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BARRUS EXPANDS SCOOT RANGE

A NEW line of Chinese-made scooters has been launched in the UK under the brand name "Generic". Starting at under £1000, some of the bikes are styled by Gerald Kiska, the man behind KTM's latest designs, including the stunning RC8. There are five new models available, including the £899 Cracker 50, the XOR 50 and Ideo 50 at £999 and the £1099 XOR 125cc. Contact www.barrus.co.uk

DUCATI JOINS HIGH SOCIETY

SALON PRIVÉ, a high-society garden party themed around luxury supercars and aimed at the rich and famous, will feature two wheels in the form of a Ducati area. The three-day event, at the Hurlingham Club in West London, starts today. It will star machines including the Desmosedici RR, 1098 and Hypermotard. But don't turn up expecting a family day out – tickets start at an incredible £125 per person, per day.

'PRECIOUS METAL' FROM KAWASAKI

KAWASAKI has added extra models to its "Precious Metal" 0% finance deal. Brand new 2007 models like the Z750, Z1000 and Versys are all now available on 0% APR [typical] finance over three years with only a £99 deposit. The offer runs until September 10. Kawasaki's current "Precious Metal" campaign on the ZX-6R sports bike has been extended until August 31.

MULTI-VEHICLE TEST CENTRE FOR LEICESTER

CONSTRUCTION company Bluestone has completed a new £820,000 Multi-vehicle test centre for the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) in Leicester. The centre is one of around 35 that Bluestone is building across England and Wales. The centres are being developed to cater for the new, tougher, bike test, to be introduced in October next year, which require much larger off-road areas for testing to take place on.

MCN EXCLUSIVE

IAM claims motorcyclists at risk from deep vein thrombosis

Experts warn us to take regular breaks to prevent onset of DVT

By Steve Farrell

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HALF of UK riders risk leg problems, and in worst cases deep vein thrombosis, due to riding long distances without breaks, according to the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is the formation of blood clots in deep veins, often in the lower leg. It can lead to complications ranging from swelling and pain to, in rare cases, death. The condition is more commonly linked to long-haul flights.

Peter Rodger, chief examiner for the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), said compression stockings available from chemists could lessen the risk by helping to maintain circulation.

Rodger said: "Compression socks to aid the blood returning to the heart is key to dealing with the problem.

"Wearing a leg support underneath the leathers can avoid long-term circulation problems such as DVT."

Long distance riding on all types of bikes can restrict blood flow and cause vein diseases and leg ulcers, according to the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation.

Ellie Lindsay, chair of the Foundation, told the IAM's annual biker conference that 600,000 UK riders could be at risk of developing problems including varicose veins. She said risk was increased by a family history of vein diseases.

'If your legs feel odd there's a problem'
STEVE MEAD, IAM

She said: "Bikers risk having blood from their legs redirected to the superficial veins, the ones near the surface of the skin, causing extra pressure that can lead to problems in later life."

Lindsay said riders should take regular stops and watch for warning signs including patches of red skin between the knee and ankle and depression of skin caused by tight riding gear.

The IAM said problems arose from calf muscles not being flexed while riding long distances, an action "key to blood flowing back to the heart unimpaired".

Rodger said riders should stop every two hours on a long journey and "walk around to stretch their legs".

Steve Mead, the IAM's assistant chief examiner, said: "All of a sudden you might feel you want to stretch that right leg or left leg out. As soon as you get that feeling, rather than stretching out your legs at 70mph, this is the time that you need to pull in and stop."

Dr William Toff, DVT expert in the University of Leicester's Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, said: "I would have thought that there could be a significant risk because of the combination of being immobile in the seat for a long period, particularly with the flex at the hips and knees that you get when riding a motorcycle, and also maybe aggravated by the constrictive clothing that people often wear."

Riding for long periods without a break can lead to the onset of deep vein thrombosis

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PRIZES ON OFFER THIS WEEK

- Andy Ibbott's 'Performance Riding Techniques' worth £19.99
- MCN Confidence Training day worth £199. **Details:** www.twowheelconfidencetraining.com
- Micron Paddock Stand worth over £30. **Details:** www.micronexhausts.com
- Bering Tornado Jacket worth £104.99. **Details:** www.bering.fr
- Bering TX06 Gloves £29.99. **Details:** www.bering.fr

TX06 Gloves worth £30

Win a place on an MCN Confidence Training Day by signing up

You could win this Bering Tornado jacket worth £105