

CROOKS SUZUKI



A photo that is taken from the September issue of Northern Biker Magazine, a popular mag in the UK. It was shown on a feature about Cadwell Park race circuit in Lincolnshire.

It shows the start of a what I think must be a British Championship race in 1971. On the far side of the 2nd row is Stan Woods on one of my dad's Seeley TR500's.

Other riders are:

- 24 John Coope, BSA Rocket 3)
- 16 Derek Chatterton (Yamaha)
- 19 Paul Smart ? (Yamaha)
- 49 Tony Jefferies (Triumph Trident)
- 78 Tony Rutter (Yamaha)

More importantly at the side of the track is the Crooks Suzuki back up team ! Eddie leaning on armco above the P of Player,

To his right our parts manager of the time, Danny Prentice, To Eddie's left, above the A is race mechanic, John Maddison. And the best is above the E, the kid in the Bultaco anorak, IT'S ME ! What a shock I got when I was thumbing through the mag and found this classic shot.

Martin Crooks - March 2001



I went to many meetings with my Dad. I can remember getting carried out to the Ford Thames van in the early hours of the morning and setting off to go to various race circuits in the 60's with Dad, Frank Whiteway and a few other folk. I remember being at Mallory Park when John Cooper beat Agostini and Ago went and sulked in his van.

I was at Brands Hatch when Agostini was there, the officials would not let me into the paddock to meet up with my Dad, so Agostini sorted them and sat me on his MV and took me to the paddock. I was at the transatlantic meetings in the early 70's when Mert Lawill, Cal Rayborn and Dick Mann were racing. I remember my Dad talking to Dick Mann and I was amazed to see his toes peeping out of his boots as he had worn through the leather and duct tape!

I have many memories of the TT and Manx as I used to be the tea boy and tank polisher.

Attached is a shot of me on a Sidecar belonging to Vic Hudson and Jack Hart from Canada. It's taken outside my Granny's house in the Isle of Man during the 1973 TT. My Dad and his mechanics had been doing some work on it. They raced in the 500 and 1000 sidecar race, but I'm not sure if this one has a T500 or GT750 engine. It has yellow plates that generally mean for the 500 class.