



Charlie Williams



"The newspaper cutting of Les Trotter has me on the left of him, I was hiding a plastered leg at the time as I'd fallen off me Suzuki 350 Goose. The crutches are hiding behind the bike somewhere!" Martin Crooks

Keith Napier took the following photos of the Crooks Suzukis. Sadly Keith has passed away since this page was built.





"This one is of the late Danny Shimmin leaping Ballaugh Bridge. After being the fastest in practice he lead the 1972 Senior Manx Grand Prix on a Crooks-Suzuki (Seeley chassis with air cooled TR500 engine) from the start, only to retire on the 6th and final lap at Sulby when the rear sprocket bolts sheared ! Danny went on to win the 1976 250cc Manx Grand Prix on a 250 Yamaha. He also finished 2nd in the 1976 Senior Manx Grand Prix, only 1.4 seconds down on Les Trotter on a Crooks-Suzuki (Seeley chassis with air cooled TR500 engine). Danny became a top privateer in the TT races during the 1980's, then made a great comeback in the Classic Racing scene in the 90's. Unfortunately Danny lost his life due to injuries after a crash during a practice session for the 1997 Classic Manx Grand Prix." - Martin Crooks



"Here is a shot of Les Trotter during his winning ride in the 1976 Senior Manx Grand Prix. The Les Trotter photo is of an air cooled genuine TR500 engine in a Colin Seeley frame that my dad built originally in 1972. It had had a few modifications over the years before Les won the Manx on it. Les bought the bike back many years ago and has restored it to virtually as the 1976 photo." - Martin Crooks



"another photo showing me in 1972! Left to Right: 1972 500 production TT winner, Stan Woods, Race and shop mechanic, John Maddison The sponsor, team manager and my dad, Eddie Crooks And me!" - Martin Crooks



"Stan Woods at Quarter Bridge during the 500 production TT race in 1973, he should have won it, but had a problem while leading and ended up finishing 2nd. The bike is a Crooks Suzuki T500K in production trim, with Dunstall forks." - Martin Crooks

CROOKS SUZUKI

EDDIE CROOKS MOTORCYCLES carnival float in 1971



Thursday afternoon of practice week Manx Grand Prix 1972. First in the queue was the Crooks Suzuki Seeley TR500 of Danny Shimmin, second was Doug Lunn who was also on a T500 based racer . It was a big thing to be the first to set off in the practice sessions , especially the Thursday as it was the only afternoon session and was a warm up for the race. As I remember my Father took the bike up very early and left me, John Kneen (a friend from the Isle of man) and another eager schoolboy to look after the bike for a few hours. This meant the riders, mechanics and my Dad could get on with other jobs. Our reward was to sit on the bike and operate the throttle when it had to be warmed up !

Left to Right:

Martin Crooks (eager 11 year old schoolboy),Danny Shimmin (fastest in practice, should have won the race, but the rear

sprocket bolts sheared at Sulby on the last lap while in the lead).

Eddie Crooks (probably just putting the race plugs in).

Doug Lunn (wondering why he had no pit crew !)



"Mayor" - Shows a reception at Barrow-in-Furness Town Hall a

few days after Les had won. Left to right: Eddie Crooks

The Mayor of Barrow-in-Furness

Les Trotter (in trendy jacket!)



From 1976 Manx Grand Prix.
"finish"

Shows the top 3.

Left to right: No. 29 Brian Robinson (3rd)

Vera Morris, My Granny(Eddie's Mum)

No. 1 Les Trotter (1st)

Eddie Crooks

No. 71 Danny Shimmin (2nd)

Shell oils must have provided them all with the silly hats!

