



ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLES - ACCESSORIES AND RELATED ITEMS

**HUMBER RACING ORDINARY CA 1885 53 INCH**



**SOLD**





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### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

#### **Humber Racing Penny Farthing 53 inch ca 1885**

From 1870 to 1885, the penny farthing had a brief, but visually lasting, effect on the development of the bicycle with its very large, and distinctive front driven wheel and small rear wheel. It was called a penny farthing after two British coins of the period, the large penny and the much smaller farthing, worth a quarter of a penny.

Penny farthings were difficult to mount and dismount, unstable because of their high centre of gravity, and could pitch the rider at speed over the handle bars from braking too hard, swerving or hitting small obstructions on the road.

Despite only being able to be ridden by the young, fit and athletic, they were very popular both on the road and in racing.

The penny farthing cost the equivalent of several month wages.

They were made to measure and this 53 inch (134 cm) model would have been suitable for a rider of approximately 5 ft 9 inches (174 cm) in height.

It was elegant, simple and efficient as well as smooth and graceful to watch, and soon developed a cult following.

By the 1880s the modern world was in the middle of a cycling boom.

Journals were published, races organised, clubs established, and intercity cycle trips undertaken.

Members wore knickerbocker suits and pillbox caps.

This British Humber 53 inch (134 cm) ordinary or penny farthing bicycle is in a complete and overall good condition.

It was built in Beeston, Nottinghamshire.



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