

DEBATE CONTINUES OVER COMPULSARY HEAD GEAR FOR CYCLISTS

Once again the matter of personal injury legislation was generated with sharp emphasis in the media this week because famous rower Wayne Cracknell was hit by a vehicle while riding a bicycle in the states. The accident happened in Arizona and the rower received serious head injuries.

Fortunately, Mr Cracknell looks like he will make a complete recovery but it will take time. But his injuries may have been much worse had he not been wearing protective head gear at the time of the accident. Further without that head gear Mr Cracknell may have suffered fatal injuries when struck by the large vehicle. It is typical of the many bicycle accidents occurring both in the US and in the UK.

Such accidents and the debate over protective headgear for cyclists continues and calls to make wearing a bike helmet compulsory is becoming louder and louder in those countries where to date it is not the case. A number of UK solicitors who specialise in these kinds of insurance claims agree that if someone is going to ride a bike that the wearing of a helmet should be made mandatory.

Cycling is extremely popular in the UK with bikes covering in excess of 3 million miles across the UK during the last year. Fortunately, most riders are mindful of safety and the importance of wearing safety gear. Safety equipment and lights and reflectors are usually standard practice with many riders wearing higher visibility overcoats. However the fact is still that most bike riders still do not really wear safety headwear and this will lead to an increase in head injuries and possible brain damage.

In a quarterly report relating to bike riding in America it found that in some states the wearing of headgear is compulsory although UK law makers continue to postpone the inevitable. But complacency is not the answer to the increasing trauma suffered by people who ride bicycles.

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mersin ilaclama firmalari

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