

1975 Yamaha RD350

Sold: £2184 (\$4680)

When Yamaha's RD350LC hit the streets in 1980, it seemed to have descended from another planet. With its quick two-stroke engine, liquid cooling, agile handling and efficient brakes, it left many four-strokes looking inadequate.

Riders voted with their feet – and their money – and soon the fast and stylish stroker was everywhere. It had come not from some other galaxy, but was a progression from earlier Yamaha models.

Its immediate ancestor, the RD350, was released in 1972. The air-cooled,

parallel twin-cylinder had Yamaha's seven-port 'Torque Induction' system, which was claimed to improve engine breathing and throttle response. It was certainly high-tech for the era.

According to the brochure output was 39bhp at 7500rpm, although the US magazine *Cycle* put their test bike on a dyno and found only 30 of the promised ponies at the rear wheel. The RD's top speed was more than 160km/h, not bad for a 350cc in the 1970s.

An Autolube fuel system, a lightweight, double-cradle



steel frame and a double-piston front disc brake completed the competent package.

Club racers and café racers alike loved the RD. Specialised parts quickly appeared – go fast bits for the track and bolt-on glitz for the posers. The model

was in production until the end of 1975.

This bike, a recent import into the UK from the US, was sold unregistered.

The auction was held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford Cambridgeshire, UK.

From H&H Auctions