

# The First Victory Motorcycle in Europe W.W.W.

## Why When and Where

This story started back in 1997 and its time for a motorbike may be a Cruiser, after test rider a few makes and finding nothing much that I liked, I notice that there was a old name coming back to the market in Excelsior Henderson from Belle Plaine, Minnesota, looked interesting and was hoping to be on the market in 1998 so the wait begins, in the mean time another cruiser is in the press Victory Motorcycle from Spirit Lake Iowa it was unveiled on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1997 so what bike should I go for ? after a bit of research the better bet is looking like the Victory as this company is part of Polaris Industries with a bit more cash behind it.

While working in New York in Sept 1998 I see that the dealers are going to get 2 bike each to start with ( the first one rolled of the line in July 4<sup>th</sup> 1998 but there did not get to the dealers until the last quarter of 1998 recall stuff) so time to part with some money I found a dealer in Longwood Florida that was going to get some of the first batch so phone him and place a deposit for \$1000 against a red/black V92C, on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> that year I make my way to Longwood Florida to pay the balances \$13,263 and make the arrangements for the shipping the dealer is still waiting for mine to be delivered, I do get to view a blue one he had on the shop floor that was sold.

I get the call on Dec 29 1998 my bike has been delivered and is off to the airport for shipping to the UK , I pick the bike up on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> from Heathrow airport with the works lorry and get my Red& Black V92C home. I then have to wait until I get the paperwork sorted before I get to ride it official on the road on Jan23<sup>th</sup> 1999.

On my first ride I made my way down to see Mum in Warnham, Sussex, a few bad points noisy gear change, bit of a wine from the gear box, and the speedo mists up the joy of living in a damp country, but well happy with my first new cruiser its first trip to Europe was in May 21<sup>st</sup> 1999 to Ostendee Belgium while touring the Flanders area we stopped for a coffee and this Italian guy was amazed to see a Victory, what surprised me even more was that he knew all about it , up to that point every one seemed to think it was a new HD model named Victory ? you all know how that is.

**Why** Because I could and it was different.

**When** First on the road in the UK Jan23<sup>rd</sup> 1999 but the hunt started in 1997.

**Where** Banstead, Surrey, UK

V92C 99-03	10k miles
Vegas 03-10	57k miles
Cross Country Red 10-14	36k miles
Cross Country Red-Silver 14	21K miles

Now on my 4<sup>th</sup> Victory having done over 110,000 miles its been a great ride and I have met a great number of Victory riders here in the UK, the USA, and now in Europe.

Barrus were the UK imports for Polaris Industries and brought in the First Victory motorcycles in to the UK

In the 4 years I owned the V92C it had a new Fuel pump, 2 front discs, and a custom rear shock to improve the ride, she is still running and looking very good for a 17 year old bike.

In 2005 the UK Victory rides went on a trip around France for a week ending up in the Coast Brava Spain here is a copy of the article that is on the Vicowner.co.uk website.