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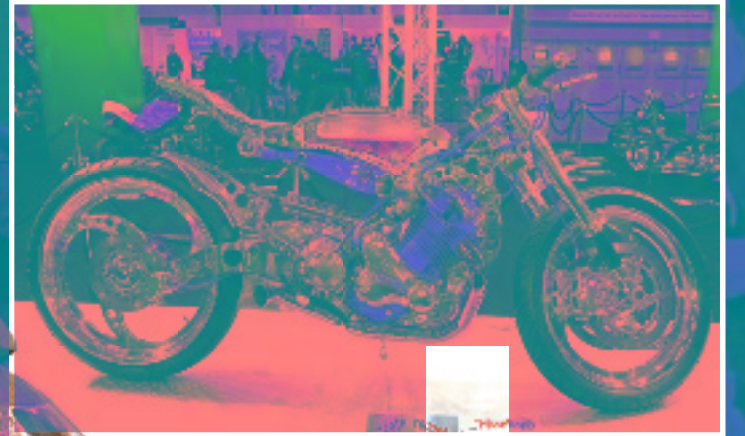
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NEC SHOW SPECIAL!

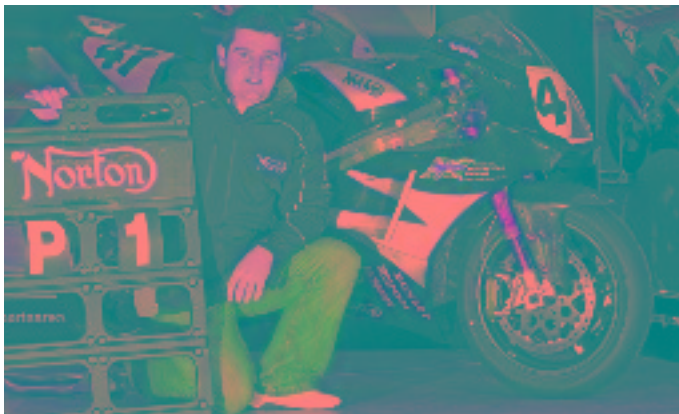
- Ducati Streetfighter wows NEC
- Plus hottest bikes, specials & babes inside! Starts on page 2

**LATEST
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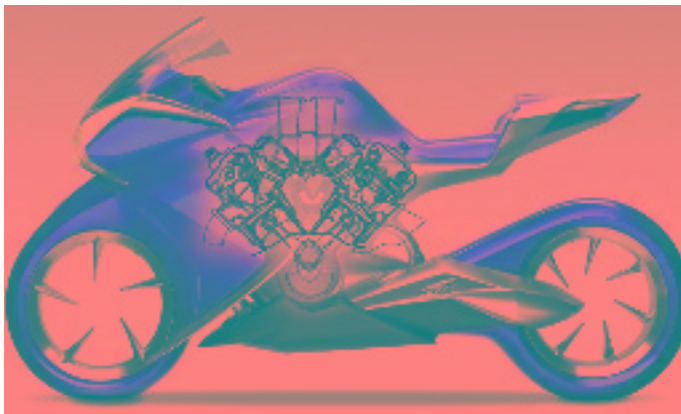
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NORTON TO RACE AT TT!
Michael Dunlop on British Rotary NRV, page 3



SECRETS OF HONDA V4
Patents reveal variable cylinder tech, page 10



HOTTEST EVER F800GS
AC Schnitzer create wild supermoto, page 33

MCN'S MACHINE OF THE YEAR REVEALED! SHOCK RESULT INSIDE PAGE 12

stampede!

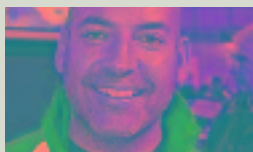


NEC
SHOW 2008



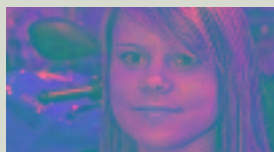

The Streetfighter maintains the Ducati style with a beautiful single-sided swing arm

YOUR VIEWS ON THE STREETFIGHTER



Dean Smith, Triumph Speed Triple owner from East Croydon.

"It's good that they are listening to customers and they have decided to build it. But it doesn't look as good as it did in the first picture of it in MCN. It's nice though. It looks to have a comfortable chassis. I might well be tempted to buy one."



Zoe Patten from Hardwick, Cambridgeshire, has just passed her test and is looking to buy a Street Triple or Suzuki Gladius.

