

I first started racing back in the early 80s. A guy I worked with was racing, and me being a bit of a speed demon at the time on my RD400 street bike with Ace bars (clubman bars to Americans) a Rickman 3/4 fairing and Harris expansion chambers, decided that I should convert the RD to a race bike.

Well, my first race meeting was a little bit of a disaster, I had tried to make some rear set footpegs, and the linkage wasn't exactly sturdy, and failed tech (or as I prefer to call it scrutineering). So it was a race to scrounge round the paddock area to see if I could somehow get it all put together for the first practice session. Well, I just managed to do one practice wearing my orange jacket. (Novices had to wear one for the first 10 races). But after the first practice I noticed that Yamaha RD400s when pushed a lot harder than you can safely do so on the road tend to have a hinge in the middle of the frame. I asked some of the more experienced riders what to do about it, and they said fit a steering damper. Fortunately, I guy called Bob Heath (well known at the time) was at the track with his van full of supplies and I was able to get a steering damper and fit it in time for the first race. that one broke 1/2 way through the first race, so it was back to Bob for a replacement. It was just as well I had an excuse, :) because I had been lapped by one of the really quick riders on a Yamaha TZ-350 and not expecting that I ended up on the grass.

The next race was the production class that I was hoping I would be more competitive. This turned out to be a lot of fun which set me up ready for the rest of the season, where I got rid of the orange jacket, and saw me improving every race, which is everyone's goal. For various reasons, which I don't even remember now, I stopped racing after about 4 years.

Fast forward to 2008, Tony Foale came to work for Segway, and I went to the July USCRA race at Loudon to see Tony race. Well, as most of you can imagine, as soon as I was there, I was itching to be on the track, and not just spectating. I had a couple of RD400s that I was working on for the street, so I decided I would get one ready for the next race in September that year. Well since then I have been riding the RD and I guess being reasonably successful. And now to the whole point of this exercise is to explain how I got involved with Zeke, the Triumphs and the Gate City endurance team. At the banquet, Zeke asked if I had an interest in riding one of the triumphs in the Endurance team that year, Well, I was quite pleased to be asked, and that is how it all happened.