

JAWA Motorcyclist



JAWA 250 Model 597 with 26,000k on the clock

The 250cc JAWA affectionately known as the Snail now has 26,000k on the clock. It has been a while since there was a report on the bike. This is for a very good reason. There is nothing to say. I became a reborn JAWA pilot in 2010. Having had a long history with JAWA 2 strokes, what attracted me was the familiar cycle parts, old fashioned styling and shinney 4 stroke engine. The desire was to find a simple, easy to work on, reliable, economical, little run around. The bike is used all year round, the winters by and large are mild in Ireland.

My first impression gave the bike her name. Snail, yes she is slow. Leaping from a 500cc machine to 250cc you do not expect to find the speed nearly halved. But over time the bike has speeded up and I have slowed down to find a suitable compromise.

The bike is now running on Metzeler tyres. They have taken a while to bed in but I favour them over the Battleaxe they replaced. The bike has used up a Battleaxe front tyre and two rear tyres one Battleaxe one Roadking. The purchasing of a digital tyre gauge was a wise investment. As the bike is used to commute, there is the intention to check the tyre pressure when stopped for petrol but not the time. So now at the weekly cleaning and once over the tyres get the TLC.

To improve the cruising speed the Snail has dropped two teeth off the rear sprocket. The bike will now hold a speed of 100k between 6 and 7000 rev. This is comfortable for the engine and keeping up with traffic. There is no noticeable difference around town. Also no excessive gear changing due to headwinds or hills. The silencers have also been changed but on reflection the benefits are not worth the expense.

The Snail is eating its second chain. The chain being exposed, even more exposed now that the rear sprocket is smaller, does demand maintenance. A Loobman chain oiler has prevented tight spots but in hard conditions a little spray is no harm. The loobman does cover the stand and silencers with oil also. This can turn brown as the bike gets hot. Light oil is the easiest way to clean this. At the weekly once over the chain is the dirty job. But in the winter it must be done.

Reflection:

I am enjoying my JAWA experience. The bike is living up to my expectations. The engine is the strongest feature on the bike. She is a fun city runaround. We have done longer trips. If you choose roads to suit the bike the journey is still fun but the bike lacks the speed to safely travel on motorways.

Wish List:

You would never present your partner with a wish list but that is the difference between a bike and companion. A side stand, is needed. A main stand that is less physically challenging. Tidy cables and a better fitting exhaust and silencer. Durable join of the exhaust and silencer. Full chain guard and fork gaiters. Improved suspension.