
1994 Honda Motorcycles Other

Stafford , 23 April

Lot sold **USD 13 835 - 19 369**
GBP 10 000 - 14 000 (listed)

Year of manufacture 1994

Condition Used

Location

Motorcycle type Street

Colour Other

Description

The ex-Noboru 'Nobby' Ueda, Givi Racing
1994 Honda RS125 NF4 Grand Prix Racing Motorcycle
Frame no. 01

Purpose-built Grand Prix racing motorcycle
Campaigned by one of the top riders of the day
In-period Grand Prix history

Having left the market for over-the-counter road-race machines almost exclusively in Yamaha's hands for most of the 1970s, Honda returned with single-cylinder RS125 and twin-cylinder RS250 models. Although Honda's return to the Grand Prix scene with the overly complex NS500 four-stroke would prove abortive, the company's moto-cross programme ensured that it had not fallen behind its rivals in terms of two-stroke development. Based on moto-cross technology, the new RS duo soon had the better of their Yamaha equivalents and went on to dominate their respective classes in Grand Prix and national racing for much of the 1990s.

This particular RS125 was raced during the 1994 Grand Prix season by the Japanese rider, Noboru Ueda. Born on 23rd July 1967, 'Nobby' Ueda, as he was affectionately known, was exclusively a 125-class rider, beginning his Grand Prix career with a win in his debut race at the 1991 Japanese Grand Prix. For 1994 he joined the Givi-sponsored team, GBC Corse, run by the former MV Agusta race mechanic, Giancarlo Cecchini. 'Nobby' won three Grands Prix that year - Malaysia, Italy and France - and finished 2nd in the 125cc World Championship behind Kazuto Sakata. Although he never won the

125 World Championship, Ueda did finish 2nd again: in 1998, on that occasion behind Valentino Rossi. After a twelve-year career at Grand Prix level, he announced his retirement at the end of the 2002 season having won 13 Grand Prix races. Ueda now runs his own team - 'Team Nobby' - which competes in the All Japan Road Race Championship.

Original and complete, the machine offered here represents the RS125 as raced by Ueda during the first part of 1994, distinguishable from the later version by virtue of its un-braced swinging arm. Ueda's Honda carried the number '5' for the first part of the year (he had finished 5th in the World Championship in 1993) and for the final few races the number '2', Nobby having already clinched 2nd place in the competition. Team GBC Corse is still operating, led by Giancarlo's son, Mirco Cecchini, and participates in the World Championship in the Moto3 category.

Bonhams 1793

Title Mr

First name Jamie

Last name Knight

101 New Bond Street

London

W1S 1SR

United Kingdom

Phone +44-2074477447

Fax +44-2074477401

<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/23600/>

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