

## Old Bikes Eh! *Ray Picketts gets all misty eyed*

I've always been a Suzuki fan. I started with a T20 Super Six (TMC 15F) and then a T350 Rebel (TVE 39K), I graduated to the GT500 (RLY 441R) and then to the top of the class...my first Kettle. A '76 A model (LPM 527P), purchased in 1977. (I then went to a GS750.....yeah, I know, hate mail to follow!)

I recall seeing my first Kettle in the early 70's, at the RAC/ACU training scheme that I was attending. One of the instructors, a guy called Gerry Hepworth; was a post man, who lived with his mum and as a result, was sooo cash rich that he could afford one of these wondrous things when they first came out (bastard!) I recall the first moments that I saw it; the bike sitting there shaking gently at idle with that beautifully burbling engine. It was like the bloody "Star ship Enterprise" compared to anything else that I'd seen. In short, it was magnificent! Back then, I couldn't imagine owning one. I was doing my Moped

course, riding my Fantic TI 50cc (OLD 100L). So the thought that I would have one of my own one-day, didn't even come anywhere near my wildest imaginings! But as I'm sure it's been the same for many us, memories such as this never leave us and many years later, I bought my present Kettle, in 2003. I still own that bike and can't imagine selling it, at least not while I can still ride it.

I have done some checks and old LPM 527P is on the DVLA data base, but showing Tax due since 1981. Does that mean its sitting in someone's shed waiting to become a "Barn-find"? Well if anyone recognises that number, do let me know. Or, for that matter the location of any of those mentioned above. I know TMC15F was written-off and OLD 100L is not traceable, so assume it got scrapped.

Don't we all love old bikes!

**Cheers Ray**

