



JAWA Motorcyclist



SPROCKETS

The Snail loses tooth



Jawa 250 model 597, often referred to as the Snail is now a year old. She has 9000 k on the clock and has survived her first winter on the road. There is nothing unusual to report on her 9000k service. The port tappets were adjusted slightly. The side casing was removed and the filter cleaned but it was not dirty. I have used 15 grade fork oil in the front forks as I felt that the 20 I used last time made them too stiff. The rear brake hub was a little seized so I cleaned and oiled the break cam. I had changed the tyres to Avon Battleaxe but the rear has worn badly. This may be because it is one of those dual tyres which can go front or back. The front tyre has lasted well. I am very pleased with the performance of the loobman. All in I feel the bike is holding up well.



The Snail is used mainly around Dublin so city driving with some motorway is the winter diet. Now that the days are getting longer and the Club events are around the corner I was thinking of how I could improve the performance of the bike on the longer runs. It took me a while to get used to the 250 engine coming from a 500cc machine and at first I admit I did push the little machine. But I have relaxed into the bike now, the cruising speed of the bike is between 6000 and 7000 rev. 6500 rev from the engine is worth 90k on the road with my weight. I looked and there is no room to increase the size of the engine sprocket. So I have had a new rear sprocket made with one tooth less. This uses up nearly all the adjustment in the chain. But not so much as I could remove a link yet. It is early days but so far I reckon it gives me between 3 and 5 K extra cruising at 6500 rev. I need to do some more mileage to see what it does for fuel figures but it should improve them. So far the bike feel exactly the same around town. On the little bit of motorway I do the engine seems well able to pull. I will keep you informed as to how I get on. But I am already wondering could I get away with losing another tooth.



Mick Doran