



Owner, Manager, Chief Mechanic, Bottle washer and Club member - Stu Barber, gives us a bit of his history and the business that he runs in Dorset.

I've been a motorcycle mechanic for as long as I can remember and my interest in bikes probably started at the tender age of 3, when I burned my fingers on my old fella's, Norton exhaust. From there like many of us, I progressed to learning to ride by tearing around our local fields, on an old Bultaco 250 Sherpa and at age 16; I got my first road bike (and no, it wasn't a Fizzy) it was a Honda SS 50. That was in the summer of '76.

My first paid job as a mechanic was part time at Rochdale motorcycles, before I moved on to full time employment at B&C M/C's in Manchester and then, after a brief spell in Technical College; got a job with one of the norths biggest dealerships, Queens Park Motors, Salford. So I guess you could say that I cut my teeth, working on all makes of the 70's, owning a fair few along the way as well.

An opportunity arose for me to venture to greener (and sunnier pastures) and I moved to Poole in Dorset where I've lived ever since, with my good lady wife Liz. I got offered a job at 3X Motorcycles in Wimborne, ending up as their Warranty Technician. It was pretty interesting stuff and I got around a fair bit. I even provided tech support on the set of the 007 film Golden Eye, working with the late, great, Eddie Kidd.



Over the years I've had factory training with all the Japanese manufacturers, together with Moto Guzzi, Ducati, Laverda, Cagiva, Hinkley Triumph and Harley Davidson. But I grew tired of whingeing bosses, deciding to become one myself. So I set up on my own and for the last 14 years, I've run my workshop in Poole – catering for most makes and models. There ain't much that I haven't seen or fixed in that time but, over the last couple of years I've been spending more and more of my hours working on machines from the 70's and at times, my workshop resembles a tear in the portals of time!

I've always had a thing for Kettles, but never considered owning another until my long time buddy Skid Brown got one and I was won over by his enthusiasm for both the bike and his Club. So I got one and joined the club too!

If you want anything doing to your Kettle, or any other bike that you own for that matter; then give me a call and I'll see what I can do for you. Engine builds etc. etc. are my bread and butter. My number's in the Ad on the page opposite. And if any of you ever find yourself in the area, just drop by to say "hi" and share a cuppa. I've always got time to talk Kettles!

Stu Barber

