

1966

RON LANGSTON, Britain's "number one" sidecar trials rider and the A-CU Star holder, lost form sensationally in Saturday's national Victory Trial.

For, in the first trade-supported trial of the year—won by the 500 cc Ariel ace in 1964 and '65 — Langston finished completely off the sidecar awards list.

Ron—considered by many to be virtually unbeatable—called it his "worst day ever". He lost marks on every section but one over the Birmingham MCC's course around Knighton, in mid-Wales.

But, while Ken Kendall (500 Kenman), successive winner in 1961-62, scored a 21-mark victory, it was Phil Mountfield (500 BSA), third man home, who now takes the lead from Langston in the British Trials Championship after two events. In contrast, the solo battle went according to form — with Solo Star-holder Sammy Miller, on the Spanish 250 Bultaco, scoring the first-ever foreign-machine win in the 41-year-old "classic".

Runner-up battle

The Ulsterman beat runner-up Don Smith (250 Greeves) nine marks to 16, with Dave Rowland (250 BSA) and Mick Andrews (250 Bultaco) harassing Smith throughout in a fierce contest for second spot. "Form men" Scott Ellis (250 BSA) — last year's winner — and Peter Gaunt (250 James), "St David's" victor a fortnight before, both finished off the leaderboard in the first-class awards.

But Gaunt ties with Smith and Miller at the top of the Championship title-table.

BSA beat off a first-ever Bultaco challenge to repeat their 1965 manufacturers' award victory — but only just.

For the Small Heath trio of Alan Lampkin, Dave Rowland and Dave Langston tied on observation with Bultaco men Miller, Arthur Dovey and Norman Eyre — just getting the verdict on the brake test decider.

Three minutes from the start, Llanishay Pit, a treacherously-muddy, cork-screwing section, had many solos floundering.

However, Don Smith was brilliantly clean, while Miller, Ray Sayer (200 Triumph), Rowland and Dennis Jones (250 Sprite) dabbled.

Litton Hill took four from Sammy and six from Jones and at the end of it, they both tied, with eight.

Don Smith established his second place with 10; Mick Andrews had lost 13; and Tony Davis and Mick Wilkinson (250 Sprite) both had 16.

Marshal hurt

The second sub at Cwm Whitton was scrubbed after a hold up when an observer fell and broke a leg. He had to be ferried to an ambulance by tractor.

The third sub became the terror, taking fives from Rowland and Jones. Miller and Wilkinson were the only men clean.

At Ffrydd, Miller, no marks lost since Litton Hill, had a safe lead with eight; Don Smith had logged 13; while Andrews and Jones, scrapping hard, had 14.

Creignant was a shockingly-muddy, six-sub hill which nearly brought disaster.

Despite strict instructions from clerk-of-the-course Olga Kevelos on how the hill should be laid out, the marshal reversed part of it. The result was that it was nearly impossible to climb out of the exit.

Thirteen attempted the section before a farmer objected to damage to his field and the complete hill was scrubbed.

Upper Hall was out of bounds for inspection and only Rowland went all the way up without loss.

Miller lost his last marks for the day with a dab and Dennis Jones, docked six, settled for

fifth place with a final score of 20.

Kendall's bid for sidecar victory faltered when his kick-starter snapped on the course. He had to break off for welding repairs.

He reached Creignant, modified for chairs, with only 11 — 10 in front of Alan Morewood (500 Ariel).

He seemed to be home and dry but then he stopped, not once but twice, making his total also 21.

For a moment there seemed a chance of a tie. But Creignant was merciless and though Morewood was the best of the lot with three that brief spell of footing may have cost him the premier.

But for poor Langston it was a disastrous day — for he finished with 52 marks lost.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Victory Cup (best solo): S. H. Miller (250 Bultaco), 9 marks lost.

Victory Sidecar (best sidecar): K. R. Kendall (500 Kenman), 21.

Henley Cup (solo runner-up): D. R. Smith (250 Greeves), 16.

Premier Cup (third solo): R. D. Rowland (250 BSA), 18.

Perrey Cup (fourth solo): M. J. Andrews (250 Bultaco), 19.

