

VOICES

By Patti Pillion

I just read the last issues of DIOC and was very upset by a letter written by John Martin. Well John and all you other Ducati owners I hope to give some good advise.

Ref: The Ducati 6000 Mi. 6 mo. Warranty Scheme

I have seen so many letters from angry duke owners about defective bikes, and John Martin's letter got me to tell my story about Brian Hicks bad clutch.

Brian Hicks has a 500 GTL 1977 model. We took his clutch apart this past winter only to find that Ducati had left some burr marks on his pressure plate. Well these burr marks left a nice big score mark almost through his first clutch plate. Now remember it is 1980, his bike had only 5928 miles on it. We kept it off the road in 1980. We felt that since the burr marks were there from Ducati Meccanica in Italy that they should be responsible for it's repair. Only because we found out about it before the 6000 mile warranty ran out. Anyway we let Ducati know about this and they replaced every part of his clutch.

Your legal right here in the U.S. is that the motorcycle has to have at least six months use of 6000 miles on it which ever comes first. It doesn't matter how old your bike is if it doesn't have 6000 miles on it they either Berliner or Ducati Meccanica is responsible for it.

I'm just getting sick and tired of reading stories about bikes that have things go wrong with them and nobody wants to take the blame. Also the owners getting shafted by some dealer that just wants to make a buck. Ducati owners, don't let any dealer tell you that just because the bike is older than six months, or because it is no longer in my shop that it isn't covered. Your motorcycle is covered by the law! I am just trying to do my part to keep from letting Ducati get a bad name because of some rotten dealers. Also if I believed what every dealer told me I never would have been able to rebuild my 350 Desmo with all new Ducati parts. Yes, I said new, and the bike is 10 years old.

The Restoration of my 350 Desmo

I have the greatest news to tell you and the club Joel, my 350 Desmo 1971 is now back together looking stock and is going to be on the road this season. I can't believe it! Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it. Only because we have and it works!!!!

Joel hasn't printed much information about my friend Brian Hicks and I restoring this motorcycle so I hope this gets printed.

We have yet to get a photograph of this bike only because we believe that she didn't want any pictures to come out. We tried but never came up with anything. I bought the bike back in 1979, she wan't much to look at when we got her but always believed that she could look stock again and zoom around. Now almost two years later we have done what most dealers said that couldn't be done. Most of the work has been done by Brian Hicks, Ken Clark and I. We couldn't find any books on this bike except an owner's manual so most of the bike was like putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

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We painted the 350 by hand with about three coats of primer and two coats of black paint on the frame. After taken all the oil paint off. the tank is done also by hand. I have a chrome tank. The tank is painted in black with gold tape around the edges and chrome in the middle.


Almost every part got replaced with new parts. Thanks to our dealer Ron's Cycle in Leominster, Massachusetts, Dr. Taglioni of Ducati-Meccanica in Italy and Berliner Motor Corp, and Continental Moto-Sport of Canada.

We had to bore out the cylinder, and replace the piston with a new one. This bike has been dumped before, so we have a small dent in the tank. I had to get a new foot peg for the right side along with the rubber for them. The wiring harness was from Italy, the strange thing about our wiring harness is that the extra wires for directionals come with the harness. Everybody thinks that they never made one for the 350 D "71, but I ended up with one anyway. We aren't going to use them so we just taped them up and hid them away.

Lights work, motor has lots of compression, and we only need a chain now. As soon as a picture is available I'll send one down. Now for my next big Ducati project is a book. Well I'm leaving for the U.S. Coast Guard and have to leave the bike behind. So for the time I'm away I'll be trying to make a trip over to see Ducati Meccanica in Italy. Getting lots of interviews and pictures and hope that in five years the book will be out. It took two years for the bike to get done so why not five years for a book?

Well, I hope that we get to cross each others path and wish everybody a very safe and happy 1981 season. I'll have to learn how to ride a motorcycle, but not how to take her apart and put her back together.

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