

Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum Newsletter February 2010

Welcome to another Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum newsletter

Sammy

MC Piston Spain

Sammy was invited to be Guest of Honour at the 22nd International Classic Motorcycle Rally "Colombres 2009". This was held between the 8th and 12th October in Colombres which is west of Santander. Colombres International Rally is one of the best known events in the Spanish classic motorcycle calendar. Now in its 22nd successful year, the rally is open to pre-1980 motorcycles. Sammy took his 1957 4 Cylinder Grand Prix Gilera and as Guest of Honour he opened the Hill Climb Event and was the first rider up the hill. Over 20,000 people attended and the whole town was taken over in real carnival spirit with the Mayor, Police, Army and the crowds!

MCN Lifetime Achievement Award

At the magnificent Excel London, International exhibition and conference centre, on Thursday 4th February, Sammy Miller was amazed and delighted to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from World Publishers Motor Cycle News, at the MCN Motorcycle Show, for services to Motorcycle Industry and Heritage.

Sammy's career has spanned over 55 years and he is one of the most successful motorcyclists ever, being winner of the British Championships for eleven consecutive years and taking the European title twice to name but a few, as well as an estimated 1,400 wins in trials events. Sammy has participated in almost all the disciplines:

Sand Racing
Road Racing
GP Racing
Moto Cross
Trials
Enduro

Through his efforts Sammy has personally ensured the survival of many rare British bikes which he shares with the public by touring and through demonstrations. Sammy is also designer and developer of World winning bikes:

Ariel. The World famous trial bike GOV 132 was developed and ridden by Sammy.

Bultaco. Sammy created the modern trials scene and brought the sport to the Spanish in 1965.

Honda. In 1970 Sammy designed the winning World Championship trials bike.

Pioneer Run

Sammy will be attending the annual Pioneer Run on the 14 March on his trusty 1913 Alldays Matchless. Sammy and Dave Bickers will be starting together. The start being at Tattenham Corner, Epsom Downs from 08.00am and then approximately 62 miles to the finish at Madeira Drive, Brighton.

Race Retro

There will be two of the Museums famous Nortons on display at Race Retro at Stoneleigh Park between the 12 – 14 March. The 1956 350cc Model F Norton and the 1960 350cc Low Boy Norton.

Museum Events

Forthcoming Events:

3 – 5 April – Easter Steam Rally and Craft Fair

11 April – Autojumble

6 June – Adventure Bike Day at the Museum

25 July – Motoitaliano Day

15 August – Autojumble

29 August – Sammy Miller Run

For any more information on any of the above events please go to our website at sammyiller.co.uk or telephone 01425 620777/616644

Restorations and New Additions

We have recently completed a restoration of a truly magnificent 4 cylinder 1926 1300cc Henderson. This was for Andrew Wingfield whose Grandfather owned the bike. It is now on display in the Museum.

We have just added to our Norton Gallery the 400cc Electra – this was a much underestimated bike, electric start the lot! This bike is in red and is truly a lovely bike, a really great Norton.

The 2 wheel drive Maico which was built by Dave Watson in 1980 with the possible commission from the Army MOD for a 2 wheel drive motorcycle for cross country use. We showed this at Telford Show over the weekend of the 13 and 14 February and it had a lot of interest.

BSA Sloper for a customer down the road at Sway Tower, these are a very popular bike amongst the Rally fraternity. We have been fortunate enough to have a BSA Sloper in the Museum as reference.

We have completely rebuilt a 1965 genuine 4 speed radial head Sammy Miller Sherpa for a customer in Newton Abbott. Sammy always enjoys building these bikes as it brings back so many happy memories when he changed the Trials World.

Still on the trials front we have just acquired a 250cc Royal Enfield Crusader trials bike which is quite special and has had a lot of serious professional work done. The original registration number was RDW 10, we would love some history on this bike, and if anyone recognises the registration we would very much appreciate any information. The bike lived in Devon for many years and we have just purchased it from Bridport.

We are now in the process of restoring an OK Supreme Model A (OK Lighthouse) This machine was purchased by the Museum Trust in September 2009 and was practically complete, but very rough and in need of complete restoration. The machine has not yet been totally completed but we are confident that it will be a good runner and an excellent ride. Sammy will be giving it a ride at some of this year Rallies and then it will join its friends in the Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum Trust. Unfortunately one of these bikes was lost in the fire at the National Museum, so our restoration gives the public another chance to see this great bike on display.