

40 WEEKENDER FEATURES

ON YOUR BIKE



DAVID NEELY

How Biker Ed took the Curvy road ...

At 5ft 3ins and a mere slip of a woman at 6½st the advice given to Ed couldn't have been more straightforward: "Forget about motorcycling, you're too small and too light. Find something else".

Definitely not one to give up easily, her reaction was equally straightforward.

"To be told this was like a red rag to a bull. I wasn't going to give up and I didn't", says the girl who wants to be known simply as Ed.

From Co Down, Ed is the founder of the newly-formed Curvy Riders MCC, which has set out to attract members from Britain, both parts of Ireland and the Isle of Man.

The bad advice given to Ed was dished out six years ago. Since then she has gone on to pass her test and her current bike is Yamaha's top sportster, the R1.

Her first bike was a Honda Hornet 250, a four cylinder grey import, then she graduated to a Ducati 620 Monster. From that naked bike she took the plunge into the sports world and bought a Yamaha R6, before moving up the cc scale to her current R1. And just in case anyone thinks



You'll never make a biker, Ed (on her R1) was told

that she uses her bike for posing, forget about it.

"I try to keep my bike immaculate," she says. "I ride it throughout the year and on average do about 16,000 to 17,000 miles annually."

That's more than some riders would do in five years — from memory, Glass's guide gives annual mileage at about 3,000.

Ed has left Northern Ireland and is now working as a sec-

retary in the NHS in Scotland. With no history of biking in her family, she was breaking new ground with her first machine.

"I'm very passionate about all things biking and after helping many lady bikers clubs/events promotional wise, I thought it was about time to do something by myself and formed Curvy Riders MCC just over three weeks ago," she explains.

Now, she's busy planning the

programme for next year. "We have loads of things in the pipeline, including regional ride-outs and national events.

"The club will offer a relaxed, pressure-free and, most importantly, fun biking experience for members."

Ed says that the club's ethos is to have "serious" biking fun. It is also "non-political and non-lobbying with no hidden agendas" and welcomes all lady bikers who share this thinking also.

"It doesn't matter what style of bike prospective members have or if they are about to complete the bike test. Curvy Riders MCC also actively encourages trike riders to join in the fun."

The club, she added, was on track to become an excellent motorcycle resource for lady bikers and in doing so was already reaching a wide audience within this very specific biking sector.

The club can be contacted via its website, www.curvyriders.co.uk or by email: curvyridersmcc@btinternet.com Ed's mobile no is 07950 748693.

Good luck to Ed and her club. More women than ever before are taking up biking and Curvy Riders MCC has come along at the right time for them.

Bridgestone takes Wing

ROAD TEST

IT'S ironic that the most important component on a bike is not made by the manufacturer — instead it's left to an outside supplier.

But that's always been the way with tyres (unless someone out there knows better).

Bridgestone has a lot riding on its new covers for trailie bikes, Battle Wings BW 501-502, launched earlier this year.

So keen was the factory to learn how well the tyres would fare on our roads that it put up a set for testing by one of the readers of this column. Joe Lamont has now

clocked up 3,500 miles in a few months on his BMW R1200GS and he's well pleased with how they have performed.

"The rear tyre started out with 9mm of thread and now that is down to four," he says. "I reckon that I have easily as many miles left in it as I have covered."

Importantly, he reports that the profile of the rear still looks quite good and has not started to square off.

As regards grip? No fair weather motorcyclist is Mr Lamont. He rides throughout the year in all weathers and the Battle Wings have given him no nasty moments.

"They are as good as anything I've ridden," he says.

Joe is a highly experienced and top flight rider.

Unlike some, he doesn't talk a good ride, he does it.

From this first report, Bridgestone has got it spot on with these tyres, with the ideal combination of good grip and good wear.

Watch this column for further updates.

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