

E85 Fuel:

We have taken the decision to ban E85 Bio-ethanol fuel from CRMC meetings until the end of 2008 at which time we will discuss this matter further to come to a decision for 2009. The 2008 ACU handbook (see p.266 14.6) currently allows such fuel but we feel that although this fuel does produce less exhaust pollution, the matter is not straight forward. Here are some of the main issues:

1. There is considerable controversy over the growing of bio fuel crops which some countries are blaming for food shortages. The effect on the climate from bike racing is immeasurably small. However, the CRMC like any organisation has to 'do its bit' in order to reduce pollutants if possible and E85 would be one way to do that. There are a couple of car racing series for E85 fuel only for example.

2. The use of this fuel is not straightforward. Compression ratio, ignition timing, carburettor set up, plastic / rubber fuel components all need adjusting / replacing in order to use this fuel successfully i.e. gain a power advantage. Engines do run cooler with this fuel but more fuel is used. E85 is currently available at Morrisons Fuels Stations at a price roughly equivalent to 'ordinary' petrol.

We welcome any comments you may have on the use of E85 fuels – please leave your comments on the Forum or email to CRMCelig@aol.com