

Donington Festival Grand Prix Display Bikes 2025

This year's GP Display has brought together a fantastic variety of machinery to check out and see being put through their paces out on track. Amongst the 120 bikes here this



Ex Phil Read MV/4

weekend, we have the last four stroke to win the FIM 500cc world title (**ex Phil Read 1972 MV/4**) and the last stock production TZ250 to win a FIM Grand Prix (ex Osamu Miyazaki 2002 TZ250 Yamaha).

Note the early disc

front brakes on the MV, the first season MV switched from the big drum brakes used before.



2002 Ex Miyazaki TZ250



Ex Dave Potter TZ750

Another very original bike is Euan Thacker's immaculate ex Dave Potter **Yamaha TZ750** with all the correct decals that won the 1979 and 1980 Motor Cycle News Superbike Championships. The TZ has been owned by the Thacker family since 1981.



297cc RC174 Honda 6

Alongside these original bikes will be John Chapman's George Beale's replica **297cc Honda Six**, as close to the original as you can get.

Mick Grant is due to ride the bike in preparation for an IOM outing later in the year. When it fires up for the first time there will be no mistaking it with anything else in the paddock.



John Chapman and MV/3

A late addition to the GP Parades is 2024 BSB Champion **Kyle Ryde** riding one of John Chapman's other bikes, this time a **500 MV/3**.

Also starring in the GP Pardes will be CRMC Patron **Alex George** with a busy weekend on Neil Brailsford's F2 600cc Ducati with an ex- works motor from BRT.



Alex George Ducati F2



Honda CB1100R

The **CB1100R Club** members are regulars at the Donington Festival meeting with examples of all models from the relatively short production that ran from 1980 to 1982. The bike was so successful in the Castrol 6 hour races in Australia that the organisers sought to have the bike banned! In the 1981 and 1982 MCN Streetbike championships (the forerunner of what was eventually to be the British Superbike Championship) Rocket Ron & Wayne

Gardner won 11 out of the 12 rounds on this bike.

From the 1100cc, or more precisely 1062cc, of the CB1100R we turn our attention to the other end of the range and visit the “tiddlers”

With a piston displacing just 50cc Mick Smedley’s 1978 **Van Veen Kriedler** is the



Mick Smedley’s Van Veen Kriedler

smallest bike in the display. The Dutch importer Van Veen took over the racing effort from Kriedler in 1965 and a string of championships followed: Jan de Vries in 1971 and 1973, Henk van Kessel in 1974, Angel Nieto in 1975, Eugenio Lazzarini in 1979 and 1980 and Stefan Dörflinger in 1982 and 1983. The bike weighs around 54kg, revs to 14,500 and produces 17bhp on a good day.

Moving up a class to the 125cc machines we have John Bowers pedigree brace of **RS125**

Honda’s, one an ex Team Ditter 1993 bike (#2) to be ridden by Jonathan Wells and the other an ex Kazuta Sakata 1981 machine (#24) to be ridden by John’s son Danny.



*Front #2 Team Ditter RS125 & #24 ex Sakata RS125
Back L-R Jonathan Wells, John Bowers & Danny Bowers*



The 1988 Aprilia AF1 one of only twenty built

Representing the quarter litre category is Vince Southall’s beautifully turned out 1988 **Aprilia AF1**. Made in Italy, the bike used the Austrian Rotax tandem twin motor, but only 20 examples were made before being succeeded by the RS250V. Also on display with the AF1 will be an Aprilia RSV factory development bike (Chesterfield team bike) and the 1998 RSW250 factory development bike.

The **Modenas KR4** was a prototype 500cc Grand Prix motorcycle developed in 1999 by Team Roberts, led by three-time world champion Kenny Roberts. Designed to take on the dominant factory machines of the era, the KR4 marked the team's first and only move to a V4 two-stroke configuration, powered by a high-performance reed-valve Swissauto engine. Built in collaboration with some of Europe's top engineering firms, the KR4 reflected Roberts' commitment to challenging the status quo with an independent, technically sophisticated race bike. Although it never raced, the KR4 served primarily as a test bed for evaluating the Swissauto V4 engine within a complete chassis package.



Team Roberts Modenas KR4

Long time supporters of the Classic Festival, **Col Morris's Team Revit Red** are back this



Just a fraction of the Revit Red bikes here this weekend

year with their biggest ever turn out of seventeen bikes. Having seemingly cornered the market on ex Honda Britain race ware from the 1990's, the team have RC45's RC30's CBR600's, SP1's an SP2, NC30, RS250 and a Fireblade for you to check out at the top of the Melbourne Loop.

Looking to put the spanners down in the middle of a busy weekend and enjoy himself with a few laps of Donington is Tony Greenslade. His machine of choice is the replica of **Carl Fogarty's 1992 Loctite Yamaha FZR750RR OW01 TT bike**. Yamaha had to build 1000 to homologate the model for WSKB, so very appropriate that Tony is to parade the bike at the circuit that held the inaugural WSBK meeting in 1988.



1992 Loctite Yamaha FZR750RR OW01 Replica