



ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLES - ACCESSORIES AND RELATED ITEMS

**SUNBEAM 1931 LION 500CC 1 CYL SV**



**SOLD**





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### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

#### **1931 Sunbeam Lion Longstroke 492 cc cc side valve, frame#BI0059 engine# J5308**

The Wolverhampton based firm of John Marston earned fame for their superb bicycles in the early years of the last century.

In 1912 their first motorcycle was presented, a 350 cc side valve model ( 75x 79 bore and stroke) with a 2-speed gearbox.

Soon the capacity was increased to 500cc, and also models with proprietary V-twin engines were made.

Sunbeam motorcycles gained fame for their very high standards of workmanship, their speed and their reliability: races all over Europe were won in the early half of the twenties with machines equipped with the very fast and reliable “ Longstroke” side valve engine with bore/stroke of 77x 105.5 mm. In June 1930 the Longstroke model was restyled, it got bought-in welded steel petrol and oil tanks.

It was designated “ Lion” because the Lion was one of the ICI trademarks.

From September 1930 all Sunbeams got the new Webb-type front forks with centre spring.

The “Lion “ was one of only four models that were in the Sunbeam catalogue for 1931: the world Depressions had cast a dark shadow over motorcycle sales.

In the catalogue were the Model 10 344 cc OHV, the Model 9 and 90 493 cc ohv and the Lion.

Later in 1931 a 598 cc version of the Lion would become available.

This machine had dimensions of 85x105.5 mm.

This reliable, high quality Sunbeam tourer is very suitable for vintage rallies.

It is equipped with Lucas electrics and is an older restoration.



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