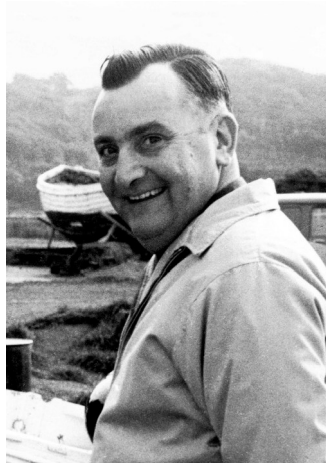


TED (WILLIAM EDWARD) WASSELL

Chairman 1969 – 1971



Ted Wassell was born on 31st July 1923 at Arnold in Nottinghamshire.

He and his wife, Elizabeth were married in August 1955.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1938 - 1942	Shop Manager at Vale-Onslow Motorcycles, Birmingham
1942 – 1946	During World War 2, Ted served in the Royal Navy and the Fleet Air Arm, starting out as an Air Mechanic and completing his service as a Chief Petty Officer. He served on 790 & 890 Naval Air Squadrons and was mainly based in the Mediterranean theatre of operations.
1946	Shop Manager at Vale-Onslow Motorcycles, Birmingham
1947	Founded W E Wassell Limited, Manufacturers & Distributors of motorcycle products. Became its Managing Director

Ted rode in competitions during WW11 (whilst on service) eg. Despatch Riders trials Etc.

Post War - Member of The West Bromwich Throstles MC & CC. Participated in Trials Competitions winning numerous cups and trophies.

1964 - Manager of the USA International Six Day Trial Team whose team members included Bud Ekins, Pete Coleman and Steve McQueen.

- Ted was interested in motorcycles from an early age, rebuilding them at home. He paid his sister 3 pence to help him carry his motorbikes up to his bedroom.
- During the war he was permitted to keep a motorcycle on board his ship and used to take part in North African desert trials whenever possible.
- His ambition to build his own motorcycle was realised when he produced kit bikes using the BSA Bantam engine. He was immensely proud of the *Wassell Antelope* (trials) and *Gazelle* (scrambler) and over 2000 were mainly exported to the USA for which Wassells won the Queen's Award for Export in 1973.
- Ted collected and rode vintage motorcycles (especially Matchless), his modest collection including several unique and prototype bikes including a special Ariel Square Four, some of which can now be seen in The National Motorcycle Museum.

Outside motorcycles, Ted flew private aircraft for pleasure and was a sometime West Bromwich Albion football supporter.

Ted died following a heart attack on 10th March 1975