

## **BEWARE THE RECONDITIONED MOTOR – Part 2**

A few years ago I bought a Triumph Thunderbird with a reconditioned motor; still out of the bike and you could see the new pistons through the spark plug holes.

Deciding to take the barrel off just for curiosity, I discovered he had not put circlips in either piston. What a mess that would have been!

Incidentally you can plane around 80 thou off a Morris 8 head which does help performance, but check it has not been done at an earlier stage. Also you need a good motor before doing this. Good bearings etc. A standard head measuring at the last stud hole – (the stepped part where the nut torques down) at the back of the head and to the bottom should measure about 1.558ins. Use a Micrometer not a Vernier.

When I restored my first sports I used all Series E running gear and went to some trouble with it. Even cleaned out the combustion chambers in the head, put spark plugs in the holes set it up level then using an eyedropper checked that they all held the same amount of turps. Surprising how much they were out. A little grinding and polishing fixed that. I weighed the pistons and conrods to make sure they were all the same. Polished the conrods balanced everything, bored out to .060 in the bore, planed the head, used a sports coil, plus a high lift cam in the distributor and ground out the manifold so there was no lip to obstruct the gas flow. It went pretty well but of course you only have a 918cc motor to begin with so it will never be a 2000cc motor. One little improvement does not make much difference to performance but 3 or 4 you will notice. I never removed any weight off the flywheel

because the more you do will shorten the longevity of the motor. You can fit larger valves, lighten the flywheel and other things – but why would you!

No doubt Ken Hand would be the expert on making M8 motors go faster and if you ask him what he does he might tell you but he might eliminate you afterwards. On a rally he usually only has the accelerator pedal half way to the floor. He is careful not to show the power his car has.

**ANYWAY, BEWARE THE RECONDITIONED MOTOR**