
Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by The Boss - 2008/11/27 13:53

Norton Motorcycles will make its long awaited return to the legendary Isle of Man TT Races in May 2009 after an absence of 16 years. In an historic deal, the brand was recently brought back to the UK after 15 years stateside by bike enthusiast and owner of Norton Racing, Stuart Garner.

Michael Dunlop, 21, son of the late motorcycle legend Robert Dunlop, will pilot the Norton NRV 588 on its TT debut in the Senior Race over the notorious 37¾ mile circuit. Michael commented:

“This is a fantastic opportunity to make history with Norton’s return to one of the world’s most famous races - a real highlight of the racing calendar. It means a lot to me as I will be following in my father’s bike tracks as he finished third on his JPS Norton when he competed in 1992.”

Stuart Garner, chief executive at Norton Motorcycles said:

“This is the first time since 1993 that an official Norton team has raced at the TT. We have a fantastic racing pedigree with the brand established over 100 years ago and our aim is to emulate the success Norton race bikes achieved particularly in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. The 588cc Norton race bike has been developed over the last year by Brian Crighton and the Spondon engineering team and we are confident that 2009 will prove to be a significant milestone in the history of this famous UK motorcycle brand.”

Hon Martyn Quayle MHK, Minister for Tourism and Leisure, Isle of Man Government said:

“Having Norton back in the TT is sensational news. It will truly be an historic occasion within the competitions history. They were a fabulous crowd pleaser and we have every confidence this will be the first of many successful races for the Norton team.”

Norton Motorcycles UK manufacturing plant is at Donington Park. The company plans to hand-build 200 race bikes and a road-legal version of the NRV 588 in 2009, both which will go on sale in the spring.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by andy70 - 2008/11/27 15:07

Great news!!! Good luck to Michael and the Norton team.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Joey D - 2008/11/28 12:36

Nice One Michael, best of luck with it in 2009. :)

With a bike like that and Michaels riding style it can only be great to watch.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Savo - 2008/11/28 15:24

A Dunlop on a Norton.....a great combination. Will be an interesting partnership to follow for next year.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Ballio - 2008/11/28 16:49

I wonder will it make an appearance on the Irish roads at some stage next year?

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by pipzxc - 2008/11/30 15:53

This is brilliant news , about time something came Michaels way I thought he would have been snapped up ages ago , not knocking WD but I think this is far better suited to Michael as a bike has to going right for WD or he doesnt seem to be able to manage as well cause from what I hear the Norton is not the easiest bike to ride , In my opinion Michael is a bit more rough and ready and seems to thrive on the challenge of nursing a bike around when its not going well and still gets the results , Im absolutly delighted for Michael and hope this the launch he needs to kick start what Im sure will be a long and successful career, cant wait to see him out at the IOM thats if he gets the chance to get near the bike because id say he will swarmed TV crews and photographers as everyone is talking about it and looking forward to seeing Michaels first outing on it

The best of luck Michael and I hope everything goes well

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by SwideRR - 2008/11/30 21:55

Good luck for Michel and Norton

He deserves to ride it.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by smithy03 - 2008/12/01 23:14

A great talent wasted :(

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by pipzxc - 2008/12/02 23:29

In response to Smithy03 why do you think hes going to be wasted with Norton

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Sam Pato - 2008/12/03 11:30

I was about to post along the same lines.

Michael is an up and coming rider with a very good chance of a solid top 6 finish this year. Stick him on any of the current crop of superbikes and he'll be there or abouts.

The Norton is a one of with as far as I know little real development work. Michaels abilities to set a bike up I don't know for sure but to get it right for the TT on a one (or two) of ride is a long shot.

I love the idea of Norton returning and putting in a good showing but its a romantic pipe dream no more.

The more I think about it - smells like a stunt.

Has Jim Moodie announced that he's looking for a ride yet :-)

Before I get flamed..... no one would be happier to see him do good on the Norton than me - but given the weight of possibilities it doesn't look like a good bet.

Cheers

Sam

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by kylemalco - 2008/12/03 13:37

think what smithy means is the new 600 is an unknown quantity and its hard to compete with the japanese there was a program a few years ago about the norton where the chief designer/engineer I cant remember which said they could have developed new models at the same rate as the likes of honda only for their budget

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by smithy03 - 2008/12/03 17:47

What Sam says.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by pipzxc - 2008/12/03 20:25

This bike is a 588 but it is tuned up to 1000cc and will not be featured in the 600 races Michael will be spending most weekends from now to the run up to the TT at Donnington park and in the workshop with the Norton boys developing the bike there seems to be no shortage of funds when it comes to the development of the bike and the Norton team have given Michael 100% backing and I hope the fans can do the same, he has given us one of the most memorable races in history and I think he is more than capable of doing it again

The best of luck to him and the team and I hope to see them silencing some of their critics

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by billyblade - 2008/12/03 20:30

pipzxc wrote:

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Well said Pip!!!

Let the kid follow his dreams and stop knocking him.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Joey D - 2008/12/03 21:25

All the very best to Michael and the Norton Team with their plans for 2009.

Hope to see some good results/podium finishes in 09 and a real challenge in 2010. :)

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by pipzxc - 2008/12/03 21:49

Forgot to say Michael signed a one year deal with an option to stay on for three so plenty of time to make the most of this opportunity

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Ballio - 2008/12/03 23:15

Sounds like he is going to get a lot of experience on the technical side working on the development of a bike. That knowledge can only make him a better all rounder in the years to come.
Does anybody know if he will be riding the bike in Irish road races? If he isn't I guess he will be on a proven product that will allow him to run at or near the front on the domestic scene but this Norton job is all positive for him, both profile wise and gaining experience.
If he stays injury free he has all the time in the world to add to his international wins.
All the best Michael, go for it.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Lenny - 2008/12/04 06:37

Well i hope he does very well. The negative brigade shouldnt say he wont do well as is in that what the said would happen HISLOP?????????????
look how that turned out.
Anyway best wishes to him for the upcoming year. Looking forward to it immensely.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by The Boss - 2008/12/04 08:22

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Well said. It has to be said and some appear to have forgotten this We are in a serious recession and rides are just not available, with the publicity available and with the other rides he has his profile will stay high and he is still available for other opportunities.

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by smithy03 - 2008/12/04 17:50

billyblade wrote:
pipzxc wrote:
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Well said Pip!!!
Let the kid follow his dreams and stop knocking him.

Who is knocking Michael ???

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Hizzy11 - 2008/12/07 16:01

:laugh: Let's hope he can bring the trophy back to a British manufacturer again. (Memories of the White Charger.)
Come on Norton.:laugh:

Both Joey and Robert where brilliant to watch racing.
Micheal and William look set to bring more trophies to the Dunlop clan.
Go Lads. Good luck for 2009.:laugh:

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Joey D - 2008/12/08 11:08

Eh why a picture of Keith Amor?? , while talking about the Dunlops & Norton. :)

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Hizzy11 - 2008/12/12 21:00

Yeah sorry about that clicked the wrong photo.:laugh:

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Re:Dunlop to follow in fathers footsteps

Posted by Savo - 2008/12/13 01:09

smithy03 wrote:

billyblade wrote:

pipzxc wrote:

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Michael had a few "knockers" earlier this year from a number of so called expert keyboard merchants in cyber space and

it annoys me that it even reached a great interview with Leslie Moore. There was no need for these "knocking comments". I even recall a few hot heads on this great site having a cheap dig too. For those hot air "balloons" out there read this wonderful article and be done with it or either defend your case here.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sport/motorsport/michael-dunlop--its-now-or-never-14102088.html>

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