

EXCELLENT AMERICAN

We don't know who this American rider is, but we salute his innovative approach to motorcycling handling and safety. Oddly enough ape-hangers are banned in many US states. See Sturgis, p116.



SHAKEY SPLASHES OUT

BSB rider Shane 'Shakey' Byrne continues his endearing habit of splashing his cash on very fast toys. After buying a Lamborghini thingy last year, he recently bought an MV Agusta F4 1000R 312 and had it delivered to Cadwell Park. Where he was racing on a Honda. Did anyone see how the Stobart Honda team boss reacted? Email bikeneeds@emap.com

MAD LAW CANNED

A ludicrous bill that would have meant the pointless registration of all non-road bikes (including road race machines) has been dropped. Labour MP Graham Stringer thought his new law would reduce the 'mini-moto menace', but failed to appreciate that menaces tend not to register their mini-motos. Polite ripple of applause to the BMF, MCIA, MAG and various other bike pressure groups for making the government see sense.



SCIENCE BRINGS COMFIER BOTTOMS

The day when every bike seat is tailor-made to fit the exact size and shape of your arse is coming. A team of European universities are developing technology which will scan your rear-end then sculpt your perfect saddle. Rapid prototyping techniques mean foam can be quickly cut into complex shapes using a digital arse map. Sadly, the team report that the sophisticated arse scanner shown here will probably not be used. 'It's likely you'll just sit on a pressure-sensitive mat,' said Loughborough University's Christopher Tuck.



WINNERS LOSERS

PORSCHE HERBERT

A delivery driver from an upmarket hire car firm who got nicked doing 172mph in a company Porsche Turbo will no doubt be gutted to learn that his preposterous actions don't even get him into the record books. Timothy Brady, 33, faces jail for his jaunt down the A420 in Oxfordshire, but he failed to become Britain's fastest convicted speeder. That accolade still rests with FireBlade-riding Daniel Nicks, who was clocked doing 175mph in 2000.

NO TO NORA BATTY STOCKINGS

The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) claims that half of all riders are at risk from deep vein thrombosis (DVT) because they sit so still for hours on end. Apparently there's a risk that the blood in your legs slows so much it gets stagnant and forms a clot which then trundles off to cause strokes. The IAM suggests we wear compression stockings, similar to those handed out on long haul flights and worn by old ladies. *Bike* says no to Nora Batty stockings. We recommend getting off the motorway, flinging the bike round a few corners and - no matter what you're riding - hanging off like Casey Stoner. You know it makes sense.



LONDON BIKERS

The London congestion charge may be causing more bike accidents, not less. First reports suggested that the reduction in cars within the zone meant fewer bikes (which pay no charge) were getting knocked off. This is still the case, but the latest research shows this could be outweighed by the increased number of crashes just outside the zone. The research continues but it's thought the rise could be due to the increased number of bikes heading into the zone, rather than a manic scrum just outside it. See p22 for your legal guide to town crashing.



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