



Newsletter

June 2019

While my gearbox gently weeps...

My Commando has rather nice Akront deep flange alloy rims. They are nice "period" items that suit the 'bikes age well and are really in keeping with its sporting credentials. All of that said, for the past few years I have been unable to keep the tension on the spokes. I have a little ritual of going round tightening them - start at the valve, check or tighten every fourth spoke and repeat until all the spokes have the same torque (by feel, I don't have a torque spoke wrench). But, allowing for the Commandos awesome power and the extra grip of modern tyres, I just felt I shouldn't have to do it so often. The crunch came when I could no longer ignore the creaking noise the bike was making when wheeling it about in the garage.

I popped the wheel off, removed the tyre and cleaned everything up. It was quite obvious when looking closely at the spokes that some of the heads didn't fit properly into the drilling and some of the angles didn't look right. We don't have anyone local that works on bike wheels and despite having a really good instructional article on home wheel building from Tom Bradley, I didn't feel up to going at it myself. That left me to throw the wheel in the boot of the car and run it over to Barrie Brown in Windygates. Barrie had it re-spoked and trued within the week. Now that I have it back, I can run my screwdriver round the spokes and get a nice clean, even ring off them all. Made me think I should have learned to play the clarsach.

New wheel bearings were fitted and a new tyre with only a little swearing and no holed tube. The speedo drive needed cleaning and greasing and then everything was ready to fit.



The first spin of the wheel looked great, but torquing everything up brought a horrible metallic noise from the brake drum. I've had this before and normally its just a matter of slackening everything off, settling and centralising it all and re-tightening. The noise is caused by the brake shoe bolts hitting the riveted end of the cush drive paddles. I do have a couple of shims on the dummy spindle to provide clearance, but if the drum isn't running true, they can still pick up. Why isn't it running true - a worn hub bearing and of course thats the one I didn't pre-order or have in stock.

All just a very elaborate excuse for going to Strontian on the Ducati.

I'm really quite tempted to convert the back wheel to a single spindle and do away with the dummy spindle all together. Don Pender from the Philippines makes a kit (www.tritonmotorcycleparts.com). Anyone tried one?

Strontian Camping Weekend

Thanks to everyone who managed to come to the Strontian Camping Weekend. The weather was much better than forecast, giving us an almost dry run through on Friday after work. The Corran ferry was the busiest I've ever seen it with Ann and I being the last two vehicles on. I admit to having a bit of a smile when I heard the moan of frustration from the 4x4 driver who was told to wait and get back in the queue.

With twelve booked for dinner I think we were stretching the hotel kitchen a little, but both the service and food were good, and I think we had an enjoyable and relaxing evening. Some were more relaxed than others of course...

Saturday was dry and pleasant with time for everyone to do their own thing. We went a potter through Acharacle to Mallaig and enjoyed some spectacular views over the loch and out to Skye. John and Phil meantime caught the ferry for a flying visit to Tobermory.

It was all too good to last, and Sunday dawned with the double joy of packing up wet gear while being attacked by particularly fierce clouds of midges.

Have a look at Ginos blog to see some pictures and a better write up - <http://www.ginoontour.blogspot.com>

EVENTS

Anyone attending the Borders Camping Weekend in September should contact the site direct to book camping. If you would like a group meal on the Saturday night, let me know and I'll try to book the Plough.

July

July 26th - 28th
NOC Rampart Rally (National Rally)
Morpeth Rugby Club

August

August 09th - 11th
TVNOC Camping Weekend
Applecross Camp site

September

September 06th - 08th
Borders camping Weekend
Kirkfield Caravan Site
Grafton Road
Town Yetholm

