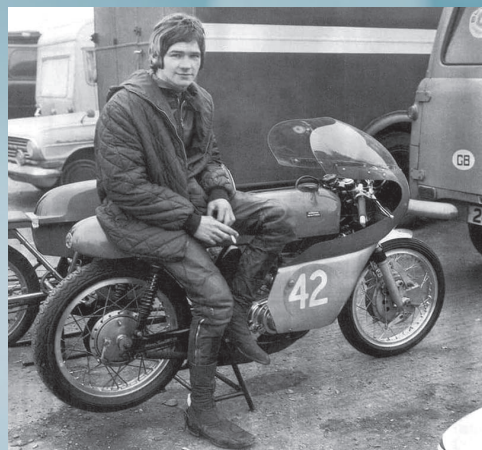


Stupot Collins has gone off piste!

We all love Baz don't we? (No not that one you fool) BAZ as in - Barry Sheene! So you can imagine my delight and surprise when I met his best friend and fellow team mate Steve Parish at the BSA Classic Bike Show in Coventry, back in September. Though not a big



show by any stretch of the imagination, they had a couple of very interesting and unusual displays all the same and I thought that it would be worth telling you about them. The first thing that caught my eye was a really good TR750 replica, decked out in Sheene's colours. Though not genuine, it was very well executed and anyone who knows me knows that I'm a sucker for anything 'Sheene'! (It was club member Mick Horrobin's bike, Stupot - Ed) But then, it got even better, when I came across an ex-Sheene, 1967 TSS 250 Bultaco - not something you'd associate with the super cool Baz. But it was this machine, purchased new back in '67 by Sheene's dad Frank; that launched Barry's career, in fact - this was the machine upon which Barry took his 1st championship win, in 1968. It was performances such as this, that brought him ultimately to the attention of the bosses at Suzuki



and his first factory ride on a 125cc Suzuki in 1970 and the rest as they say, is history. Once they'd thrashed the living daylights out of it they sold it (one careful owner) to Franks mate Brian Richards. Brian used it to race throughout the 1970s and early '80s and he eventually sold t to a vendor who continued to ride it competitively. In 1990 it was spotted by Frank Sheene, in the paddock at a race meeting. Frank inspected the bike and although the carb had been changed, he confirmed that without doubt, it was the bike he'd originally modified back in 1967. This gave the bike substantial providence and it subsequently sold at auction in 2021 for the princely sum of £26,417!

Stavros as Sheene joked, went on to be a successful team mate and rider in his own right Now he is a celebrated author and celebrity and I had the pleasure to meet him once again. The BSA thing? I've come into possession of a 1933 B33 250cc and I'm researching to see if it's feasible to restore it. So if any of you happen to have a spare Lucas Maglita magneto please get in touch!



Stupot