

ALL THE LATEST...

NEW KIT

Clothing and accessories being used by the RiDE team

TESTED FOR FIVE WEEKS



Oxford Bone Dry R9 Sports boots £95

Contact: www.oxprod.com

These are perfectly decent budget sports boots, but one of the pairs we've been testing leaked the first time we used them in proper rain, which makes nonsense of the claim that they're waterproof.

Leakage aside, they're OK. Flexible yet supportive, they have reinforcements on the heel and ankle, an anti-crush tempered steel shank, a plastic toe cap, a soft shin guard designed to absorb shock and an anti-twist moulded nylon sole.

They're very comfortable but not well shaped for the chubby calved among us, who will struggle to get the zip and Velcro done up properly.

They are available in black, blue, red and white, in sizes 5-13. **CO**

TESTED FOR TWO MONTHS



Rok straps £18

Contact: www.motohaus.com

These straps have finally taken over from my trusty old cargo net as the strap of choice. Consisting of stout webbing with loops at each end, they have a strong stretchy section with a secure clip in the middle.

They don't mark the paint as much as bungees and there's a huge range of adjustment to suit your bike and load. At no point have they gone loose on the move or refused to do what I wanted or had a time when they wouldn't do what I wanted while loading or unloading. I've even used them for towing a friend's stricken off-roader from the mud.

Their uses are endless, but I'll let you know if I hit a snag. For now, brilliant. **MH**

TESTED FOR 165 MILES



Buell Mesh Jacket £140

Contact: www.buell.com

Safe to say this isn't one for everybody. It's a jacket with mesh as its outer layer. Zip out the removable lining and you're left with pretty much nothing but mesh, and some Buell logos. With the lining in, it looks pretty normal. With the lining out, you're an extra from a gay disco scene in *Ashes to Ashes*. It's actually very nicely done - well made, useful pockets, very light. But even on warm days it gets chilly at normal riding speeds.

It comes in sizes XS to XL, in black only. **CO**

TESTED FOR 120 MILES



Forcefield Tornado base layer

Contact: www.johnsonleather.com

These base layer trousers, worn next to the skin, are windproof, breathable, thermal and help wick moisture away from your body, keeping you warm and dry. They also help with getting leathers on and off due to their tight fit and silky material.

I used these recently for a chilly ride up to Cadwell Park and found them just as comfy when the sun came out, riding round the track. They kept me cool as much as they kept me warm. **MH**

Scorpion EXO-1000 Air helmet £300

Contact: www.thunderchild.co.uk



Here's an innovative new helmet from an American manufacturer returning to the British market with a new range.

The EXO-1000 Air is the top model, boasting a lightweight tri-composite aerodynamic shell with nifty sprung visor system to ensure a perfect fit, an easy-to-use quick release visor with a lever to lock the visor down or hold it open slightly for extra airflow, a double D-ring fastening system for the strap, an internal tinted drop-down sun visor and plenty of venting.

The interior is really trick. The removable lining is made of moisture-wicking Kwikwick, keeping you cool and sweat-free.

Then there's the Airfit cheek pads. These have air pockets behind them that you pump up with a small button in the chin bar that makes the fit snug and tight to your cheeks. This gives a superb fit and also makes the EXO-1000 very quiet by keeping the wind out.

I've used this helmet now for around 2000 miles and I'm impressed. Fit is always a personal thing but for me it's good. The venting works and the Airfit system really does quieten down the wind and makes the helmet feel secure

I'm not a huge fan of internal sun visors, and this one could be slightly deeper, but the proper visor is so easy to change from plain to tint and back again that I hardly use the sun visor.

It's available in a good range of sizes and there are stacks of designs to choose from too. **MH**



Quick release mechanism for visor is easy to use