

# Munich Massive

**T**he idea of reviving the Munich Custom Show (the last was in 1996) had come up time and again over the years, but this time a group of people finally had the guts to have a go.

Organised as a joint venture by the Munich members of the Jetsons Lambretta Club and a group of vintage scooter enthusiasts, the aim was to get the two crowds together. The show would cater for the needs of the Vespa collector as well as party loving scooterboys. Combined with a massive parts fair and a full scale allnighter, it soon turned into a major event with virtually everyone from the Bavarian scooter scene involved – either putting scooters on display, selling spares, or helping to organise various parts of the event.

The Munich Blues did their part by taking over a local Irish pub, ensuring our favourite scooterist tunes would be played, and seeing to it that plenty of beer was available, as anyone arriving early on the Friday can vouch for.

The venue on Saturday was located in the middle of the famous 'Kultfabrik', a huge area crammed with nightclubs and bars in a former industrial estate. A concert hall of about 1200 square metres, including bar facilities and a gallery on the first floor, presented more than sufficient space for the show. The outer rim of the hall was completely occupied with stalls from various dealers and scooter clubs who had all grasped the opportunity to put their trash and treasures up for sale. Available was anything a scooterist could long for: from high-end tuning

goodies, new and used spares, all the way to complete second-hand scooters. In the centre of the hall and on the stage about 60 scooters were put on display. They represented the whole range of scooter customising and restoration styles Germany and Austria have to offer. The highlights of the show included a super-rare ACMA military Vespa complete with anti-tank gun in original condition, retro-racers like the Donauring Race Vespa and the motorcycle-engined Zündapp Bella recently featured in Scootering, as well as race-tuned Vespa street racers and Stoffi's repainted Enola Gay chopper. Not only was the bike now painted to resemble 70s stunt man Evel Knievel's famous stars-and-stripes design, Stoffi had spared no expense and got dressed in a porn-style white leather jacket and boots plus the matching moustache. Mental!

When the doors finally opened and the first eager scooterists were able to pile on in, the sheer amount of people queuing up was mind-boggling. The line continued through the doors and around the corner for another 100 metres. On top of that, the team had arranged for a bus to shuttle scooterists in from the north (Hamburg, Paderborn, Cologne) all the way down. Serving the bar during that time we discovered first hand that people were in a great drinking mood and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The afternoon went quickly. People were busy meeting friends from all over Germany, buying and

selling spares, relaxing with a beer and checking out the scooters on display, watching the large video installation or participating in the tabletop football tournament. At the end of the show 20 trophies were presented, including awards for Best Engineering, Best Display or the unique Best 80s Style for the retro custom bikes now fashionable in southern Germany. After that, the main hall was barricaded off while the do started on the upper gallery. The DJ line-up catered for all musical tastes, focussing on tried and tested soul and scooterist anthems, and the crowd partied on until late in the same friendly atmosphere which had been typical for the whole day.

Altogether, more than 1300 people attended the Munich Custom Show, which makes it the largest scootering event in Germany. Praise has to go to the Jetsons Lambretta Club and the guys from alterroller.de for taking the risk and making the Munich show to such a successful and professionally organised event. It is proof that, after a few lean years, the German scene is on the rise again and that things can really work out if people get their heads together and cross the usual boundaries of clubs or scenes. We hope that this will continue next year. ■

**Boris Goldberg**

