

1923/5 Indian OHV 8 Valve Racer.

Engine No. A61-5

Eric PRICE while apprenticed to Rhodes Motors in 1924 worked on this bike. He commented, "the engine in this bike (but not the machine), once held the world's speed record of 125MPH. The record was set when it was ridden by Indian factory rider, Paul ANDERSON at Sellick's Beach, South Australia in 1925.

The engine was built in the Racing Department of Rhodes Motorcycle Co, Melbourne by Jack MORRIS, using a new 612 cu inch ALTONA 4 cam base, the cylinders and pistons of the 500 cc 4 valve single speedway engines. Morris also built the special loop type frame into which this engine was fitted. Later information indicates that there were probably three of these engines built by the Indian factory race department.

ANDERSON brought this engine to Australia for RHODES who were very in with the factory because of their outstanding sales achievements. In the late 1920s Sid GOWER, Rhodes Motors professional sidecar racer installed the engine into the current frame and set the 90MPH lap record at the Melbourne Motordrome.

An article regarding this record being established at the motordrome appears in T.O.B, Issue 4, pages 64-68.

My thanks go to GDL Auctions for some of the information and photos. Further details were provided by well known Victorian enthusiast, Lindsay URQUHART. He in fact built a replica of this 8 valve machine.