

Owner Grant had
his bike returned in
pieces by the police



Grant's Yamaha
DT125 before it
was stolen



Police sell bike then seize it back!

► Cops sell stolen bike ► Then seize it back from buyer ► Handed back to original owner in bits

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Police accidentally allowed a stolen motorcycle to be auctioned then raided the buyer's home to seize it back before returning it to the original owner in bits.

Kris Lech bought the Yamaha DT125 in



Lech bought bike at police auction
for £500 and spent £700 on parts

good faith at an official auction, only to have officers raid his home for it weeks later and spend four hours searching for additional "stolen property".

He has received no apology or compensation from the police. Because Lech had stripped the bike down for repairs, disgruntled owner Jamie Grant has received a collection of parts instead of the complete motorcycle which police recovered in April.

Tayside Police found the bike being ridden without number plates a month after Grant reported it stolen. But because of a series of failures, they didn't identify it as stolen after impounding it.

When no one claimed it, the bike was sold for £500 to Lech, who then spent a further £700 on parts.

Only when Lech applied for a new registration document from the Driver

and Vehicle Licensing Agency did police finally realise their error and seize the bike back.

'Stressful'

Lech, 29, said: "My wife called me and said the police were at the house to take my bike. It was really stressful. I've never had any contact with police before.

"I felt embarrassed that people in the street had seen what happened when I am decent and hardworking.

"I spent three weeks working on that bike and the police took the new parts I had bought as well. The police haven't been in touch with me since. I've called three times but they haven't called back."

The handyman, who moved from Poland to Edinburgh six years ago, added: "I was 100% sure this bike was clean



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KRIS LECH

and ready to put on the road. You don't expect to be buying something dodgy at a police auction."

Grant was then told he'd have to pay £125 to collect the dismantled motorcycle from a pound but the fee was later waived.

'Bags of bits'

Grant, 25, from Carnoustie in Angus, said: "I've got a chassis and tank back, with lots of bits in bags.

"I would have liked to have put it back on the road, but there are too many pieces missing."

A police spokesman said: "It's being investigated and Mr Lech is likely to be compensated."

He said errors meant the bike was not registered as stolen on the police national computer despite Grant reporting it as such in March.

Attempts to trace the motorcycle's owner after the bike was found being ridden without number plates in Dundee also failed.



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Electric bike beats R6s at Brands Hatch

An electric motorcycle has been pitched against petrol race bikes for the first time in Europe and beaten ZXR400s and R6s, writes James Sharpe.

The ARC-EV1 7.5 machine – which uses a Suzuki RGV250 chassis – was entered into the British Motorcycle Racing Club's Open Championship at Brands Hatch last weekend and though club rules meant it had to start from the back of the grid, it managed to beat a number of petrol bikes, including several Kawasaki ZXR400s and a Yamaha R6.

Rider Richie Welsh said: "We were using the track time to develop what is primarily a prototype machine, and to try to beat the current zero emissions bike lap record, which was 57.7 seconds set in 2010. We beat it once and then moved it again to a 56.55 seconds."

Unlike professionally produced electric race bikes from the likes of Brammo

and Moto Czysz, this one was built in a shed by enthusiastic amateurs.

Welsh said: "We are very proud of what we have achieved, but we also

understand this may not be everyone's cup of tea. It's like Marmite – people's reactions are one of total disdain or they actually quite like the technology."



ARC-EV1 7.5 built in a shed set new lap record for a zero emissions bike

Shaw Harley makes history

This is Strike II, one of the winners at last year's world custom bike building championship at Sturgis, which is now making it's first public UK appearance at a special Harley exhibition in Manchester.

Built by Shaw Harley-Davidson of Sussex the '40s-style 'Speedster' is based on a 2010 Crossbones and features a hand-made rear fender, special petrol tank, 1940s style handlebars and custom paint.

It's the latest machine to go on show at the Customising, Culture and Harley-Davidson exhibition at the Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester which currently features over 30 customised motorcycles from around the world.

Shaw's Steve Willis said: "Winning at the Sturgis World Custom event was a great accolade for us, particularly as it was the first year we entered. We're delighted to feature in the world premiere of the Customising, Culture & Harley-

Davidson exhibition, which spans over 100 years of this iconic motorcycle, so we really have gone down in history!"

The exhibition runs until September 11, tickets cost £8 for an adult, £2 for children, (under-5s go free), other concessions also available. Contact: www.ticketmaster.co.uk. For more information call 0844 847 2261 or go to www.mosi.org.uk



Shaws '40s-style Speedster is based on a 2010 Crossbones