

# JOEY DUNLOP

## KING OF THE ROADS

### 1952-2000

William Joseph Dunlop was born at Culduff, near Ballymoney, on 25 February 1952. His career as a motorcycle road racer is unrivalled and earned him an MBE in 1986. He inspired loyalty from a legion of fans spread over every continent. Exhaustive humanitarian work set him apart from any sportsman of his day and for this he was awarded an OBE in 1996. The 'King of the Roads' was one of the most remarkable men of his generation.

Joey began racing in 1969 and within a few years had established a reputation as an exciting and talented rider. With his colleagues in the Armoy Armada he began to win trophies at circuits and road races throughout the British Isles. When his life was tragically cut short in Estonia in 2000, he had amassed a staggering 26 TT wins at the Isle of Man and 13 at the NW200. Combined with five World Championships and over 160 other victories.

**1952** William Joseph Dunlop was born to parents William and May on 25 February near Ballymoney, Co. Antrim. He follows sister, Helen, (three years his elder) and is big brother to Linda, Jim, Virginia, and the young twins Robert and Margaret.

**1967** At 15 years old, a young Joey met Mervyn Robinson who introduced him to the wonders of motorcycling. Mervyn later married Joey's sister, Helen.

**1969** Raced for the first time at Maghaberry, riding on a Triumph Triumph Tiger Cub.

**1972** Joey married Linda Patterson, his childhood sweetheart.

**1973** Joey was supported by his first full sponsor, Danny McCook, who bought him a 350cc Aermacchi. He entered his first NW200, but failed to get far off the starting line after breaking his chain.

**1975** Joined Rea Racing Team and gradually began to achieve success in local races. Won his first road race, the 500cc class at the Temple 100. Joey, brother Jim, brother-in-law Mervyn Robinson and another local rider Frank Kennedy, became known as the Armoy Armada and were regularly in the top placings at Ulster races. They often battled with Ray McCullough and his colleagues Trevor Steele, Ian McGregor and Brian Reid, the Dromara Destroyers.

