



Newsletter

April 2023

Good, good, good vibrations.

Over the last few months (well ok, over the last year or so) the Commando has developed a really harsh, hammering vibration. At first I was sure it was when I was off the throttle, convincing me that it was coming from the drive train. In fact, it did feel like the chain was about to get thrown off the sprockets. But careful checking of the chain condition and adjustment proved it was still good, stripping the primary side and clutch showed no problems or anything loose or any witness marks. Even pulling off the gearbox end cover and changing the oil showed nothing amiss. I started questioning my original diagnosis and started to deliberately find the vibration rather than riding through it. It then became apparent that it was occurring at a particular RPM - around 2800 to just under 3500 - and that I could replicate it.

That discovery led me to check the Isolastics and I realised I was on the right track when the front clearance measured several mm rather than the 6 thousands of an inch I would have expected. Unfortunately, I also discovered the threaded adjuster end wouldn't move (it has Mk3 type Isolastics fitted).

Removing the mount was more of a struggle than it should have been because the top bolt was seized in the case. Plenty of heat and Bulldog penetrating oil got it moving, and once it was on the bench, I could see the whole mess. What should've been the centre hole in the outer rubbers was well over to one side, the rubbers had come adrift from the centre tube and even the steel mount itself was worn oval. No choice really but to replace both the mount and the rubber assembly.

A generous slurry of red rubber grease and a new fitting tool from RGM made short work of reassembling the mount - the rubbers assembly just slid straight down the taper into the housing with no levering, swearing or violence.

The difference is enormous. A short test ride showed not only the absence of vibration, but I'm convinced it is holding a line through corners better too. I'm calling that a success!

Unfortunately, while working at the front of the motor, I was shocked to see the state of the barrels. They look like something salvaged from the wreck of the Titanic. The iron is so rusty it has expanded and closed off the fins. Just as well I live in Argyll otherwise overheating could well be an issue. I'm at a bit of a loss as to what to do with them. I think if I attack them with a wire brush I'm going to reduce them to scrap. Any suggestions?



Huntigowks meeting

Our traditional season opener, the Huntigowks meeting at Tullybannocher was at least dry, if not particularly warm. Nortons were in rather short supply, but plenty of other interesting bikes to look at. I freely admit to being a grumpy old git, but I think I enjoyed the chance to have a proper conversation with people and a civilised seat inside to drink coffee and eat cake. We don't get that when the place is really crowded.



EVENTS

16th to 19th June 2023

**National Rally - The Solstice Rally #2
Rob Roy Hotel - Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire**

The NOC National rally is being held again in Aberfoyle. All reports from the previous rally made it a first class event (check Gino's YouTube video for confirmation).

Booking is now open and places are limited - to be sure of a place you want to get in quick. To book follow the link at <https://www.nortonownersclub.org/events>

28th to 29th July 2023

**Strontian Camping Weekend
Summer camping weekend at Sunart
Camping, Strontian, PH36 4HZ.**

Contact the site to book a pitch (check the website at <http://sunartcamping.com>)

We would normally book dinner at the Hotel, more later.

8th to 10th September 2023

**Three Branches Camping Weekend
Kirkfield Caravan Site Grafton Road, Town
Yetholm, Kelso, TD5 8SA**

<https://www.kirkfieldcaravanpark.co.uk>

Camping weekend in the company of the Northumbria and Edinburgh branches. Camping pitches are limited so to book, email the site on info@kirkfieldcaravanpark.co.uk

22nd October 2023 11:00 to 15:00

**Tattiehowkers Meeting
Tullybannocher Café, Comrie, PH6 2JY**

Last organised "ride in" meeting of the year.