

AUTO-VAP MOPEDS AND CAPRI LIGHTWEIGHT SCOOTER

Importations by Elswick-Hopper subsidiaries

THREE French mopeds new to the British market were introduced to the Press at the Savoy Hotel, London, on November 9 by Scootamatic Ltd., of Glaisdale Drive West, Aspley, Nottingham. The models are the Auto-Vap Standard selling at £55 13s. 0d.; the Auto-Vap De Luxe, at £59 17s. 0d.; and the Auto-Vap Super De Luxe, at £68 5s. 0d. All the prices given include purchase tax.

The models were introduced at the Savoy by J. L. Turner, chairman of Elswick-Hopper, of which Scootamatic is a subsidiary, who was supported by Maurice Moss, E-H managing director and H. Easdale and Bert Crofts, E-H directors, as well as by representatives of the French ABG company, which makes the VAP engine, and E. L. Mallalieu, MP for



THE AUTO-VAP DE LUXE MODEL, with occasional seat, price 58 guineas.

the Brigg constituency of Lincolnshire, in which the E-H factory at Barton is situated.

Mr. Mallalieu congratulated the Elswick-Hopper directors on their enterprise in bringing in the new range of mopeds from France, an action which would assist business relations between that country and Britain. Mr. Turner then introduced the French directors, one of whom thought that the moped business in Britain was still capable of great expansion.

The automatic control of the Auto-Vap mopeds by single twist-grip control was stressed by Maurice Moss, who said that ABG had made 1½ million two-stroke engines and sold 20 per cent of the French output of these.

In answer to questions, Mr. Moss said that initially there would be importation of 1,000 mopeds each month, and that supplies were also available now. The main sales outlet would be the retail cycle trade, in which Elswick-Hopper had much support; and he commented also that full spares and service kits would be available to dealers.

The mopeds were then welcomed with dashes of champagne by Mme. Marie-Clarke Verlene, star of the show French Mistress.

Further details of the new mopeds and their



THE STANDARD AUTO-VAP MOPED, is extremely simple to operate.

background, as supplied by the Press and public-relations organization of Elswick-Hopper, are given below:

A high-performance moped with single twist-grip control, made by one of the foremost engine and electronics firms in France, is now available in Britain and the Commonwealth. Known as the Auto-Vap, the machine is elegant and reasonably priced. It is easy to ride and maintain and its simplicity will prove an advantage to people with no technical knowledge.

The new moped—which will be available in a range of three machines—is powered by the 49 c.c. Vap engine made by the ABG company of Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Hazebrouck and Courbevoie. The engine unit is a single-cylinder two-stroke which develops 1.75 b.h.p. at 5,000 revs. per minute.

The main features of the Auto-Vap are an automatic clutch; single twist-grip control which cuts out gear-changing; a high-voltage ignition and lighting generator; and a carburettor with automatic choke.

The electronics unit, known as the Magneclair, is noted for its strength of spark at low speeds which is so necessary for easy starting. Its high tension and lighting coils can be removed without tools.

The carburettor has a semi-automatic starting device which guarantees easy starting, even in the coldest weather. The automatic progressive clutch ensures smooth power take-up.

The Auto-Vap's brakes are 3½ in. diameter, with bonded linings on alloy shoes. The Auto-Vap moped will be marketed in three main models, the Auto-Vap Standard, retailing at 53 guineas, the Auto-Vap De Luxe, price 57 guineas, and the Auto-Vap Super De Luxe at 65 guineas, all prices including purchase tax.

The Auto-Vap De Luxe model will also be available fitted with an occasional seat and will

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retail at 58 guineas. This seat is intended to carry a junior and the machine is capable of a non-pedal assisted start with this load.

It is impossible to 'stall' the machine, owing to the automatic clutch.

All models are fitted with long-reach telescopic forks, and the Super De Luxe model includes telescopic hydraulic rear suspension, a speedometer, an electric horn and a headlamp dipper-switch.

The Standard model is coloured in two-tone blue, the De Luxe model is available in turquoise and cream and the Super De Luxe Auto-Vap in red and cream. The De Luxe and Super De Luxe machines have a tool-compartment incorporated in the fuel-tank.

A heavy-duty luggage carrier is a standard feature on all three models. A specially designed detachable shopping bag is featured for the Standard model in grey or ocelot with lightning fastener.

The Vap 49 c.c. engine is made by the ABG company, one of the foremost French engineering and electronics organizations.

New French factory

The ABG organization includes the moped and motor-cycle manufacturing firms of Rhonson at Lyons and Lucer at Hazebrouck. The company is also building a new factory in Bordeaux, as an extension of its existing premises. Vap engines themselves are completely made at the ABG works at Courbevoie.

