Bike of the month

It's 41 years since a Gilera finished a race on the Isle of Man Mountain Course. But this glorious replica did, and came tantalisingly close to a 100mph lap on its way to a hard-fought seventh place.

**Riding**

Pat Selton put heart and soul as well as all his spare cash into the Gilera dream, and made that dream come true by completing the four lap Manx Grand Prix Senior Classic. Selton finished seventh at an average of 98.246mph with a fastest lap of 99.905mph. The Gilera's performance and its exciting, erratic exhaust note were highlights of the Manx fortnight.

**RIDER:** Pat Selton  
**OWNERS:** Mark Kay/Pat Selton  
**BIKE:** 1967 500 Gilera-4 replica  
**YEAR BUILT:** 2003

This exquisitely Gilera-4 replica is the machine that took seventh place in this year's Manx GP Senior Classic and came tantalisingly close to a 100mph lap. It raced at the Manx last year, remembering the glorious Gilera-4 to Isle of Man racing for the first time in 40 years. Magneto trouble put the glorious exotic out on the first lap, but this year it completed the classic world's most gruelling test.

One of a limited run of six examples, created by Mark Kay and his father Dave of Kay Engineering in Staffordshire, this example is jointly owned by Mark and rider Pat Selton, a topshop salesman from Windermere in the Lake District.

Now with self-generating electronic ignition from Rev Count, the dohc four is based on the 1967 works bike that set the first 100mph lap on the Mountain Course, ridden by Bob McIntyre. Selton, 41, was hoping that he too could do a 100mph lap. He came within a whisker at 99.905mph on lap two, the chance compromised by a planned pit stop. This stop meant that he had no flying laps in the 150/150 mile four-lap race.

But he was more than pleased with his Swan song ride on the Mountain circuit. Now 41 he has decided to restrict his racing activities to short circuits henceforth. He was due to ride at the Goodwood Revival races on 10-11 September.

"Everything I could have spent on a bike has gone into this. I am chuffed to bits. It's an excellent result really, winning a Silver Replica. And it's such an achievement by Dave and Mark Kay. The Manx is the ultimate test without a shadow of a doubt," said Pat after the race. "I could have ridden better, but you always can.

To get the distance the Gilera was destined to 50mph at the back wheel from 85mph last year.

Please to have achieved a goal nurtured for nearly ten years. Mark Kay is now concentrating on his next project — replicating the MV-70 MV.3. He hopes to enter one of these MV triple replicas in the 2007 Manx Grand Prix. To finance the scheme, he and Pat are contemplating selling the Mark GP Gilera.

"With what has gone into it and its result, it has to be worth about £30,000," said Mark.