



Henry O'Kelly claimed third place with a score of 95 points.



A spot of bother for sixth place man Trevor Callaghan



Fourth place man Davy McBride shows his style on a Bultaco last year.

TRIALS—IRISH CHAMPIONSHIP

RETIREMENT AIDS COLIN'S DESIGNS

BELFAST'S Colin Bell (Bultaco) may well have turned his back on the professional trials scene for a more lucrative career in architecture . . . but he is still Ireland's top trialler.

The Irish national championship throughout 1979 was a topsy-turvy affair but at the end of the day it was Bell who came out on top for a second time.

Dublin's Trevor Callaghan (Montesa) was the early season pace-maker — in fact he led the competition at the halfway stage (seven rounds) followed by Henry O'Kelly, Derek Burton, all from the Southern Centre, and Bell.

But during the summer Callaghan decided to hang-up his leathers to concentrate on the competition side of his father's motorcycle shop.

With Trevor on the sidelines it was a distinct three-horse race to the finish. In early October, Burton blasted the opposition to pieces in the Moran Cup which he won with a deficit of 25 to runner-up Norman Colin's 44.

Bell, feeling somewhat rusty following an American holiday, could only manage fifth place with 49 penalties.

But the following week Bell hit back — and how! He lost 33 marks to carry off the Shaw Cup, Stephen Pyper was next on 65 and Burton fourth behind Colin on 70.

At the well-worn Lead Mines for the Ards club's Turner Trophy, Bell was again in good tone, winning the premier award with Burton relegated to fifth.

Then in early November, with two rounds still remaining, Bell clinched the championship with a one-mark victory over Davy McBride in the Dublin University club's Bush Cup. Burton was third and O'Kelly fourth.

At Saintfield for the Temple club's Terry Hill trophy meeting, Bell came from behind to win with 81 marks lost to runner-up Burton's 100. Then agricultural machinery executive Burton (Yamaha) reversed the tables on the Irish champion at the final Dundalk round where they were separated by seven marks.

However, Burton had the consolation of winning the Irish Experts' title for the very first time while Bell tucked away his second medal in three years.

A rider's best nine results from 14 outings decided the final positions — Bell had a net score of 108, followed by Burton 103, O'Kelly 95, McBride 94, Colin 86½ and Callaghan in sixth spot with 85½.

As for the B and C grades, police cadet Robert Taylor had the unique distinction of winning both. Belfast bricklayer Lance Owens chased him home in the former series while Stanley Callaghan snatched second spot from Colin Colligan in the latter contest.

Irish trials championship, 1979 final placings: Grade "A"— C. Bell 108 points, D Burton 103, H. O'Kelly 95, D. McBride 94, N. Colin 86½, T. Callaghan 85½, S. Pyper 84, J. McMahan 74½, I. Davison 74½, B. Crawford 71.

Grade "B" — R. Taylor 103½, L. Owens 101, K. Johnston 96, D. McClenaghan 95½, B. Hutton 90½, K. Beckett 86, J. McCrae 70½, K. Dundee 66½, S. Callaghan 64½, D. Pollock 61.

Grade "C" — R. Taylor 108, S. Callaghan 98, C. Colligan 96, R. Tolan 72½, B. Boyd 69, D. Murphy 60, M. Curry 59, B. Sanderson 55½, P. Neill 54, C. Nolan 45½.



Colin Bell finished five points ahead of second man in the 1979 championship.