

Job Centre's insane ban on rider's helmet  
**Go to page 12**

Van Veen revived with rotary-engined bike  
**Go to page 15**



# the road



Both the rear mudguard and petrol tank are hand-made. Small digital speedo is incorporated into petrol tank (see pic below left)

CSC headlight is situated to left side of front wheel to accommodate hand-made ally number board



Harley Crossbones-based machine gives relaxed, comfortable and super-cool ride

## Verdict

I've been lucky enough to ride some of the world's best custom bikes, including the MotoGP-engined Kenny Roberts KRV5 – and this has to be in my top five. It's easily the best one I've ridden outside the US.

The hard work and inventiveness that has gone into this creation makes it visually outstanding, but what really amazes is the fact it's rideable. If money was no object, it could be ridden and used as a normal cruiser, which is an astonishing achievement for a bike like this. Mind you, if you got caught in a rain storm you'd be suicidal!



**It's both visually outstanding and amazingly rideable**

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## JUST HOW HARD WAS WINNING AT STURGIS?

The annual Sturgis rally in south Dakota, USA is one of the world's biggest bike events, regularly attracting 400,000 visitors. And the AMD Official World Championship of Custom Bike Building is the Olympics of the custom world. Combined, the two create an extraordinary high point in the Harley community, with thousands of specials builders vying to show at the event and only a few being selected. So, for an English Harley dealer to get in and then to win, beating the American builders at their own game in their own back yard, is almost unimaginable. It's like an all-American soccer team coming to the UK and winning the FA Cup.



Harley's Steve Earnshaw collects the trophy on behalf of Shaw Harley's Steve Willis

ing or even thinking about pushing the handling, you're missing the point.

Chugging along with that rich exhaust booming in my ears, digital speedo reading around 50mph, front suspension bouncing up and down at the base of my vision, I'm in custom bike heaven. It's relaxed, atmospheric and deeply cool.

Naturally, I take every opportunity to check out my reflection in shop windows, cars... anything. To top it all off, even sports bike fans and non-motorcyclists give the Harley the nod of approval.

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