LEATHER JACKETS

Classic looks combined with modern safety standards and weather protection
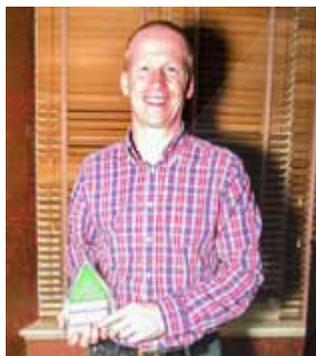
WE COULD FILL an entire magazine with leather jackets, ranging from top-notch riding gear down to casual gear masquerading as bike kit. There's plenty of good kit, but do check the swing tags to make sure it really is intended for bike use.

The RiDE-endorsed Houston Amo II from French leather experts Furygan sums up what's possible: it's tough but flexible, light and comfortable enough to wear off the bike yet constructed to such a high standard, and from such good materials, that it will offer a good level of protection in a crash.

It comes with CE-approved armour in the shoulders, elbows and back, there's a removable thermal liner, and the leather has been treated to be water-repellent. There are long and short connector zips, for attaching to your riding trousers and discreet stretch panels give a snug but not constricting fit.

FURYGAN
HOUSTON AMO II
Expect to pay £300
Contact www.nevis.uk.com

Gareth Wyatt from award–winning Furygan's British distributors Nevis

BEST BUY

LEATHER SUITS

It's more than three years since we last tested two-piece leathers, – so look out for a fresh guide in RiDE next spring. Meanwhile, the key points to look out for:
● Try them on in a racing crouch – that's the crucial position where they need to be comfy, with all the armour in the right places; it's a bonus if they're comfy off the bike
● If they're for road use, they need some pockets
● There needs to be enough room for a proper back protector

LEATHER TROUSERS

Recent improvements in both textiles and casual-looking riding jeans have squeezed the demand for leather jeans, but heavy-duty leathers are still favoured by many high-mile riders, not to mention the police motorcyclists.

Lighter, sportier leather trousers that can zip to a leather or textile jacket are unbeatable for their combination of feel and protection.

The best have stretch panels where you don't need protection, to keep the weight down and give a snugger fit.