

# DIOC NEWS

by Joel Eliel, Director

kl3insp k 3eiaeiou sadkd riei8230 dekmf,vmae--naei  
e3ieekl;lka; Ooops excuse me gang there was this  
bug on my typewriter and I was trying to get the  
sunnavabeach off so I can begin this column. Ok,  
there, he rolled on the floor offa mah desk and  
Thersday ate him. Serves him right for messing with  
da DIOC director. Hey, enough of this crap lets get  
down to some serious stuff.....zzzzzzzz zzzzzz  
zzzzzzzz.

MIKE HAILWOOD HURT IN HIGH SPEED-CRASH

from MOTOR CYCLE WEEKLY, 28 April, 1979

(I guess the mail is kinda slow getting here from GB.)

Mike Hailwoods first outing on a racing motor cycle  
in Europe this year ended disastrously when he crashed  
at speed at tht Misano circuit in Italy last Thursday.

"It was frightening I found myself flying down the  
road rolling over and over like a rag doil unable to  
do a thing about it," siad the 39-year-old winner of  
ten world championships.

The crash happened as Hailwood was test-riding a  
new Ducati vee-twin that the Italian factory has  
built for him to race in the Formula One TT and in  
selected rounds of the Forward Trust/"Motor Cycle  
Weekly" Formula One Championship.

"The bike looked beautiful. They have done a lot  
of work on it. Power is up and they have altered  
the frame to accommodate a wider rear tyre. But  
the gearchange worked the wrong way and it was this  
that caught me out," explained Hailwood.

For when the gearbox went into neautral on a 70 mph  
corner Hailwood instinctively stamped on the pedal  
to change into a higher gear. But instead of se-  
lecting fourth he had in fact changed down to second.

"It looked the rear wheel and spat me down the road.  
I was knocked unconscious for a second," explained  
Hailwood.

When he arrived back in England on Friday he went  
for a check-up at nearby Hillingdon Hospital. "Ive  
cracked a few ribs and I'm bruised all over. I  
feel pretty grim," said Hailwood when he later visi-  
ted Heron Suzuki's headquarters in Croydon to dis-  
cuss plans for the TT and to inspect the actual  
machine he will ride in the Senior TT; a 1978 works  
RG500.

## PAUL RITTER GIVES UP ON DUCATI

Dear Ducati Fans,

By the time you read this you may already know that  
I am no longer racing a Ducati bug will be campain-  
ing a BMW this season. I'd like to let you know  
how this came about

Dale Newton, my sponsor for the last two years,  
could not continue his program in 1979. Dale would  
have loved to keep racing but unfortunately his busi-  
ness needs his time right now. It was not clear that  
ale would not be involved until rather late in the  
winter, so it was near the beginning of the season  
that the decision was made.

As soon as it was known that Dale was out I started  
talking to people about a way to buy the bike from  
Dale and continue racing on Ducati. Ed Brooks of  
Euromart, the West Coast Ducati distributor, made  
a very generous offer which, combined with a few  
thousand of my own money, left us about \$4000 short  
of the amount needed to fund a serious racing effort.

We approached Berliner for the \$4000. After some  
delay and a few "maybes" they declined our invita-  
tion to contribute to our racing program. This  
left me in a very bad spot I wanted to race the

Duck, but we were still \$4000 short, the season had  
already started (Berliner waited until after Day-  
tona to say no) and I had to get moving or else  
forget about racing in 1979. With no likely pros-  
pect for raising the \$4000 quickly I decided to  
accept a ride with the San Jose BMW team.

What else can I say? If Berliner weren't so tight  
fisted I would still be racing Ducati and giving  
the rice-burners hell. Unfortunately one has to  
face reality in these situations, and campaining  
the Ducati with the hope that \$4000 would materia-  
lize from somewhere was not a sound idea.

I'll still have a Darmah and 350 Desmo for street  
riding and I'll keep the Ducati faith, so if you  
see me at the track drop by and say hello. At  
least I'm still racing an European twin and I'll  
still be giving the rice-burners hell! Paul.

Note: During the Ontario 6-Hour at California's  
Ontario Motor Speedway Paul Ritter's San Jose BMW  
blew up before it had a chance to qualify.

## THE CLUB GETS A MASCOT

Due to the overwhelming amount of mail that I have  
received in the past three years concerning the sub-  
ject of acquiring a club mascot I have decided to  
review the two letters that I have received on this  
matter and see if we can't give the matter more serious  
consideration. We have consulted with various offi-  
cers of the club and under a lot of haggling and ar-  
guing we have come to the decision that our club mas-  
cot should be a "duck". The fact that one of the  
many ducks that live in a canal behind my house, left  
a nest, after hatching about 13 eggs with one egg  
unhatched, and leaving the lo n e egg behind and  
not really giving a damn if it hatched or not, took  
off and left it behind ...?...and one day while I  
was swimming in my pool I saw this movement in the  
nest which was built within the shrubery that line  
my pool and so this egg is moving around and its  
hatching and my brother and I go over to see what the  
hell is going on and we took a stick and opened the  
egg and out came a little duck, all wet and yellow...  
has nothing to do with the fact that we now have a  
club mascot.....really!

His name is Thersday. He is light yellow with dark  
eyes and a purple beak. He lives in a cardboard  
box and sleeps in a bunch of rags. Eats like a  
horse and craps all over the damn place. We put a  
small toilet bowl out by the patio where he lives  
and he just drinks water out of it. He is not a  
real duck kind of duck, he is, well sort of humanized.  
He follows me around and thinks I'm his parent. When  
I leave him by himself and he cant see where I am  
he starts screaming at the top of his little lungs  
and wont quit til I show up. Now that he is a  
month old he hangs around my desk and straightens  
out my paperwork. If I got some letters open he will  
read them and if he don't like what they got to say  
he'll throw a fit and I got to clean it up.

The other day we were watching TV and Walt Disney  
was on with Donald Duck and he just loved the show.  
The next night we wanted to see some more, but that  
was impossible I told him, they only show Donald  
Duck once in a while. He didn't like my answer and  
threw a fit and I had to clean it up before someone  
stepped on it. He has also gotten real interested  
in Ducatis, since I told him he was the club mascot,  
the whole thing has gone to his little head and now  
he wants his own decal and a newsletter and he wants  
to know when he gets a Duc' of his own. I told him  
he had to wait until he paid off his little air con-  
ditioner that he had installed in his cardboard box  
cause it gets to hot here in Florida. Mike the  
Spsyche took him for a ride on a little Honda 100  
I keep around to let my little boy ride when he  
comes to visit, and he put Thersday on his lap and  
away they went, when he found out it wasn't a Ducati,  
he threw a fit and I had to take Mikes pants to the  
cleaners. Right now I am holding him off with some  
idle promises that I'm getting him a little Diana  
MKIII, meanwhile he just had his cardboard box  
wallpapered with Ducati brochures. I had this old  
Honda T-Shirt on the bottom of his box and he throws  
all kinds of fits on it and nobody cleans it up.