

Birmingham Motorcycle Show

by Doug Jackson

UNTIL THIS YEAR, the International Birmingham Motorcycle and Scooter Show has found itself opening after the somewhat larger events of Munich, Milan and Paris, with the consequence that most of the following year's models were already revealed. But now, with Milan pitched later into November, Birmingham found itself between its rival Shows date wise and benefiting with more new models making their debuts for many years.

BMW chose the event to introduce their new R1200GS Adventure which attracted a great deal of interest, with Charlie Boorman present and preparing for the next Dakar Rally on a F650GS, but the

new F800S didn't show, seems that it's waiting for a Milan intro.

Presumably saving themselves for Milan, there were no Italian manufacturers present except for Ducati. Yamaha and Suzuki presented the new models seen at Paris, but Kawasaki showed the massive ZZR1400 and ER-6f, a step further on from the "6n" with a full fairing. Yamaha showed one of Rossi's MotoGP bikes, Kawasaki went one better and produced not only a Nakano bike, but Nakano himself. India's Hero company made a first appearance with new scooters.

We'll keep our coverage to models you haven't seen previously in MCN.



Left: The GSR600 was receiving plenty of attention, and with the increasing interest in naked bikes in the UK it is expected to win sales in a market currently over stocked with machines. Center: KTM's latest moto-crossover, the 250 SX-F with a brand new motor developed by KTM engineer Peter Gorbach to be a genuine "out of the box racer." Right: Derbi's latest "Fifty" the water-cooled two-stroke Senda DRD PRoSM, high spec with USD Marzocchi forks, 6-speed gearbox and good build quality.



Left: The Honda Deauville continues in the 2006 line, and now comes with ABS and subtle restyling. Growing in popularity with the touring brigade, its 680cc 52°, 8-valve, V-twin is now punching out 65 hp @ 8000 rpm. Weight is 481lbs. Center: Honda's new CBF1000F/ABS, a well balanced looking machine, the 998cc DOHC 16-valver producing 101 hp @ 8000 rpm. Right: CCM are busy extending their 2006 range including this new FT35 model being unveiled by Nick Jeffries left and Niall Mackenzie.



Left and Center: Making its first public appearance, and designed and built in the UK by Martin Conquest Ltd, the "Conquest" is a trike with BMW R1150R steering and power, able to accommodate a rider in a wheelchair, complete with an easy access automatic ramp at the rear. The vehicle comes with a six speed gearbox plus reverse, and has an unbelievable amount of optional equipment available—from Xenon headlights to parking sensors and even Sat Nav. Deliveries will begin in Spring 2006. Right: Ducati's 2006 ST3s ABS, now replacing the ST4s, the 6-valve motor now with new ignition and injection systems, plus "auto idle speed control" adds up to the Euro 3 emission standards of 2007, they don't come any cleaner than this one.