



A terrific action shot from the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim, with Luthringshauser and Hughes on the ex-Scheidegger outfit

BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE'

gium - which included some cobbled sections of road - we lapped everyone on our homemade outfit.'

Early in 1967 he hitch-hiked back to Mettet where he met an Australian solo rider who Geoff offered to help. They travelled to Hockenheim in Germany, then [via Austria] to an international road race meeting in the former Yugoslavia.

'We were sat in our tent one night when a vehicle screeched up outside and a guy got out. It was Helmut Lunemann and asked me if I would ride with Heinz Luthringshauser at the TT?

'I answered yes and got a lift with an American rider named Marty Lund and a Canadian pal to Otterbach, near Kaiserslautern, where Luthringshauser lived and later founded a bike museum in an old church.

'It was the dead of night when I got there and found the house. Heinz's sister answered the door and let me in.'

So started a partnership with the German ace that lasted three seasons.

'The first thing he did was take

me to a garden allotment area where I practised sliding in and out of the outfit with him. Heinz rode with a left-hand chair, unlike most Continentals, as he had a wooden lower right leg.

'Two weeks later we were on our way to the TT and what was our first race together.

'Heinz was obviously a lot quicker than Roger Ford, but unfortunately the bike broke down at Waterworks and we did not get a finish.'

They went on to ride all the GPs at iconic venues like Imatra (Finland), Spa (Czechoslovakia) and Montjuich Park (Barcelona, Spain).

'Assen was a real buzz and we had a fifth at Spa Francorchamps, I loved it there.'

They also raced out of season for

cash in Spain.

Luthringshauser bought the outfit Swiss ace Fritz Scheidegger had crashed and died in at Mallory Park early in 1967. He and Geoff raced that, less the engine and transmission.

Geoff got some winter work breaking up cars for a Czech guy



Geoff enjoying his favourite tippie, a bottle of Guinness

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