

**NEW YORKER Dave Roper rode into history in the first Classic Bike Historic TT to become the first ever American to win a TT race.**

The 34-year-old unemployed maintenance engineer took his Team Obsolete G50 Matchless to a start to finish victory taking the flag 28 seconds ahead of Ian Lougher on another G50.

In a race that had the TT crowd lapping up the sounds of yesteryear, Roper nearly didn't make it past the first corner.

Clutch slip away from the line unsettled the American and after a close call at Quarter Bridge he nearly dropped it at Braddan and then again in Union Mills.

But once back in the groove he soon took the lead on the road and was never headed.

## Battle

Irishman Steve Cull rode a brilliant race to win the 350 class and take his first TT victory. Despite a persistent misfire, Cull still finished third overall after a tremendous dice with third 500 finisher Geoff Johnson.

At the end of lap one Roper was a comfortable 15 seconds ahead of John Cronshaw and Sammy McClements who were holding joint second place. The expected challenge from practice leader Dave Hughes never materialised. Starting last Hughes just had too much work to do through slower traffic and never made it above fourth place. He finally ran out of petrol on the last lap.

## Yank Dave makes golden oldie history

Ian Lougher completed a fine but uneventful ride but third place 500 man Geoff Johnson got into trouble when his visor misted up when the rain came down on the second lap.

After starting first alongside Cull, Johnson was locked in battle on his Manx Norton with Cull for half the race before the Irishman's faster Syd Lawton 350 Aermacchi proved too much.

Aermacchi's dominated the 350 class, taking the first five places with Jimmy Miller making it an Irish one-two in second place just six seconds behind Cull and Paul Barrett in third. Miller and his faithful 350 have now completed seven years of racing together in the Island.

Fourth home in the 500s was Ray Knight aboard the

# NOT OBSOLETE!

## RESULTS

Historic TT — three laps 113.2 miles  
350cc

	h	m	s	mph							
1 S Cull (Aermacchi)	12	02.6		94.26	18 A Alnall (250 Ducati)	1	29	01.8			
2 J Miller (Aermacchi)	12	08.6		94.13	19 D Ellis (BSA)	1	32	20.8			
3 P Barrett (Aermacchi)	14	30.2		91.15	20 J Scaybrook (AJS)	1	33	01.4			
4 A Cathcart (Aermacchi)	15	30.6		89.94	21 P Bosman (250 Aermacchi)	1	34	58.0			
5 J Stephens (Norton)	16	42.2		88.58	22 L Easton (Norton)	1	37	55.8			
The above receive silver replicas								23 L Devlin (Aermacchi)	1	40	15.2
6 R Roebury (Honda)	18	07.4		86.93	Fastest lap: Miller 23m 45.4s — 95.28mph, lap 1						
7 S McDermid (250 Suzuki)	19	14.4		85.70	500cc						
8 R Fitzsimmons (250 Suzuki)	20	42.0		84.15	1 D Roper (Matchless)	1	10	36.6			
The above receive bronze replicas								2 I Lougher (Matchless)	1	11	18.2
9 J Curry (190 Honda)	20	50.0		84.01	3 G Johnson (Norton)	1	12	12.6			
10 V Dundak (Aermacchi)	21	01.2		83.82	The above receive silver replicas						
11 E Crooks (250 Suzuki)	21	19.2		83.51	4 R Knight (Triumph)	1	16	55.6			
12 E Crooks (250 Suzuki)	21	24.2		83.47	5 K Inwood (Norton)	1	17	16.2			
13 N Watts (182 Honda)	21	39.2		83.17	6 N Jeffries (Norton)	1	18	04.0			
14 R Niven (Aermacchi)	22	19.2		82.50	7 J Hartson (BSA)	1	19	40.2			
15 B Hill (Aermacchi)	22	30.4		82.51	The above receive bronze replicas						
16 R Simmons (250 Suzuki)	26	41.6		78.32	9 J Findlay (Norton)	1	22	45.4			
17 C Walton (Aermacchi)	27	24.4		77.69	10 A Dugdale (Matchless)	1	24	08.2			
Fastest lap: Roper 23m 17.2s — 97.21mph, lap 1								11 G McCaw (Velocette)	1	29	02.0
								12 F Rutter (Aermacchi)	1	29	33.6
								13 B Rodd (BSA)	1	31	45.6

same 500 Triumph he took to victory in the 1968 production race. Knight had hoped to beat that race winning average of 90.09mph but the rain stopped him. "I didn't get to be this old by going fast in the wet," he said after the race.

## Flagged

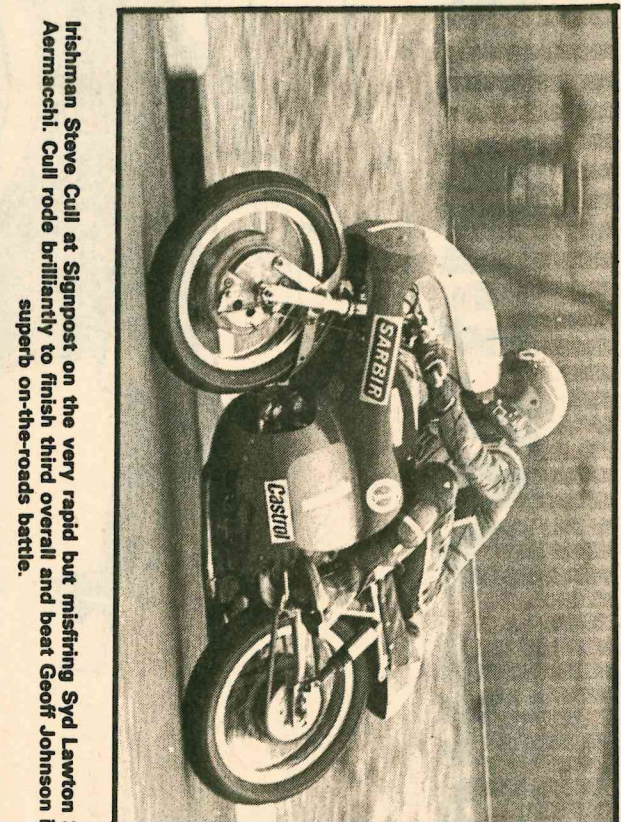
Richard Cuts, second on the practice leaderboard, went out at Ballaugh on the first lap while John Cronshaw

crashed at Creg-ny-Baa on lap two while holding second. Sammy McLements took over in second but stopped at Ramsey with engine problems on lap three.

First 250 Mac McDermid, on his Suzuki Super Six, was black flagged at Ramsey on lap two with a loose silencer. He tore the offending article off the bike and despite three seizures on the Mountain made it home in 13th place overall.

Despite the troubles the race was marked by tremendous enthusiasm both from the crowd, who waved the survivors on throughout the last lap, and the riders who battled round bravely on their oldies.

As Dave Roper said: "It was really enjoyable out there — I really had a ball."



Fishman Steve Cull at Signpost on the very rapid but misfiring Syd Lawton Aermacchi. Cull rode brilliantly to finish third overall and beat Geoff Johnson superb on-the-roads battle.