

1924 Motorcycles Triumph - 3½hp Model R 'Ricardo' Racer

3½hp Model R 'Ricardo' Racer
Sydney

- Lot sold
USD 13 634 - 20 451
EUR 13 078 - 19 617 (listed)
Year of manufacture 1924
- **Brand colour** Black
- **Condition** Used
- **Location** 
- **Motorcycle type** Street
- **Colour** Other
- **Recommended fuel type** Normal

Description

Lot No: 324

1924 Triumph 3½hp Model R 'Ricardo' Racer

Frame no. 339975

Engine no. 91950 HRI

Triumph's early output was confined to side-valve machines, but in 1921 the appearance of the Coventry firm's first overhead-valve model caused a sensation. Based on the existing SD ('spring drive') model, whose frame and engine bottom end it inherited, the newcomer sported a four-valve cylinder head designed by automotive engineering consultant, Harry Ricardo. Although the 'Riccy' was unsuccessful at the Isle of Man TT races, a works bike ridden by Frank Halford broke the world flying mile record in 1921 with a speed of 83.91mph.

The first production models arrived in 1922 equipped with a cast-iron rather than the racer's steel cylinder barrel, but otherwise were much the same, featuring paired parallel valves set at 90 degrees in a pent-roof combustion chamber, bifurcated inlet port and separate exhausts. Druid girder forks were fitted until Triumph's own design was ready. Economy rather than

Bonhams Collectors' Motor Cars & Motorcycles, Sydney 25 June 2011

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