



Biker 'alive for the first time in years'

>> Latisha elated at new treatment for spinal condition

by **Sibylla Archdale Kalid**
newshammersmith@trinitysouth.co.uk

A **MOTORBIKE** fanatic who was told she would never ride again because of a devastating spinal condition is back in the saddle after revolutionary treatment.

Latisha Johnson, 32, from Fulham, was left in agony and unable to stand straight by the slow onset of scoliosis, a painful curvature of the spine which can lead to fatal heart and lung problems.

She was told she would have to give up biking, her favourite hobby, and undergo risky surgery in an attempt to correct the debilitating condition.

But she decided against



■ **HAPPY:** Latisha Johnson

Contributed

going under the knife after hearing about an alternative treatment called ScolioGold, which, instead of fusion surgery, which involves inserting metal rods either side of the spine, comprises muscle strengthening exercises. The results have been spectacular.

"I felt better even after the first few days," she said. "I really do feel like I have a new back."

The treatment, offered in Britain only by London clinic

Scoliosis SOS, has brought respite from the agony she was in.

She said: "Scoliosis affected me from the minute I woke up to the time I went to bed. When I found the clinic, I was pretty much at the point where I would have tried anything.

"I had spent so long burying my head in the sand that this clinic was the first thing that had opened my eyes in a very long time."

The cause of the condition is unclear, but Ms Johnson believes she has been affected for more than 10 years. The symptoms had become so bad she was unable to sit on her beloved bike for more than a year before she started the treatment and feared she never would again.

She added: "I love the thrill of being able to get on a bike and forget about everything. I was devastated at the thought of having to give it up.

"I feel happy and alive again for the first time in years and this weather really is fabulous for getting outside."