

The First 'Slemish'

The first Slemish trial was held on 27th April 1946. It was an open reliability trial held in good weather with a large crowd of spectators enjoying the event. 22 competitors took part. Below is a reproduction of a press report on the event:

“The Mid Antrim Motor Club, which is gradually becoming a real live wire, staged an event of considerable importance to motor cyclists at Slemish on Saturday afternoon last. This took the form of an open reliability trial, the club’s objective being to stimulate interest in post war motor cycling. All the leading Northern Ireland clubs were strongly represented in the 22 riders and a big crowd of spectators from Larne, Randalstown, Belfast, Coleraine and Ballymena testified to the interest the event had aroused. Weather conditions favoured the riders, and the carefully chosen course was in excellent condition and gave even the best of experts a thorough test, while the novices had the time of their lives on some of the colonial sections. W.Nicholson(350 BSA) started a hot favourite in the Expert Class and fully lived up to his already famous reputation. R.A.Porter (350 BSA), I.Boal (350 Triumph) and J.G.Dixon (350 BSA) gave first class exhibitions. Bertie McBride (125 James) and E.Hoey (150 James) showed what these wonderful little machines can do in expert hands. R.Waddell (500 Triumph) was unlucky and had to retire.

In the novice class a local rider R.Houston (350 BSA) revelled in the mud sections and put up the best performance in the class. The next best show was put up by W.McCrea (350 BSA) and T.S.Green (350 Triumph). Three marks behind came R.Wright (350 BSA) closely followed by W.H.Cowan (500 Triumph) and O.K.Nelson (500 Triumph)”

RESULTS

Expert Class

1 st	W.Nicholson	350 BSA	748 marks out of a possible 800
2 nd	R.A.Porter	350 BSA	646 marks
3 rd	I.Boal	350 Triumph	629 marks

Novice Class

1 st	R.Houston	350 BSA	433 marks out of a possible 600
2 nd	W.McCrea	350 BSA	398 marks
3 rd	T.S.Green	350 Triumph	395 marks

Club Officials were:

Starters: D.Montgomery, A.Watt

M.C.U.I. Steward: J.Hunter

Club Stewards: J.Ferguson, J.Adrain, J.Woods

Number Steward: J.Shaw

Section Markers: S.Darragh, M.Templeton, S.McIlroy, J.Hill, W.Porter, M.Hill, J.Graham, J.Kernoghan, J.Marrs, N.Grant, W.Kelso, J.Lowry, S.Booth.

Timekeeper: S.Darragh