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Licence to thrill!



Member Gary Licence was seeking to create something a little different...

Long ago, I remember being sat at a table with my mate listening to me bitching on about buying yet another, centre piston for my Kwak.

"What the KH really needs is water cooling!" he said mockingly and that got me to thinkin'.....At the time, Kettles could be had fairly cheap, but for a 'kid' like me, weighing 10 1/2 stone wet; riding a Kettle fast was as much fun as wrestling a cow! Kettle engines, on the other hand, could be got (minus their carbs) for around 150 quid so I thought – "why not build a frame?" And that's what I did. I had a mate who was completing his final year of apprenticeship as a boiler maker, who could show me the ropes. Designs were drawn, Renolds 531 tubing was acquired and the bike was built. Long story short, I lost that bike – I mean literally lost it! I had work in Africa and foolishly left the bike with a 'mate'. By the time I got back, he'd moved and I've not seen hide nor hair of him or the bike since!

Hey ho. Time ticks by. Women and bikes come and go. 30 odd years of working with steel and I was just finishing off a 2-year, live on-board, barge build for some bloke. I was bored and seeking some inspiration for something different, when along comes another old mate of mine who produces 3 photos of my old bike (above). I had my own workshop and a collection of nice bikes, though none of which were 2-strokes and so.....(you guessed it).....that got me thinkin'. What harm would it do to have a quick squint on eBay to see what engines were going for?

