



Don't be a donut

IT PAYS TO LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY WITH A WHEELIE EXPERT

By VIC MAYHEW

EX-RAF pilot Simon Horwood hadn't lifted the front end off the Tarmac since he last flew a Provost T5 jet.

But he succeeded at the first attempt on a Fazer 800 at stunt genius Paul Millhouse's wheelie school.

Simon, a top instructor, was a wheelie virgin at 41 so Biker challenged him to learn how to do it under Paul's guidance.

And we persuaded Paul to take a British Motorcycling Federation blue riband test with Simon — a BMF qualified advanced training instructor — as the examiner.

Simon was to lose his virginity on the disused airport at Finmere, in Oxfordshire.

First he made a few passes at full throttle in first to get used to the rapid acceleration. Then, roll on full power in first, snap off and full on again and... we have lift-off.

Up came the anti-flip switches and soon he was lifting the bike up 45°. A virgin no more.

Spun

Simon said: "It's awesome. Indescribable fun. And it's a great lesson in bike control."

But don't try this at home. You'll improve faster, and safer, at somewhere like Paul's I Want To... Wheelie school.

Paul tipped the bike from a standing start, travelled the 150 yards of the track, did a stoppie, balancing on the front wheel for ten seconds and ended with a donut turn, burning rubber as he spun on the rear wheel.

Now for the road test. He used a wheelie bike with no lights or indicators. Nor did he wear full leathers. A blue riband was out of the question but they went on a test run anyway. Paul's riding was impeccable. Blue riband standard for sure, but no cigar.

He admitted: "I was a bit tense. I like riding on the airfield where there's nothing coming the other way."

So which is better value — a day's advanced training with Simon or a day at the I Want To... Wheelie school? I suppose it depends if you're a virgin or not.

● SIMON HORWOOD: 01280 844900

● PAUL MILLHOUSE: 01280 816 157



TALE OF TWO RIDES
... expert Paul, above, and virgin Simon, right, and inset, above