

Vroom with a view

IT'S only a mirror but already it's being heralded as the next big thing in bike safety.

And it's the brainchild of a Scots biker. Stephen Hunter, from Irvine, Ayrshire, has already found investors and financial backing for his RiderScan.

It is a parabolic curved mirror which provides the rider with an extended view of the areas alongside and behind him.

In short, it's a permanent "lifesaver" (when a biker glances over their shoulder before switching lanes) right in front of your eyes.

With a world patent pending, it's about to go into full-scale production.

Stephen said: "I was in bed thinking, after yet another incident involving a vehicle that was in my blind spot - despite using my mirrors and 'lifesaver' - and I had an idea that a mirror might be the answer."

His "eureka moment" came at breakfast the next morning when he spotted the wife's frying pan hanging up beside the cooker.

He said: "It gave a reflection of the whole kitchen with me standing there. I knew that was the answer."

So convinced was Stephen that he cut up the pan and stuck it on the front of his bike. And although the reflection was hazy, it worked.

Since then, he's been developing his invention and



Biker Stephen's mirror set to be real lifesaver

showing it to experts and investors.

Stephen said: "There isn't anything like the RiderScan on the market."

"There are other blind-spot mirrors but they are mounted to the sides of the motorcycle on the existing handlebar mirrors, outwith the rider's forward line of vision."

RiderScan sits (with mounts provided) on the screen or atop the yoke. And I have to say, the results are impressive.

While conventional mirrors give a view, they miss that immediate inside rear view alongside the bike.

Only a clear "head over the shoulder" look identifies anything in that area. And even with the RiderScan there's no way I would make a move without a "lifesaver".

But the beauty of the new mirror is that it is permanent and it gives you a clear view of what's alongside you at a

glance. It works particularly well while exiting the motorway, when you've got a fraction of a second often to take the move.

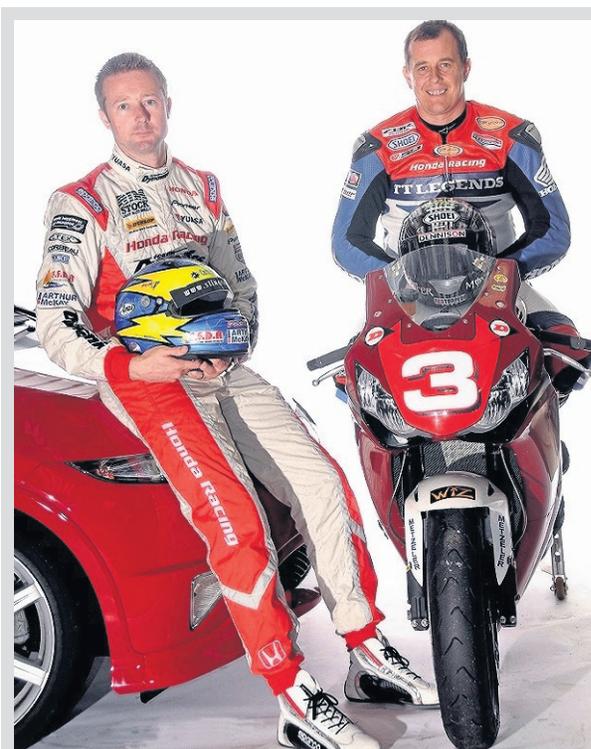
A production run has already started and while retail outlets will be few and far between until distribution deals are set up, you can get info and ultimately order via www.huntercreate.com

At a time when we're paying hundreds of pounds for ABS and with the Eurocrats threatening to make us all wear day-glo jackets and limit engine size, it's refreshing to see something coming on the market that could genuinely save a biker's life.

And it won't cost anything near the price of keeping a Euro MP in luxury. In fact Stephen is determined it should cost no more than £30.

Stay safe and think about a RiderScan - there's more at www.recordrider.co.uk

VISIONARY
The new mirror gives the rider a clear view of what is going on around him before he switches direction



Race greats team up

BIKERS will recognise the TT legend and Honda rider John McGuinness - but who's the geezer with him?

The Irishman was at Knockhill this week giving race classes and met Gordon Shedden, the Honda driver who dominated last weekend's British Touring Car Championship. Gordon

- part of the management team at Knockhill - is a bit of a biker himself, riding a Blade on trackdays. He's also invested in a Shadow.

McGuinness was happy to share a few tips on how to ride the TT circuit but drew the line at trying out his Honda colleague's new bike on the tight Fife track.



Designs on a Sands special

AMERICA'S custom genius Roland Sands met West Coast Harley trio Don and Fiona Rutherford and their own design guru Fraser Hines at a dealers' conference in California.

And it now looks as if there could be a collaboration to design a unique West Coast Harley. The trio sweet-talked Roland (pictured second right) into letting them see his amazing cafe racer, based on the 883 Sportster.

Don was so impressed that he bravely asked the USA's number one designer if he'd come up with something for Glasgow.

A very happy Don said: "Watch this space, is all I can say right now. But it's going to be stunning."

You can see more on www.recordrider.co.uk

Ducati rack up 300 wins

DUCATI'S World Superbike victory at Silverstone didn't just extend Carlos Checa's lead over the series, it marked a record 300 race wins for Ducati.

While Checa now has a comfy 62 point lead over Biaggi, Ducati lead the manufacturer's title.

Ducati's record winning streak started with the very first UK race at Donnington in 1988, when Marco Lucchinelli topped the podium.