised but is likely to be a little earlier on Sunday 8 September 2024. Entry invitations will be sent out by email in the second week of February 2024. We can only do this if we have your email address so if you don't receive periodic emails from us please contact us at Beamishtt@live.co.uk. If you do not have access to email we can send you a paper entry if you send us a stamped addressed envelope to the address below.

Finally, after 15 years I am becoming both old and tired. I would therefore like to pass this event over to someone else hopefully younger and fitter. I am prepared to run the 2024 event but would hope that I can do this in partnership with a successor organiser/organisation. Email or call me for a chat if you are interested.

Yours sincerely

