



## History of TRIUMPH

Triumph has been the world's famous motorcycle brand ever since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The name Triumph is an extraordinary name well known for the delicate and compactness of its bikes. With its unique character, Triumph is the only English motorcycle brand that takes today a leading role in the International motorcycle industry.

Triumph has a long history in Hong Kong, and was long the favourite motorcycle brand for the Hong Kong Police Force, including the T100 Tiger in the 60s. MF Jepsen Automotive is proud to bring Triumph back to Hong Kong, under the motto "The Brits are Back".

Triumphs' motorcycles are originated from bicycles, and Minerva is the first model that started the whole Triumph motorcycle story since 1902. Not long after, the first problem arisen. Triumph motorcycles needed to add extra pedals because of the lack of power in the engines to infuse force to the bikes. And the brake control was still based on a tire clipping system, so the Minerva looked more like a bicycle than a motor bike in the early days.

A Triumph fan, Hugo Wilson (who is also an author) once described Triumph as Romantic, Attractive and rebellious. There are lots of transactions and developments of Triumph during all these years, which include: Hub Clutch in 1910, Knirps in 1920, Type R Fast Roaster in 1923, Tiger 80 in 1937, and Speed Twin in 1939

1956 was a sensational year for Triumph, all because of the most famous model Bonneville has created a record that strikes the motorcycle industry. The record was achieved by Jack Wilson and J. H. Mangham which called "The Bonneville Salt Flats". Jack Wilson made a shocking record by driven the Bonneville in Salt Lack at 345km/h (214mp/h). Bonneville has stated a reputation in the public after the record has been made. However unfortunately, record made was not accepted by the FIM due to some other reasons.

When it comes to the 70's, Triumph was then producing bikes with more engine types other than parallel twin engines. Although there was not a big difference in the motorcycles' overall design,

but the alloy wheels used was already receiving favorable comment. The factory realized that improving the engine while remain the classic outlook was not a bad idea after all.

### Triumph and the growth of Hong Kong

The Hong Kong police force used the Triumph 350cc 「3TA」 and 「Tiger 100」 during The 60's. And the Triumph motorcycle which is displayed at the 「Peak Police Museum」 is a side-car design. Because of the car repair department of the HK Engineering Co. Ltd. was under a reconstruction, the body lining of the bikes were slightly vary from it's original design. For example, the rear suspension had changed from spring into tube shape (pipe shape).

In HK, 「順英」 has been the distributor of Triumph and BSA since the 60's but due to the partition of company structure, 「順英」 then only distributed BSA, and the new formed 「順達」 became the distributor for Triumph which was located at Tin Hau.

「銀星」 took over the distributorship of Triumph in the 70's . Later on 「摩托」 became the distributor of Triumph during the mid 80's which was located at North Point (Castle street) and only sold bikes imported from Japan. And the last Triumph sold by 「摩托」 was in 1986, then the firm did not exist ever since.

And today, the dealer of Aston Martin had successfully took over the distributorship of Triumph in the middle of 2005. It is now located in a well interior designed showroom in North Point.

### Triumph in Movies

In around 1958, Marlon Brando acted as a road racer in an American film 「The Wild One」, lots of youngsters became a motorbike fans because of this movie. And the motorbike driven by Marlon Brando in the movies is our theme of the text – Triumph.

About 2 years ago in the movie 「Mission: Impossible 2」, Tom Cruise rides the SPEED TRIPLE in the film. And in 「Mission: Impossible 3」 (which will be released in 2006), Tom Cruise drives the all new Triumph SPEED TRIPLE, for detail specification for this riders' chariot, please refer to this issue's new car section.

We would like to express our garnitures to the Triumph Senior Service Engineer Terry of 「銀星」, CR Club president Felix, N.B.B. president Larry. HK Police Museum and 阿榮, Michael, Tony Hughes and 齊 for providing us the precious bikes for this interview.

### Bonneville T120V

Many people has a wrong perception when they seen such a classic bike, some would even made comments such as, “old bikes, low value, hard to repair, difficult to purchase spare parts, troublesome.....etc” But the owner of this 1974 released Triumph Bonneville T120V (阿榮) has a few words to say for these classic bikes.