University Cup (best passenger): W. D. Kendall. Cranford

Bowl (sidecar runner-up): C. A. Morewood (500 Ariel), 24.

Watsonian Cup (best manufacturer's team): BSA No 2 (A. R. C. Lampkin, R. D. Rowland, D. G. Langston), 77.

Donisthorpe Cup (best club team): Buxton and D MCC (N. S. Eyre, M. J. Andrews, R. D. Rowland), 76.

Class Awards. Triumph Cup (best under 21): D. Jones (250 Sprite), 20.

H. J. Simms Trophy (best novice): C. J. Hemmingway (250 Greeves), 45.

Walter Hackett Cup (best Birmingham MCC member): D. Jones.

First-class Awards. Solo: D. Jones (250 Sprite), 20; P. T. Stirland (250 Greeves), 22; A. J. Davis (250 Greeves), 24; M. Bowers (200 Triumph), 26; J. R. Sayer (200 Triumph), 26; D. G. Langston (250 BSA), 28; S. Ellis (250 BSA), 28; J. Adsett (250 Greeves) and A. Dovey (250 Bultaco), 29; P. N. Brittain (250 Dot), A. J. Lampkin (250 BSA) and J. V. Brittain (250 Royal Enfield), 30; P. H. Gaunt (250 James), 31; J. V. Smith (250 BSA) and A. R. C. Lampkin (250 BSA), 32; C. F. Dommett (250 Cotton), 34; G. J. Farley (200 Triumph), 35.

Sidecar: P. L. Mountfield (500 BSA), 35; B. E. Checklin (500 BSA), 37.

Second-class Awards. Solo: M. G. Davis, 37; N. S. Eyre, 39; P. Fletcher, 41; W. Wilkinson and J. A. Sandiford, 43; L. C. Telling and C. J. Hemmingway, 45; P. A. England, G. R. Adsett and E. Adcock, 46; J. W. Grazier, 47; W. G. Price and J. B. Hutchinson, 48; G. O. McLaughlan, 49; M. R. Winwood, 50; C. P. G. Watkin and M. J. Clark, 53; M. C. Rachmell, 54; A. G. Holt, 55.

Sidecars: P. Wraith, 41; D. F. Shorey, 50.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS

Solo: 1 P. H. Gaunt (250 James), D. R. Smith (250 Greeves) and S. H. Miller (250 Bultaco), 8; 4 G. Farley (200 Triumph), 6; 5 A. J. Davis (250 Greeves) and R. D. Rowland (250 BSA), 4.

Sidecar: 1 P. L. Mountfield (500 BSA), 10; 2 R. J. Langston (500 Ariel) and K. R. Kendall (500 Kenman), 8; 4 C. A. Morewood (500 Ariel), 6; 5 D. F. Shorey (500 Ariel), 5; 6 B. E. Checklin (500 BSA) and R. S. Rutherford (500 Ariel), 3.

Day for Daves

WORKS BSA rider Dave Rowland upset the applecart when he ventured into the South Yorkshire group area to compete in the Stocksbridge MC trial at Green Moor near Sheffield. He was the best of three Daves who headed the entry of 42 starters.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Experts: D Rowlands (250 BSA), 26; D Thorpe (200 Triumph), 33; D F Lupton (250 Bultaco), 35.

Novices: A Watson (250 Bultaco), 59; I Ollernshaw (250 Sprite), 61.

Best team: Sheffield and Hallamshire "A", D Rowland, D Bentley (250 Greeves), M Bentley (250 Greeves), 116.

Hillsborough MC 164. Sheffield and Hallamshire "B" 175.

South Yorkshire Group Trial: Best Performance: D Rowland (250 BSA) 60 marks lost. Runner-up: B Thomas (250 Bultaco) 66.

First Class Awards: H Lloyd (250 Bultaco) 67; D Thorpe (250 Royal Enfield) 68; D Skinner (250 Bultaco) 70.

Novice: A Watson (250 Bultaco) 81.

Best team: Hillsborough MCC 210.

First-class award winner Dave Rowland steadies the 250 BSA.

