

NEWS

INVESTIGATION

SPEED GUNS CHALLENGED

MCN reader questions laser gun evidence - and could set precedent for millions in refunds

BY STEVE FARRELL

THOUSANDS of riders could be entitled to millions of pounds in compensation if an MCN reader wins his court battle against a speeding fine.

Spurred on by an MCN investigation which showed a commonly-used laser speed gun can give inaccurate readings when pointed at bikes, Yessin Meggaro is using our evidence to challenge a speeding charge against him.

Meggaro, 27, from Bristol was stopped by police while riding his Suzuki GSX-R600 on the A4 in Bath. He said: "They claim the bike was doing 37mph in a 30 zone, but I know my speed was 30. I'm going to fight this all the way."

Meggaro has applied for legal aid to fight his case, after we put him in touch with Kirwan's Solicitors in Wirral (0151-608-9078). Partner Paul Ford has agreed to represent him.

Ford said: "We are monitoring the situation closely and will look at all the options available to Mr Meggaro as and when the case progresses."



YESSIN MEGGARO: prepared to take legal battle all the way

In July, we revealed that the laser gun used in speed camera vans all over the UK had never been tested for accuracy on motorcycles despite worries over its reliability. The handheld gun was given type approval by the Home Office for police use without the crucial test.

Paul Smith, founder of Safe Speed

and one of the country's leading road safety campaigners, said: "The Home Office must immediately suspend type approval on these devices, pending a full investigation. If Meggaro's case eventually goes to Crown Court, it will set a legal precedent, then people will be entitled to appeal against previous convictions based on the police using an LTI 20.20 camera."

"Millions of people will be entitled to refunds, licence points removed, and in some cases compensation. At an estimate, over five million people have been convicted on laser speed meter evidence in the last five years. The cost of refunds alone could run into many millions."

Engineering professor John Brignell says the error is caused by the laser moving a tiny distance over the surface of the target - an effect called "slip". He added that the camera only need to move by "about the thickness of a human hair" for the error to occur.

The accuracy of the guns has already been questioned by leading authority Dr Michael Clark, chairman of the European Standards Committee on Vehicle Detectors.



BIG ONE GP JACKET

4 RACE 1 PC SUIT
WAS £749.95
NOW £529



SAVE
£220.95



OMEGA WP JACKET

WAS £184.95
NOW £123.50

UPTO

66% OFF SPYKE CLOTHING

SALE NOW ON AT YOUR LOCAL DEALER

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| BERKSHIRE
J&S NEWBURY Tel 01635 30353 | LANCASHIRE
THE ROCKET CENTRE Tel 01254 297810 | INFINITY GUILDFORD Tel 01483 511144 |
| BRISTOL & SOUTH WEST
J&S BRISTOL Tel 01179 314334 | BIKE GEAR ASHTON Tel 01613 437444 | J&S NEW MALDEN Tel 02089 495731 |
| FOWLERS M/C Tel 01179 770466 | LINCOLNSHIRE
ROBSPED M/C Tel 01472 268714 | SUFFOLK
J&S IPSWICH Tel 01473 225335 |
| J&S PLYMOUTH Tel 01752 603428 | GEARCHANGE Tel 01724 280888 | SUSSEX
J.W. BRODBRIDGE M/C Tel 01435 862466 |
| CHANNEL ISLANDS
GORDON BISSON M/C Tel 01534 727897 | LONDON
METROPOLIS M/C Tel 02077 939313 | C.M.W. M/C Tel 01243 782544 |
| CHESHIRE
BILL SMITH M/C Tel 01244 323845 | SQUARE MILE Tel 02072 361913 | SOUTH WALES
BIKE GEAR BRIDGEND Tel 01656 665366 |
| J&S NORTHWICH Tel 01606 48691 | FIRSTLINE M/C Tel 0208 3615151 | SOUTH WALES SUPERBIKES
Tel 01633 279790 |
| DERBYSHIRE
CRUSADER LEATHERS Tel 01246 454921 | WANSWORTH HONDA Tel 02089 719495 | SCOTLAND
J&S HAMILTON Tel 01698 422900 |
| DORSET
BOURNEMOUTH KAWASAKI Tel 01202 635140 | INFINITY HANGER LANE Tel 02089 915969 | WEST MIDLANDS
KESTRAL HONDA Tel 02476 703900 |
| ESSEX
POLE POSITION Tel 01702 392660 | INFINITY GT PORTLAND ST Tel 02076 375002 | MAGNUM Tel 01902 427915 |
| HARPER'S M/C Tel 01702 482016 | J&S GREENWICH Tel 0208 3052111 | WYLLIE & HOLLAND M/C
Tel 01952 248969 |
| HAMPSHIRE
J&S PORTSMOUTH Tel 02382 267713 | HARPERS FOREST GATE Tel 0208 5198666 | J&S BIRMINGHAM Tel 0121 7667665 |
| HERTFORDSHIRE
LLOYD COOPER Tel 01923 221125 | MERSETIDE
MILLENNIUM M/C Tel 01744 616161 | BIKERS WORLD Tel 01217 471284 |
| J&S WATFORD Tel 01923 250007 | NEWCASTLE & TEESIDE PROTO Tel 01912720888 | YORKSHIRE
BIKE GEAR Tel 0113 2380053 |
| GIRLSBIKE 2 Tel 01462 434350 | TEESIDE LEATHERS Tel 01325 354997 | B.F.M. Tel 01274 532777 |
| KENT
CHAMBERS HONDA Tel 01622 755999 | NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
J&S NOTTINGHAM Tel 01159 458700 | J&S DONCASTER Tel 01302 327722 |
| AYE GEE M/C Tel 02088 564273 | SURREY
STEVE JORDAN M/C Tel 01372 453322 | J&S LEEDS Tel 01132 456030 |
| | INFINITY PURLEY Tel 02087 636700 | |

