

Speaker:

Colin Seeley

Colin began his career as an apprentice with Harcourt Motorcycles. By 1954 and aged just 18, Colin had branched out on his own and secured premises in Belvedere, Kent, which laid the foundations for his successful dealership and workshop. During that same year, Colin also entered his first race at Brands Hatch, riding a borrowed 500cc BSA Star Twin.

1960 saw Colin and his friend acquire a sidecar outfit based on a Manx Norton which they raced for the first time that year at Snetterton. Just one year later in 1961, Colin entered his first Grand Prix event, the Isle of Man TT this time using a Matchless G50 modified and fitted with a Canterbury racing sidecar and achieved 6th place.

Colin raced in numerous competitions between 1961 and 1967 including the British and world championship sidecar competitions. Using his own design of machines achieved a first place in the 1964 Dutch TT and 2nd in the Isle of Man TT sidecar competition not to mention coming close to winning the world championships.

Through the mid to late 60's Colin concentrated more and more on the design and construction of Seeley framed racing motorcycles. By the late 60's and into the early 70s (by which time nearly all the major motorcycle manufacturers had pulled out of Grand Prix racing) the Seeley designed frame became the first choice for the privateer racers of that era. In 1969 the Mark 3 version of the Seeley racing frame was adapted to house the Norton Commando 750 motor and by that time Colin's designs had become so successful in competition that he deservedly earned a reputation as one of the best motorcycle frame designers in the industry.

In 1992, Colin teamed up with Brian Crighton, who, following Brian's belief in and the subsequent development of the rotary engine at Norton, had branched out on his own to produce the Roton rotary engine race bike. After securing sponsorship from Duckhams the team was renamed Crighton Norton and went on to secure no less than 52 podium positions in the 1994 season.

Ladies and gentlemen, I've no doubt that my brief introduction has missed many interesting and important aspects of Colin's long and successful career. However, you're here tonight to hear Colin speak, not me. So without any further delay please may I ask you to give a warm welcome to Mr Colin Seeley!

Charity:

Tonight's charity is the **Joan Seeley Pain relief memorial Trust** (<http://www.joanseeleytrust.btck.co.uk/>)

You may notice the association with Colin's surname and if you haven't had the chance to visit the charity's web site, please let me explain why this is.

Colin set up this specialist charity in December 1979 as a tribute to the courage of his first wife Joan, who tragically died from bone cancer at a young age. The initial aim of the charity was to bring support and publicity to Dr. Frances Sorrell's personal commitment to pain relief through the purchase of equipment for the relief of chronic pain. Dr. Sorrell, who initiated the first pain relief clinics in the country, had phoned or visited Joan most days during the final months of her illness, offering considerable support. Dr Sorrell became the charity's chairman trustee from its' inception.

Now run solely by Colin and his wife of 22 years, Eva, the Joan Seeley Pain relief memorial Trust has raised in excess of £125k, all which has been spent on medical pain relief equipment, helping along the way more than 30 hospitals and hospices. And this is a very important point as the charities motto is 'collect a pound, spend a pound'. Unlike many charities, there are no administration costs or charges. So ladies and gentlemen, please be assured that any contribution you make this evening by whatever means will be used in exactly the way it should.