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# Classic Bike®

## 119MPH BULLET

Indian Royal Enfield  
500 single that  
outguns Goldies



### MURRAY WALKER INTERVIEW

The voice of motorsport talks of his love for the world of motorcycling

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**LONDON CALLING:** Guide to capital's classic scene **BSA:** '67 export models  
**TRIUMPH:** Cycle track pace machines **SIDECAR:** Street race special  
**DAVIDA:** Profile on kings of retro chic **HONDA:** V4 concours winner  
**PLUS:** Yamaha, Kawasaki, Guzzi, Benelli, AJS, Indian, events, columns...



NOVEMBER 2011



UK £3.95 USA \$6.95

## round-up

- **Paniers** at £241.43 a pair and leather saddlebags at £226.08 a pair, including VAT but plus carriage, are among items on sale from London BMW specialist **Bob Porecha**. More details and orders on 0208 659 8560.
- **Helmets:** suppliers with new models include American company **Benik Group** ([www.benikhelmets.com](http://www.benikhelmets.com)); Italian company **Biele** (Key Wholesale 0117 9770466); **Arai** (Phoenix Distribution 01782 569810); **Cromwell** (01776 704421 [www.helmets.co.uk](http://www.helmets.co.uk)).
- **Geodesy** sells the **Geodesy Classic**, a limited edition speed camera locator for £299 ([www.morphous.com](http://www.morphous.com)).
- **Stay** on the right road with **RouteWriter** route planner. Standard 30-page packs £7.95. Website: [www.ideas.uk.net](http://www.ideas.uk.net)
- **Insurance:** Primary Direct has a new policy for people who engage in high-risk sports on holiday. Call 0870 444 3434 for prices. Towing a bike on a trailer? Insure via one of 25 firms accredited by the **National Trailer and Towing Association**. 01926 335445.
- **A R Harley & Sons**, Crowhurst, E Sussex, distribute **Supertroop** stainless steel silencers. 01424 830542. Email: [arharley@harleycustom.com](mailto:arharley@harleycustom.com)
- **American company FogCity** markets a light reactive anti-fog visor insert for \$29.95 (£21). Phoenix Distribution 01782 569810. Web orders [www.modernworld.com](http://www.modernworld.com)
- **Hammerite Products** of Sprouce, Northumberland, specialise in rust prevention sprays, exhaust and petrol tank repair paste, and gasket sealants. 01161 830000.
- **Metal protection inhibitors** (from £6 for 125ml), V2K Oil additives (from £10 for 125ml) and capsule engine regeneration kits are available from Grimsby, Humberside based **Call Engineise** on 01472 347400.
- **Dino Data Ltd** has expanded its Bikes on Computer PC CD Rom disk with more than 8340 machines with specs, motorcyclist's dictionary, champions, race winners and giant quiz. The photo gallery includes sounds and video. Bruce Home tel/fax 01264 773835. [www.btcick.com/home](http://www.btcick.com/home)
- **The Muc-Off** range of products includes an ultimate bike cleaning kit comprising one litre spray cleaner, three quality brushes, 500ml water dispersing protectorant, microfibre water absorbing cloth, microfibre sponge and storage tub with snap-on lid. Contact **Brian Howell**, products and services manager X-Lite UK, Unit 1, Wils Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset BH12 1NQ 01202 767400 (fax 768253. Email: [enquiries@x-lite.com](mailto:enquiries@x-lite.com))



## THE SPECIALISTS: A. M. PHILPOT

### Fork hard chromers

WHEN MY local BMW parts emporium wanted £130, plus VAT, for each new fork stanchion, my financial situation – always more red than black – dictated I look elsewhere for a cheaper way of getting my ratty RB08T hack through its overdue MoT, the stanchions being worn and pitted.

No doubt BMW's price is highly competitive, but firms such as A M Philpot charge only £115 to collect, inspect, strip, straighten, rechrome, regrind, and return your own bare fork legs – and they promise to turn the job around in a week on average. No contest: when I'm skint I'll take refurbishment every time.

A full Philpot rebuild for conventional forks (T140s, Commandos, etc), including oil and seals, will set you back just £166, and that includes door to door carriage by City Link. Shell out £200 and your upside-downers are rebuilt to 'as new' specifications.

Based in a large and airy workshop in Luton, the company is owned and managed by 39-year-old Andy Morgan who bought the company and now employs a staff of eight. With an impressive array of industrial lathes, mills and grinders, and more than 16 years'

experience, A. M. Philpot can pretty much handle anything you can throw at them. "We manage to restore forks that arrive in what most people would think of as terminal condition," says Andy, himself a motorcycle rider.

"Practically all stanchions require some straightening, the results of normal braking and accelerating stresses acting on the tubes.

"After the initial inspection, we put all stanchions between centres on a hydraulic press and true them up, and provided the metal isn't actually creased, we can continue with them."

All items are name-engraved in a non-visible, non-wearing area to ensure the right customer gets the right parts back. The hard chroming – not to be confused with decorative chroming – is done in-house, as is every other procedure.

