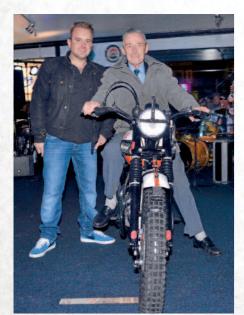


## An Ace opening

THE FATHER AND SON TEAM BEHIND ACE CLASSICS CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THEIR NEW SHOWROOM

WITH A SPECIAL GUEST. WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES ROBINSON



Kev Rushwoth and Johnny Giles, after

he father-and-son team behind Ace Classics, Cliff and Kevin Rushworth, celebrated the opening of their new showroom, adjoining their existing St Mildred's Road, Lee, South London, premises – on the side of the south circular - with a 'do' on the evening of November 24 with family, customers and even a rock and roll band in attendance.

However, the star guest was undoubtedly Johnny Giles, the now 82-year-old former Triumph works campaigner. John was reunited with the 1958 Trophy he rode in the Welsh Three Day Trial and ISDT - in fact, he wasn't just reunited with it, but rode it through the doorway of the new shop, through a paper 'curtain', to declare the place 'open'. Only problem was, he did it so quickly, no one managed to get a picture!

Ever happy to talk Triumphs, John explained that he still has seven of the Meriden-made machines, from the 1951-68

era when he was a works rider. He talked about how the last of the 'all' Triumph Daytona 500s was his favourite of the machines he rode, mainly because it was so much more comfortable than the Chenev framed - and more focused - machines which came after.

Other tales involved how he left his apprenticeship with Rolls-Royce and Bentley just before finishing, because they wouldn't let him go to a trial, and he also relayed how in 1953 the ISDT fell when he was in the middle of his National Service, War Department personnel were not permitted behind the iron curtain, so after Triumph wrote to his commanding officer, Colonel Goode, he was 'demobbed' from the army (where he was a motorcycle instructor) by MI5, giving back his uniform and other paraphernalia before, on his return to Britain post trial, going back into the army and re-collecting his service material.



The ISDT Triumph's tank badge - it was



the opening.

Kevin Rushworth commented: "My dad has known John for years, and so have I now, and we couldn't think of anyone better to open the new shop.

"We called him up and he agreed to it straight away. He's amazing, isn't he?"

The shop expansion has come in the wake of another good year's trading, with Kevin explaining how a cache of pre-unit Triumphs, brought in from America, have all been snapped up before they've even landed in the UK.

The new building is to be more of a showroom, allowing additional machines



The 'old' shop has guests congregating.

to be displayed, some for sale and others just for the delectation of shop visitors. Among the machines for inspection on the first night were a beautiful Triumph Grand Prix, a very rare swinging arm road racing TR5R and also the Trophy (408 BWD) which was road tested by the Press in 1961.

Ace Classics has a vast range of products available, mainly for pre-unit Triumphs while its 2013 calendar is now available too. Have a look at www.aceclassics.co.uk or 0208 8698 4273. ■



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101-108 St Mildreds Road, Lee, London SE12 ORL Ace opening hours: 9am-6pm Mon-Fri | 10am-6pm Sat | Closed Sun

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