

And they're off in Britain's first international "Battle of the Twins". Jon Minonno (139) grabbed an early lead but dropped back to finish fourth.

BATTLE OF THE TWINS GETS A START IN ENGLAND

The following was taken from *MOTOR CYCLE*, the *CYCLE NEWS* of British motorcycling. Thanks to Syd's Cycles for sending it in so we can share it with everyone.

Riding big twins on the other side of the Atlantic is big business and a regular feature at most major race meetings in a thrash for these once all conquering machines. Now it looks like twin-cylinder racing is set to take off in the UK following Britain's first international "Battle of the Twins" at Donington Park on Sunday. The top Americans came over in force - but it was a British rider on a British bike who came out tops...

Triumph mounted Bob Smith on the RGB Weslake took first place in the 29.36 miles 15 laps race at an average speed of 83.9mph. In second place was British born Yank Malcolm Tunstall from Syds Cycles on a 950 Ducati. Third went to D. Railton on a 860 Ducati and 4th to Jon Minonno on a 975 Triumph sponsored by Big D Cycles in Dallas Texas. Steve Wynne riding a 600 Ducati Pantah. Here are the rest of the finishers: 6. B. Anerod (950 Ducati), 7. G. L. Donez (600 Duc); 8. M Smith (750 Moto Guzzi); 9. M. Brookes (850 Norton); 10. H. Lees (600 Ducati).

The bike they all feared, Bob Smith's RGB Weslake was designed and built by Gary Bryan.

Again there had been problems. Originally they'd planned to use the big 900cc motor with its special 120 degree crank, but Smith had blown it in unofficial practice so they'd fitted the smaller 850 motor.

"We've finally persuaded Bob to use the five-inch rear tyre - and that's made a difference. I'm confident Bob can beat the Americans," said Gary.

Bob has been riding the bike for three years, and the duo would love to go to the States to take the Yanks on their own tracks.

"But it's all a question of money. What we need is a big sponsor," said Gary.

The other British pairing expected to give the Yanks a run for their money were Tony Rutter and his world Championship winning Formula Two 600cc Ducati Pantah.

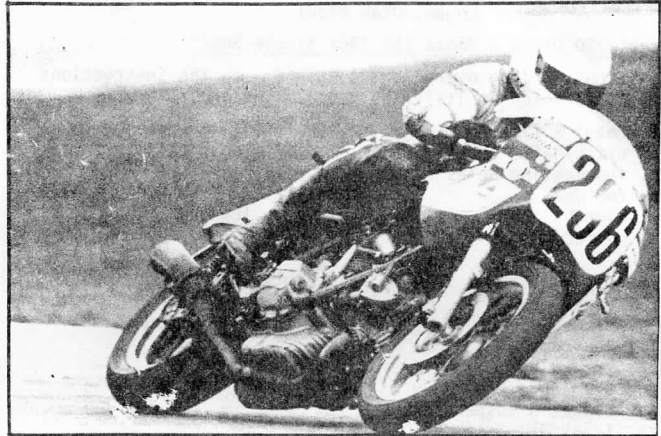
"The bike is fast. I'd say it was the quickest bike on the track, but I don't think the straight is long enough for it to show its true top speed," said Tunstall.

Also on the grid were two Cosworth-powered Norton Challenges, both owned by Scot Ian Sutherland.

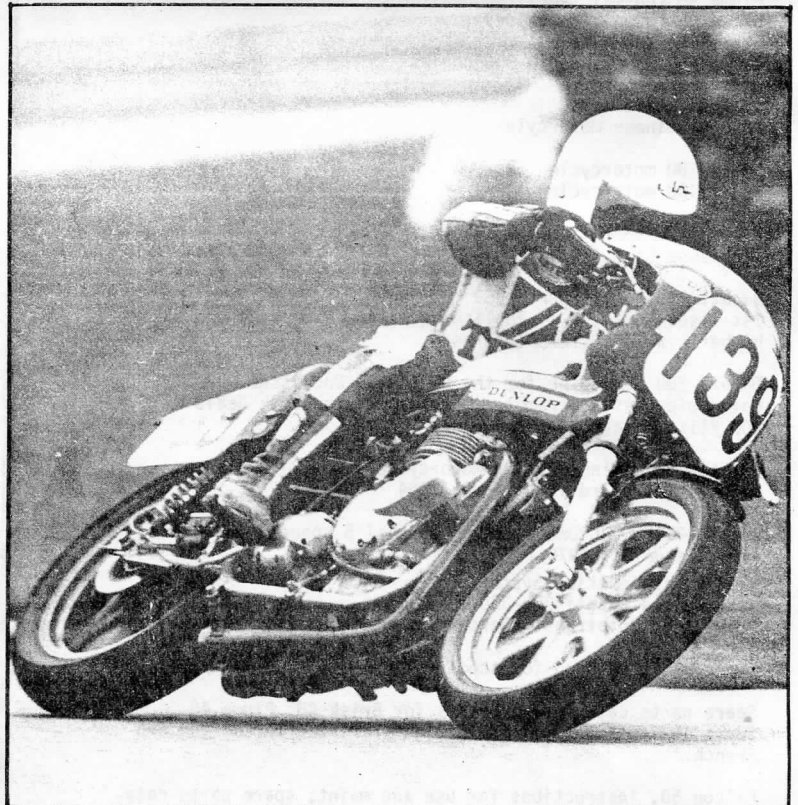
The Donington race was the first time two Cosworth bikes had ever raced against each other, and their unusual high-pitched scream could be heard halfway round the track in practice.

One bike was the Norton Cosworth prototype, the other had been built from a box of bits.

"I'd say they were the most powerful bikes in the race - but I don't think they'll win," said race organizer Alan Cathcart.



British born Yank Malcolm Tunstall powered his 950 Ducati through to second place — despite working until the early hours of the morning piecing his motor back together.



American Jon Minonno's 975cc eight valve Triumph was clocked at 155mph at Daytona — but petrol problems at Donington meant the bike wasn't able to show its full potential.