Once the old plating is stripped, a layer of chrome is deposited on the steel tubes. These are then ground to size on a Cincinnati 220/8 centreless grinder – slide and rotate a pencil between your thumb and index finger and you'll get a pretty good idea of how the equipment works.

Any flaws detected will see the



Technician Steve Holland grinds down new hard chroming to size on fork stanchion

stanchions sent back into the vat for more chrome. "We measure the tubes on a non-wearing area before they're stripped," explains Andy. "But we've plenty of experience of all the major stanchions anyway, and can look up whatever information we need."

## WISE DECISION TO BE KITTED OUT IN LEATHER TROUSERS

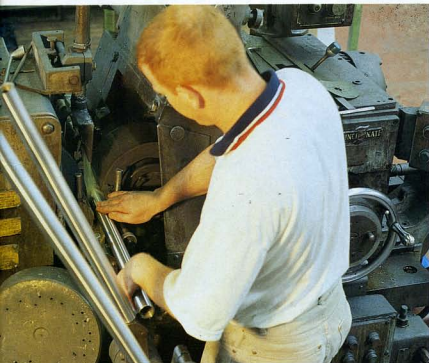
Leather trousers from the classic clothing range by Weisse are distributed by Fowlers of Bristol. The Electra Pants are made from Daytona leather, which is supple and durable, and I found them extremely comfortable. The leather didn't take long to wear in and soon became soft and flexible. There is leather overlay on the knees and backside for extra padding, and sleeves for optional CE protectors. There is also a zip to join to a jacket. Available in men's and ladies' sizes. Price: £139.99.

Also from the Weisse range, ladies' race gloves made from tough yet supple Brazilian cow and Korean goat hide. There is suede overlay on the palm for extra grip, and a velcro wrist strap. The gloves don't slip and are comfortable, but they are not waterproof and there is no hard protection on the knuckles.

In black, black/red, black/blue or black/yellow. Price £39.99. Fowlers 0117 977 0466.



BECKY CORNELL



"We handle all conventional forks and can deal with older British stuff that, occasionally, is a little more complex.

"We're happy to price things up accordingly, and we have a sister company that can quote for any extra engineering work."

As well as hard chroming, A M Philpot offer hard anodising, universal regrinding and, for worn shafts and bearing surfaces, a metal reclamation service.

My own rechromed forks that have since been refitted to the bike and 800 miles later there's

not a weep or dribble – and the MoT examiner was delighted.

■ A M Philpot (Hard Chrome) Ltd, Unit D, Cradock Industrial Estate, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 0JF  
Tel: 01582 571234 (fax: 584924)  
www.pittedforks.com/hovbar.htm

**DANNY DEFAZIO**

**book reviews**



■ Honda, Suzuki and Yamaha fought titanic battles on the world's racing circuits in the mid-Sixties, generating fresh excitement for the sport. Mick Walker's Japanese Grand Prix Racing Motorcycles chronicles the rise of the Japanese in the fifth of a series on racing bikes of the world. ISBN 0 953 1311 8 1. Price £20. Redline Books, 2 Carlton Terrace, Low Fell, Tyne and Wear NE9 6DE. 0191 230 4414.

■ The AJS 7R was one of the most successful over-the-counter bikes in racing history. The AJS 7R, also by author Mick Walker and Redline Books (details above), is published at £20 softback and £29 hardback.

■ Steve Wilson has brought together the worlds of children's literature and classic motorcycles in *When Rose Met Annela* (ISBN 0953509842). Aimed at six to 12-year-olds, the book is about Annela, a talking BSA A10 and an investigation into an ancient mystery in the English countryside. Illustrated by Jeanthe Betts. Price £7.99. Distributed by Lavis Marketing, 73 Lime Walk, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7BH.

Tel: 01865 767575. Email: orders@lavismarketing.co.uk

■ Streetbike Extreme by Mike Seate who also wrote *Two Wheels on Two Reels* the history of street bikes and stunt riding. ISBN 0760312990. Price \$19.95 (£14). MBI Publishing, St Paul, Minnesota, USA. www.motorbooks.com

Better known in the car world, Autoglym introduce a smart attaché pack of care products comprising sponge, leather, motorcycle cleaner, resin polish, degreaser, instant shine, protector, leather cleaner and leather care cream. All products can be bought individually. Kit price £39.99 inc VAT. Autoglym, Letchworth, Hertfordshire 01462 677766 dax 677712. info@autoglym.co.uk



**ART OF GLASS**

This high quality glass-ware embossed with a motif of a 1936 Indian Chief is available from artist Timo

Schwalowsky-Monks, who runs Radical Commission Glass with sculptor Katherine Quaide from a studio in Norfolk. The hand-made, etched glass crescent comes in a presentation box with a certificate of provenance and costs £95 plus £7 UK carriage (£25 worldwide). Order from Radical Commission Glass, The Studio, Field House, Puddledock, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1NW. Allow 28 days for delivery. Timo Schwalowsky-Monks, who will be exhibiting his work at the International Motorcycle Show at the Birmingham NEC in November, offers customer crescents made to their own design. All you have to do is send an image of your treasured classic.

