

The Boathouse

7 Westcliff

Sheringham

Norfolk

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31st March, 1974

Dear Louis,

Thanks for letter. We manage to commiserate with one another over the bad news. I presume that as you already have your RAC competitive licence no-one is to be the wiser about the other matter... Perhaps the less said about that the better. I would most certainly attend, at least with the Aprilia, as this would not seem to matter particularly.

We have now run into some snags with the 2nd Series Aprilia 4-branch. First we have run out of 1 3/8" 16 gauge pipe and there seems to be little available but I have been promised fifty feet in about a fortnight. We have fabricated the front and rear ports, numbers 1 & 4, which will combine underneath. Now we find that, although it looked as if there was plenty of room to get them through between the bulkhead and engine bearers, this is just too tight on to take these 3/8" pipes, so we will have to heat and square up the 6 inches where they pass the engine bearers. Quite honestly, it does look as if this will slightly alter the appearance of the unit when it is out of the car but when installed there should be no visible difference. Furthermore, as the ports themselves are slightly less than 1 3/8" circular area of the pipe, there will be no restriction of gases, which is the thing that really matters.

We do like to make them attractive, as they are always a focal point to Lancia people, but more important, apart from their obvious help to breathing, they must be made so that they can be removed and fitted without removing the engine. We found that the ideal way for us would be to put two pipes in front of and the other two behind the bearers, but this would rather complicate their fitting and removal. However, as you are yet to organize your mains or big-ends, you will not be pressed for exhaust emission for a few weeks. I have wondered if you will have them at Weborn at the AGM or if I should get them to Harry's, but this can wait a little.

Thanks for the photograph, which I have sent to Nigel Hargreaves. It is always difficult to reproduce colour in black and white, as you may know, but at least it is a try.