

Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum Newsletter August/September 2009

Welcome to another Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum newsletter

Sammy

ASI Motoshow

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Varano had 600 bikes and competitors from all over Europe taking part and is one of the biggest Classic Meetings in Europe running over three days.

The event was a great success but considering the motorbikes and champions taking part in it, it was no great surprise, from parades to the static exhibitions organized by Clubs, registers and collectors, the public had a great time.

The event also celebrated important anniversaries and introduced several themes with the aim of celebrating the history of disappearing brands and of those Houses which keep on producing motorbikes.

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Goodwood Festival of Speed

Sammy was asked to take along the famous 1957 4 cylinder Grand Prix Racing Gilera to this years Festival of Speed

He also took along the Museum's AJS which in 1949 won the World Championships with Les Graham riding. This years Festival of Speed saw Les' son Stuart, who is a long time friend of Sammy and the Museum ride the great, one and only 500 AJS Porcupine

VMCC Festival of 1000 Bikes

Sammy had a great reception at this years Past Masters Track Parade at the VMCC's Festival of 1000 bikes with the Norton Low Boy, which he rode beside some of the other best Stars and machines in Europe

Museum Events

Italian Bikers Day

Over a thousand people turned out for the most successful Bikers Day here at the Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum on Sunday 14th June.

This year the bikers day had an Italian theme to it, and there was a phenomenal turn out of bikes and the large crowd engaged in the close ups of many of the famous bikes. The selection included

Ducati * Moto Guzzi * Laverda * Aprilia * Cagiva * Moto Morini * Benelli

All the bikes were run in the Museums new Grand Prix circuit and they made great noises and smells.

Guest of Honour was Colin Seeley famous for his frame building and side car racing outfits who rode around the circuit on Mike Brade's Dieter Busch BMW sidecar outfit with Peter Crew as passenger, which they are taking to Goodwood Festival of Speed in July.

We had two demonstrations one in the morning and one in the afternoon. These were both a tremendous success with the spectators. Sammy enjoyed giving the enthusiastic crowds his usual demonstration of the Museums bikes which included the Mondial which will be taken to Spa, Belgium next week for one of the biggest Classic events in Europe. The REG was taken around the circuit again much to the delight of the crowd.

The Ducati UK Event Truck is a fleet of 14 demonstrator and display bikes and they too spent the day at the Museum showcasing the latest 2009 range. Members of the public could test ride the bikes and there was local dealership staff on hand to give expert advice. Solent Advanced Motorcyclists also attended with there display signing up numerous riders.

Prizes were then given to the best in shows which included:

Best 1950s Italian Bike – Moto Guzzi – Gordon De Lamare
Best 1960s Italian Bike – Ducati 175cc – Mike Bell
Best 1970s Italian Bike – Ducati 250cc – Matt Winter
Best 1980s Italian Bike – Ducati 900ss – Bob Hartmann
Best Italian Race Bike – Ducati 24 Horas – Lance Johnson
Best Modern Italian Bike – Moto Guzzi Magni – John Davies

We also had a raffle at the end of the day where the lucky winner won a Davida Helmet donated kindly by Smart Riders; there were many other prizes too.

This years Bikers Day was a tremendous success helped along by the gorgeous weather and of course by all the Museums supporters which included Gary Jenkins, Laura and Bob Hartmann, Peter and Sue Crew, Mike Brade, Gordon Delamare to name but a few.

We are already looking forward to next year's event.

Speedway Day

Legendary former Poole star Malcolm 'Super Simmo' Simmons donned a replica skull and crossbones race jacket specially made for the event and rode a lap of the circuit delighting the packed crowd at this years Speedway Day.

Prior to this was an impeccable minutes silence in memory of Andy Scorey the organiser of last year's event who sadly passed away in February this year. Andy's brother Tim was present to carry out the wishes of his friends and family by scattering his ashes across the start gate of this temporary tack. All the riders present then proceeded in turn to ride around the circuit as a mark of respect.

Thrilling the crowd during the day were many stars from the past both being interviewed as well as jumping onto the nearest machine to take a ride as former world champion Freddie Williams did with Ken Middleditch looking on. Big smiles covered the faces of these stars from the past none more so when the race jacket that Malcolm Simmons wore was autographed and auctioned off raising an incredible £180.00.

The main prize in the raffle the Leigh Adams helmet signed by the Grand Prix line up at Cardiff this year, together with the Young Lions race jacket and several other prizes the raffle raised in excess of £300.00. Following the raffle an auction of race jackets and a Neil Middleditch Team GB shirt raised an incredible £800.00.

The day was a roaring success with a fantastic sum of money raised and the weather held off for the day, everyone was happy, that was the main aim to make it a good family day out as well as helping the Speedway Riders Benevolent Fund financially".

Sammy Miller Run

The 12th Annual Sammy Miller Run was blessed with dry weather and had a record number of entries of 130 riders who travelled from all over the country to attend. The range of bikes entered was extremely impressive with examples from every decade from 1913 right through to 1979.

The riders enjoyed course set out by the Clerk of the Course Percy Gossling, of 50 miles through the lovely New Forest, stopping for lunch at Beaulieu and then returning to the Museum Complex where they were welcomed by a good crowd.

Awards were presented as below by Ken Blake and every rider was presented with a finishing plaque.

AWARDS

Best Machine (Sammy Miller Trophy)

Steven Brady – Honda CB K1 1971

Best Post War Bike

Richard Hutson – Norton Commando 1974

Best Vintage Bike

John Guy – James Sports 1926

Best Post Vintage Bike

Roy Jeanes – Norton 55 1937

Most Technically Interesting Bike – Mike O'Rourke Award

Dave Oram – Suzuki 125

Best Three Wheeler

Michael Bamber – Morgan Super Sports 1933

Best Japanese

Keith Jennings – Suzuki T20 1969

Ladies Award

Shirley Blake – Cotton TT 1926

Paul Currie's stationary engines put on a wonderful display at the Complex, and there was also a V Twin Ride Out to the Museum lead by Simon Beadles from the Rally in Fordingbridge.

We are already planning and looking forward to next year!

Visits and Ride Outs to Museum...

Harley Day
Hot Wheelies
VW Forum
V Twin Ride Out

Restorations and New Additions

DKW

We are now extremely honoured to have in our Racing Hall one of the ultimate Racing Motorcycles, the Museums latest restoration project **the 1956 350cc 3 Cylinder DKW** as raced by August Hobl and Cecil Sandford with great success.

Sammy was down for a DKW Works Ride after finishing 2nd in the 1955 and 1956 Ulster Grand Prix on the NSU. Unfortunately they had to cut back, like most Racing Teams in 1957 which put an end to any chances of that Works DKW Ride.

1926 Henderson

The workshop has just finished restoring a 1926 4 Cylinder Henderson

Rex Acme V Twin

We have just started to work on a rare Rex Acme V Twin 700 Model E9

The Sammy Miller Museum Collection

This new book covers the unique and sensational collection of racing and sports machines from the Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum

“This book will whet the appetite of those not fortunate enough to have already made a visit, and will provide a pleasant reminder for others until they come again”

Please contact the Museum for your copy...

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