Leathers Textiles
Gloves Womens

SPYKE RAISING THE STANDARDS



'The Barry Sheene Memorial provided some close racing'

INACCURATE cameras could be responsible for millions of pounds in unjust fines against motorcyclists



Goodwood celebrates past glory

MORE than 100,000 people visited last weekend's Goodwood Revival meeting at the legendary Sussex circuit where bikes played a bigger role than ever before.

Although Goodwood was predominantly used for car racing in its 1950s and '60s heyday, the revival hosts the Barry Sheene Memorial bike race, which provided some of the closest racing of the weekend.

Plus, hordes of visitors, most in period dress, were greeted by a stunning display of pre-1966 bikes in prime position near the circuit's entrance.

Jo Watts was instrumental in organising the display, inviting members of three Rockers' clubs to bring bikes dating from 1945 to 1966. She said: "We started coming here five years ago with just two bikes. The following year we had six, then 12. But this year we've got 63.

"More and more people

are coming dressed as mods and rockers each year. They've always been a key part of the Goodwood Revival."

The bikes weren't just a static display, either, as they took to the track each morning before the racing as part of the daily opening ceremony.

Watts said: "Most of these bikes have been owned by the chaps since they were young. We've got some of the original rockers from Brighton beach here – they're the ones that really understand the spirit of Goodwood."

MCN got into the spirit, too, entering the Barry Sheene Memorial races as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. Our own Michael Neeves lined up alongside legends like Wayne Gardner, Jamie Whitham and even ex-F1 racer Gerhard Berger to compete in the bike event. Read about his experience on page 24.



ROCKERS added to the period feel of the Revival



EX-F1 racer Gerhard Berger



F1 pundit Murray Walker



MCN editor Marc Potter



GP legend Wayne Gardner

Harry: 'One loves bikes'



Marie Testino

COOL pose, but why the artificial mud Harry?

PRINCE Harry has spoken openly for the first time about his love for motorcycles in an interview held last week to mark his 21st birthday.

Posing in motocross gear on his brother William's Yamaha XT600, Harry's face was allegedly even splattered with mud by make-up artists for that off-road look.

But even though the Prince was being presented as a biker, he wasn't allowed to show off his skill for the press because he'd forgotten his helmet.

Harry, who owns a Yamaha DT125, said: "William and I both bomb around the fields. It shakes the cobwebs out." The brothers ride their dirt bikes around their father's farm in Gloucestershire.

The Prince's candid remarks about motorcycling show that a love of two wheels runs in the family. William was pictured last year on a Triumph Daytona 650 and his grandfather, the Duke of Edinburgh, has been spotted riding a monkey bike around his palatial grounds.

200mph+ MV Agusta!

JUST when you thought MV Agusta couldn't create anything more exotic, it's come up with its most powerful machine ever – the 200mph F4 Veltrio.

Built by MV's race department, only 23 of the track-only bikes will be made, with a price of over £30,000. Weighing in at just 170kg, its top speed is claimed to be over 200mph.

And MV Agusta's UK importer, Three Cross Motorcycles, says it's prepared to bring the Veltrio here if it gets enough interest.

The slick-shod machine makes a claimed 190bhp, and hints at what we can expect from the F4 homologation special

for WSB that is due to be launched at the end of this year.

That bike will be even more powerful, and even more expensive. It will get an even more highly developed engine, with around 200bhp – MV reckons it has already successfully tested race-spec motors with 220bhp.

Basically a WSB bike with lights, only 150 will be made – enough to homologate it for international racing.

At over £41,000, it will be expensive for a road bike, but relatively cheap for serious racers – as virtually all the parts you need to be competitive on the track will already be fitted.

DON'T expect to see this at your next trackday



Is it real or is just a game?

THE next generation of motorcycle console games has been leaked to MCN – and it's more lifelike than anything before.

Called the Tourist Trophy, the game is not based on the Isle of Man, but is set in a large city where players can race more than

250 different bikes, including Honda's Blackbird and NSR250, Yamaha's MT-01 and Majesty scooter(!), Kawasaki's ZX-10R and ZRX1200 and Suzuki's Katana and GSX-R600.

Sony UK was tight-lipped about the exact details of the game, but confirmed it's being developed by Polyphony Digital, the company behind the massively popular and ultra-realistic Gran Turismo car racing series.

The game claims to mimic motorcycle behaviour exactly – meaning wheelies, sliding into corners and spinning up the rear on the way out. It will be released in Spring 2006 on the Playstation 2 and 3, with a price yet to be confirmed.