阿榮 said “ No one would use the term 「Old Bikes」 to describe the classic Triumph, they would call it 「Classic Bike」” And the real fan of motorbikes should understand that so long as this classic bike is in a good condition and be able to ride with you for a long period of time. The manufacturing year, and the mileye consumption is not a problem at all.

In contrast to some of the so-called “hi-tech” Japanese bikes where lots of problems occurred after a few years. My “Triumph Bonneville T120V” is now 31 years old and there is no problem or whatsoever that needs to be repair, and whenever I go out with this baby, we always attract loads of admiring attention”.

## Why in Love with Triumph

All because of a Japanese cartoon 「七金剛」 and Richard Gere in the movie 「沖上雲霄」 And also, I accidentally found a picture of chief editor of 「老夫子」 and his Triumph, and also I've always liked motorbikes ever since I was young. Adding the above elements together, I became a classic bike fan.

## Daytona 500

There are lots of things that cannot be explained, let's just call it fate. Owner of a 1973 year Triumph Daytona 500 Michael came across this bike on the Island's side in 2003. This bike was left on the street like a trash, even the cover over it was broken with holes, and nearly all the chrome on it has been oxidized. If it is seen by an outsider, it would definitely be described as a mass of scrap iron. But luckily this Triumph Dayton 500 has met it's admirer. Influence from his father, Michael loves classic bikes and cannot bear to see the Triumph Daytona 500 with such “care”, so he wrote a note to see if he can buy the bike from its previous owner.

## Reborn

2 years later, after a long period of repairing and fixing. Michael followed all the detailed steps to fix the bike, his Triumph Daytona 500 eventually got a new life.

## 4 Speed Daytona

Some rear facts, this 1973 year Triumph Daytona 500 is a 4 speed transmission design. According to Michael, the bike can go wherever it wants by using gear 3 or 4. And there is an indicator of gear changes on the gear box. There will be indication every time the gear changes, it may not be a very practical function, but it is a very rear and unique design, and it added a few more classic element towards this bike. The maximum speed of this 32 year old classic bike is 120km/h, but Michael had changed parts such as a new piston and mid-engine. And now the max speed is 150km/h.

## Trident 750

A classic bike lover Tony Hughes is a member of the Classic Bike Club. His favorite bike is Triumph Trident 750cc which was manufactured in 1974; we can tell that the owner takes really great care of the bike as the body has remained the original exterior. And the square shape indicator light is a classic icon of all English Classic Bikes.

This Trident has an unique English way of operation, and is a challenge for most riders. That is all because of the entirely swap of the left right operating pedals---Left foot is for rear brake control, and Right foot is for switching of gear. Memories and practice is needed in order to get hold of the operation. And in order to ride as smooth as Tony, endless practice is essential.

Owner of this Trident weights around 200 pounds and the bike still has enough force, it shows the power of lower gear when the engine starts that it is a very practical and yet powerful engine.

And switching to higher gear on the road is very smooth as well, it corners really well along the curves of the road in Sai Kung. And for a 31 year old bike, it is doing a fairly good job. And I most adore the low and deep sound of the exhaust pipe; you can fall in love with that sound and never get tired of it.

### Tiger 100 Love at First Sight

阿齊 came back to HK in 1995 and bump into this 1966 year Triumph — Tiger 100 which was selling off from a lady biker. And 阿齊 fall in love with this bike at the first sight and bought it off the lady, that's how the love story starts between 阿齊 and this classic Triumph.

This Tiger 100 has been repaired a couple of times and had changed a Japanese made 化油器 (fuel injection).

### History of Tiger

Triumph — Tiger series, Tiger 80 was released in 1937, Tiger Service has always headed the OFF ROAD Direction in the designs of bikes.

But we asked Triumph's franchised operation manager Mr. Ian O' Reilly if the firm would put more resources on dealing OFF ROAD Bikes in HK, but he said there will not be further resources to invest in the Rally bikes just yet.

According to 阿齊 , "The bike used by the HK police in the early days is this type of Tiger 100, only that they spray it all white.

