

## January 2009

Welcome to another Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum newsletter ....

Sammy was extremely honoured to receive an **MBE** in this New Years Honours List. He was given the award as recognition of his services to motorcycle heritage, and he would like to express his thanks to all the people who have supported him over the years and sent their good wishes and congratulations.

Sammy celebrated a big **birthday** on 11<sup>th</sup> November, and had a lovely big surprise when his family presented him with three new Alpacas to add to the four already living at the Museum complex. Sammy was absolutely thrilled, especially as one of the new members had been named after him – Hamilton (Sammy's middle name!). The other two have been named Romulus and Remus after the Roman Twins!

**The Bultaco 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** was held in October at the Bassello Sports Arena which is centred by the wonderful Museum of Mario Soler which includes many Bultaco bikes.

The Friday was host to the Grand Banquet in the hotel at Bassello which saw ex designers, management and riders honoured. The Trials World was represented by Sammy designer and developer of the first Spanish Trials Bike.

Saturday should have been a day of action with thousands of people in attendance and hundreds of Bultos but non stop heavy rain washed the Trials sections, Moto Cross and the Road Race Circuits into a sea of mud. A large marquee gave cover for the spectators, riders and autograph hunters before the Grand Finale Presentation to the Riders by the Bulto Family.

Sammy had a wonderful weekend and the event was a great tribute to the man himself Paco Bulto.

Bob Hartmann of the Ducati Owners Club London Branch had the club accepted to take part in the prestigious **London New Years Day Parade** and he asked Sammy to lead them around the two mile route. Sammy rode Bob's Ducati 900SS which he used in the TT this year. This year was the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Parade and more than 10,000 performers represented 20 countries of the world and more than half a million spectator's crammed London's most famous streets to see the fantastic spectacular.

We are now planning ahead for next years season which begins in February

### Events List for 2009 is as follows

April 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> .....Easter Steam Rally  
April 19<sup>th</sup> ..... Autojumble (01425 473771)  
June 14<sup>th</sup> ..... Bikers Day  
June 28<sup>th</sup> ..... Harley Day  
July 19<sup>th</sup> ..... Speedway Day  
August 9<sup>th</sup> .....Autojumble (01425 473771)

August 30<sup>th</sup> ..... Sammy Miller Run to include a V Twin Ride Out

## **Restorations**

### **Norton Low Boy**

A phone call came from out of the blue from David Latheron of B&J Motorcycles in Leigh in Lancashire offering Sammy the original faring for the Norton Low Boy which he has had for many years. Needless to say Sammy took him up on his offer and has mounted the faring on the Low Boy and has had a new screen made for it. Sammy plans to use it at the Festival of 1000 Bikes and in Saltsburg in July which is a big Norton Celebration.

**The REG** was bought for the Museum some years ago from the Geeson Museum, and has now been restored to its former glory. The bike is a 250cc DOHC Racer 5 Speed. It was built by Reg (Bob) Geeson, a highly skilled engineer who designed and built the machine in his home workshop.

The bike was originally ridden by Geeson himself with varying degrees of success but it was not until he got riders of the calibre such as John Surtees, Derek Minter and John Hartle to race the machine that it showed its true potential

It had many wins, good positions and lap records in the IOM TT Races and it is arguably one of the most successful British privately built machines of its Era

The bike will be used next year in Classic Parades in the hands of Sammy. It is at the moment in the Racing Section at the Museum.

During the winter the **display of engines** have been cleaned and moved, and the display which includes sleeve valve engines, oil cooled, desmodromic and rotary now looks truly magnificent.

We have added two **Moto Guzzi's** to our display, a 1935 500cc Single and a 1949 Airborne Sports 250 Single which are both in beautiful display condition and have been added to our Italian Section.