

Chimay 2017 Race Report

The new IHRO Continental Circus re-assembled at the historic and fast Chimay circuit in Belgium, with the promise of good weather for the weekend. An entry of 49 riders confirmed the popularity of this circuit with road race riders.

Qualifying 1 saw German rider Tobias Werner fastest overall on the Dennis Gaskins very quick König. However IHRO 1 riders were snapping at his heels with Dean Stimpson on a Manx Norton only 2 seconds slower followed by Vincent mounted Alex Sinclair and Dutch ace Jan Frank Bakker on the ABSAF BSA. Clive Ling, getting used to his Dunnell Manx was eighth fastest. David Tetley was fastest 350 ahead of Belgian Oldrich Wisniowski
2nd Qualifying saw Dean Stimpson as fastest ahead of Alex Sinclair on the Vincent. Hermann Verboven was third qualifier on his Paton Will Loder on his Seeley Mk2 was 4 seconds behind Jan Frank Bakker. Jack Scrivener was 21st on his Aermacchi.

Race 1

Race 1 Grid lined up without Werner on the König, due to brake problems. Next was the Stimpson Manx with Sinclair on the Vincent and the Verboven Paton completing the line up. The race was run at a fast pace seeing Belgian Alain Vandriessche finish 1 second ahead of Dean Stimpson who was showing what could be done with a Manx Norton against the fast Paton twin. Dean was therefore IHRO1 winner with Will Loder second and Ian Steltner on his Seeley third 7 seconds ahead of Clive Ling and Norton Tickle mounted Bavarian Reinhart Neumair.

IHRO2 had Herman Verboven second on his Paton well ahead of Dutch BMW rider Marc Beltman. David Tetley was first IHRO 350 on his Aermacchi ahead of similarly mounted Jack Scrivener. Belgian Oldrich Wisniowski came in third.

Race 2

Race 2 promised to be interesting, with Stimpson working out a strategy to defeat the Patons. Clive Ling lined up on the Dunnell 350 as the 500 was not fit for the race. At the flag drop Stimpson had a cracking start and was soon stamping his mark on the race. At the finish he was 20 seconds ahead of second place overall Herman Verboven on the Paton. Dean was also the worthy winner of the IHRO Martin Orgee trophy awarded in memory of IHRO rider Martin and donated by his widow. Alain Vandriessche retired on lap 6 so Marc Beltman was second IHRO 2 ahead of Dutchman Gerard van den Brom on his Honda. Second IHRO1 was classic ace Will Loder on the Mk2 Seeley Ian Steltner third again well ahead of Reinhard Neumar. IHRO 350 first to the flag was Clive Ling but Jack Scrivener was first as Clive Ling had not qualified on the 350. They sportingly shared the top spot on the podium. Third again was Belgian Oldrich Wisnioski. Steve Parrott had retired on lap 3.

The IHRO and Belgian paddock struck camp and prepared to reconvene at Gedinne in the Ardennes.