The Magneclair and electronics equipment are made entirely in the Paris factory and then transferred for assembly together with the engine parts from Courbevoie.

The Scootamatic company has been appointed sole concessionaire for the full range of French Auto-Vap mopeds in Great Britain and the British Commonwealth. It is also planning to introduce its own British moped of an advanced design next year. This machine will be powered by the same engine as is used in the Auto-Vap mopeds.

Sales and service organization is centralized at Nottingham, with sub-depots at Hounslow (London) and Stockport (Manchester). Stocking and distribution of Auto-Vap mopeds from Wolverhampton and Cheltenham is also envisaged.

A team of service specialists and technical demonstrators has been formed to supplement the existing sales force. Each salesman has one of these technical demonstrators with him on his territory to demonstrate and give advice on the maintenance of the Auto-Vap.

Further details:

Dimensions	Standard	De Luxe	Super
Wheelbase (in.)	44½	44½	46½
Ground Clearance (in.)	5½	5½	5½
Width over bars (in.)	23½	23½	23½
Tyre sizes	23 by 2	23 by 2	23 by 2
Petrol tank capacity (pints)	5	9½	9½

RODGERS OF ANFIELD OWNERSHIP

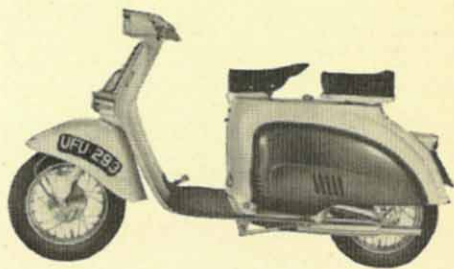
G. Collins, the proprietor of Rodgers of Anfield, 155 Breck Road, Anfield, Liverpool, 4, writes to say that he is sole proprietor of the concern, and has been since 1946.

In the "Trader" dated August 7, there was a reference in a caption that might be interpreted otherwise. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the inaccuracy, which has just been brought to our notice by Mr. Collins.

CAPRI SCOOTER READY

At the Savoy Hotel on November 16, the 70 c.c. lightweight Capri scooter, made by the well-known Agrati Company of Monticello, Como, was introduced. It is being marketed in this country by a British company, Capri Scooters Ltd., of Glaisdale Drive West, Aspley, Nottingham, which has been appointed sole concessionaire for the United Kingdom and British Commonwealth.

The Capri is of lightweight construction and



THE CAPRI SCOOTER, as a two-seater model.

employs a 70 c.c. Garelli fan-cooled two-stroke engine, which features twist-grip control and a constant-mesh three-speed gearbox.

The Capri scooter has a highly efficient braking system and 12 in. diameter wheels equipped with 3 in. section tyres, which are fully interchangeable.

The frame, design and construction of the Capri scooter are outstanding examples of modern styling, and combine the respective merits of tubular and pressed-steel members to form an absolutely rigid frame-unit.

The machine is also equipped with a substantial tubular front-fork, with trailing-link suspension and the rear suspension of the machine is by pivoted fork controlled by telescopic suspension units.

The retail prices are: Single seat model, £95 11s. 0d., including purchase tax; the dualseat machine sells at £96 12s. 0d.; and the pillion-seat model at £97 13s. 0d.

The scooter has approximate fuel consumption of 140 miles per gallon, and a top speed of between 40 and 42 miles per hour.

A wide range of accessories is available for the Capri scooter.

About 20 high-quality items will be available for the British market. The most attractive of these is perhaps the steering cover embellishment on the front of the machine which covers the horn. The retail price of this steering cover, which includes a blue transparent Plexiglass section and is made of rust-proof anodized aluminium alloy, is £1 16s. 0d.

Other accessories include a collapsible luggage carrier; a windshield; rear-view mirror; chromium-plated strips for the leading edges of the front frame; chromium strips for protecting the panel near the kick-starter and decorations for the front mudguard.

Kettle's current cycle list

Now available from Kettle's, the Maidstone and Bromley wholesale house, is a current (November) cycle accessories list, of which a strong feature is a well-classified index.

MoT appointment

The Minister of Transport, the Rt. Hon. Ernest Marples, M.P., has appointed J. D. R. T. Tilney, T.D., M.P., as his parliamentary private secretary.

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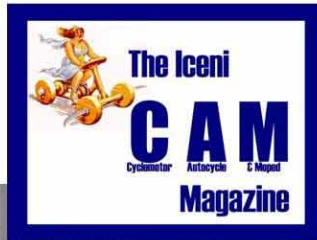
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