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Press release

## Two strokes or four?

### **Bremen Classic Motorshow: Motorcycle special show presents retrospective of two and four-stroke machines**

Friday 5 november 2021 · Generations of motorcyclists, buyers and designers faced the fundamental decision: What engine type should they choose – two-stroke or four-stroke? There were technical, financial, tax-related, registration-related and above all emotional arguments for each type. The results were furrowed brows and heated discussions as well as plans made, rejected and pushed through. From the early 20th century up to the 1990s, progress made with each type constantly challenged engineers working on the other. So it is well worth looking back over these decades of parallel development, in the form of the motorcycle special show at the 20th BREMEN CLASSIC MOTORSHOW from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 February 2022 at MESSE BREMEN.

The two-stroke engine with its double firing order and fewer moving parts was always an attractive option for engineers and dealers. Low-cost production, low weight and good power generation on the one hand, but difficult lubrication, high fuel consumption and tricky gas changes on the other. Four-stroke types demanded more investment from producers and purchasers. However, this paid off in the form of smooth running and lower fuel consumption. But other downsides were higher weight, more complex maintenance and expensive repairs.

#### **Special show: Two-stroke and four-stroke models in all classes**

The general view is that two-stroke bikes are rough, robust and powerful, while four-stroke models are considered classy, heavy and high-maintenance. There is no better or worse, just like the world is not black or white. The Bremen Classic Motorshow will display pairs that divide opinion on loan from the motorcycle collection of the PS.SPEICHER museum in Einbeck. They will illustrate how two and four-stroke engines spanning all decades, cubic capacity classes, vehicle types and nations provided fuel for controversy. Each type found its champions, although some jumped camps for their next purchase. 110 years ago, the driving comfort provided by the Scott twins and their successes on the racetrack threatened the dominance of four-stroke engines. Only later did sophisticated four-stroke models in sports restore their reputation. It was a long journey for two-stroke engineering from the 1920 Scott Squirrel to the 1989 Yamaha RD 350 YPVS. The Bremen show will span the history of development from the much-admired Douglas Boxer manufactured in 1922 to the agile Honda CB 1 - 400 dating from 1989.

Between these two reference points, two-stroke and four-stroke bikes from all classes will be on show in Bremen: the cult bikes Honda Dax and Simson Schwalbe as well as the more obscure motor scooters Moto Guzzi Galletto and Progress Strolch. Also represented are the superbikes from the glam-rock era such as the Honda CB 750 four and the Suzuki GT 750, the legendary "water buffalo". Sporty 250-class bikes with both drive concepts were already available in the 1930s. The lighter BMW R 23 and the complex Triumph BD 250 (both dating from 1939) show how rivalry drove development in the key 250 class. The 1958 Gilera 150 Rossa Super and the DKW RT 175 S illustrate the sharp contrasts that could be found between road models with sporty driving characteristics in the late 1950s. At least 20 motorbikes will be on show.

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**Bremen Classic Motorshow 2022: Only for vaccinated or recovered visitors / mask requirement is lifted**

The pandemic meant that this year's classic show could only take place in virtual form. The classic vehicle community heaped praise on the organisers for what they achieved online. It now seems certain that the anniversary edition in 2022 will take place as an in-person event once again – under “2G” rules. This means that only people who can provide evidence of vaccination or recovery from Covid-19 will be able to attend. People who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons (and can prove this with a doctor's certificate) can attend the Classic Motorshow if they present a proof of a negative corona test on the day of the event. "This solution ensures a high degree of safety and a return to something like normality", says the Project Manager Frank Ruge. The “2G” rule dispenses with the obligation to wear a mask.

The Bremen Classic Motorshow will take place under “2G” rules from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 February 2022 in all the MESSE BREMEN exhibition halls. The latest information about the show and the hygiene concept is available at [www.classicmotorshow.de](http://www.classicmotorshow.de).

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About the Bremen Classic **Motorshow**: Since 2003, the Bremen Classic Motorshow has become established as the first classic vehicle trade show of the year. Over three days every year, collectors and grease monkeys, first-time fans and long-term enthusiasts, dealers and restorers, clubs and friends get together in the MESSE BREMEN halls to chat and talk shop in a relaxed atmosphere. In 2020, the classic vehicle show notched up a new record: 45,582 visitors. 738 exhibitors from 12 countries ensured a wide-ranging, varied programme. In 2021, for the first time in its history, the organisers were forced to cancel the live event because of the pandemic. Instead, they put together an online event in the form of a five-hour livestream. The next Bremen Classic Motorshow will take place from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 February 2022 in all the MESSE BREMEN exhibition halls.