"It will appeal to men and women. It appears to have a comfy riding position unlike Ducati sports bikes. It looks mean and aggressive but I think it would be a good all-rounder and a bike you could use every day."



Andy Linge, from Bath, is looking to buy a Triumph Speed Triple.

"In the flesh it's not quite as good as on the cover of MCN. Maybe it's better proportioned in black than it is in red. The only things I would change are the fluid reservoirs and the mirrors because they look a bit Mickey Mouse but it's still awesome."



Michael Dunlop will follow in his father Robert's footsteps when he rides the Norton NRV558 on the Isle of Man next year

Norton and Dunlop's TT return

TWO of the biggest names in TT history will come together next year when Michael Dunlop rides the Norton NRV558 on the Isle of Man.

The son of the late Robert Dunlop and nephew of the legendary Joey will pilot the Rotary Norton round the 37.73-mile circuit in the Senior race.

Norton has been away from the TT for 16 years since Steve Hislop's historic victory in the 1992 Senior. And the return for 2009 will be part of Norton's resurgence into the motorcycle world thanks to bike enthusiast and owner of Norton Racing, Stuart Garner.

He said: "This is the first time in many years that an official Norton team has raced at the TT."

"We have a fantastic racing pedigree with the brand established over 100 years ago and our aim is to emulate the success Norton race bikes achieved, particularly, in the 1930s, 1940s and

1950s. The 588cc Norton race bike has been developed over the last year by Brian Crighton and the Spondon engineering team. We are confident 2009 will prove to be a significant milestone in the history of this famous UK motorcycle brand."

Michael Dunlop will follow in his father's footsteps by riding for the British manufacturer.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to make history with Norton's return to one of the world's most famous races – a real highlight of the racing calendar," said Michael. "It means a lot to me. My father finished third on his JPS Norton when he competed in 1990."

Martyn Quayle, the Isle of Man's Minister for Tourism and Leisure, added: "Having Norton back in the TT is sensational news. Nortons were a crowd pleaser and we have every confidence this will be the first of many successful races for the Norton team."

NORTON'S TT HISTORY

NORTON has a glowing TT history. In the first year of the race in 1907 Rem Fowler won the twin-cylinder event using a Peugeot-engined Norton.

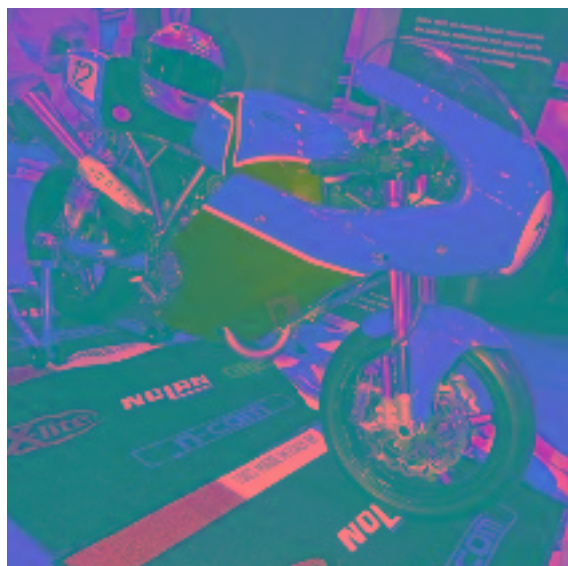
Norton's first overhead valve machine, the Model 18, won the Senior in 1924 with Alec Bennett. In 1950

Norton ran a new frame and dominated the TT with Geoff Duke and Artie Bell.

The success continued through to the John Player Norton in the '70s and '80s and culminated in Steve Hislop's Senior TT win in 1992, beating Carl Fogarty on a factory Loctite Yamaha.



Robert Dunlop on way to victory in 1991 North West 200



Titanium frame on the Hailwood replica weights just 5kg

...and another big name goes back

ITALIAN tuners NCR will begin track testing the incredible Mike Hailwood replica race bike very soon as the firm prepares for an assault on the Isle of Man TT's Senior race.

The Hailwood tribute machine made its UK debut at the NEC show last week with a huge level of interest in the £84,000 machine which is one of just 12 being made.

NCR's Michele Poggipolini told MCN: "The bike

starts testing in February because we have a lot of work to do to make sure the bike is ready for the TT. We are working with a number of riders at the moment but at this stage we have not made a decision about who will race the bike at the TT."

NCR has gone to extraordinary lengths to cut weight from the bike to achieve a stunning 136kg in total. The 1120cc big-bore Ducati air-cooled V-twin will produce 130bhp.