

Trials Tales

Hierarchy

In the world of trials there is an undercurrent of social elitism in what should be an otherwise classless society. You would think that rolling up to a trial each rider would view another's bike as an equal, but no, there is definitely a high degree of snobbery happening.

At the top of the pecking order are the Montesas. Proudly boasting a noble Honda engine and a build quality second to none, the Montesa is the aristocratic bike of the trials world. Like the Rolls Royce, a Montesa doesn't look as sporty as some, maybe even a little chunky, but there's no denying their presence when lined up at the section gates. Shiny in their conservative trim, they literally smell of old inherited money.

The urban professional prefers the Beta. An ability to understand the name, Beta, indicates an understanding of the Latin language, very useful, when representing in court. Beta has the conservative looks to appeal to the upper middle classes, while exhibiting a little Italian flair somewhat like an Armani suit. The Beta is sporty, yet is sensible enough to be ridden every day. Betas are very popular, but suffer terribly when stock markets fall.



Garden party or art opening?

The bike of the learned arty-types, is of course, the Scorpa. Quirky is one way to describe their looks, which appeals to the pseudo-intellectual in much the same way French cars do. OK, it's not a BMW, but it has that Euro favour and sets itself apart from the proletariat when parked outside the nearest café au lait purveyor. Nose in the air Scorpa owners love to give sermon to persons who innocently ask; a Scor.p.a...what?

Definitely the bike of the bourgeoisie is the GasGas. A real looker, the GasGas is sleek, slim and fast, but unlike a racehorse, appeals to the middle class of rider, who want something that doesn't stand out from the crowd. GasGas riders have strength in numbers and are rarely given to fits of envy when a Montesa passes with a royal wave or a Scorpa rider stops nearby to gaze at the arresting sunset. GasGas riders are smug in the knowledge that their lithesome beauty is quite capable of whipping either of the affluent class's bikes. But, hot on the Gasser's heels and seeking to move up the scale...

...The workingman's bike is the Sherco. The Sherco is quite a looker, just like the GasGas, and has that no-nonsense "built for the job" look about it. A most capable bike, gets the job done with no fuss, just like it's owner, at least when he's not on strike or attending a union meeting. Hard to find anything wrong mechanically with a Sherco, quite capable of matching a GasGas blow for blow, but you'd never find a Montesa parked on the same trailer.

Here is a brief introduction to the social stations within the trials community. It is best to bring these prejudices to the surface if we seek a better and classless society for our children. Remember the prescient words of George Orwell: *All animals are created equal, but some animals are more equal than others.*