CLAIMS

1. A moisture wicking layer for incorporation into a gusset for a protective garment, the moisture wicking layer being a double knit fabric constructed from yarns, wherein a first portion of the yarns are hydrophilic and a second portion of the yarns are hydrophobic, whereby a technical face of the fabric forms an eyelet mesh utilising both hydrophilic and hydrophobic yarns and a technical back of the fabric forms an interlock utilising only hydrophilic yarns, and whereby the hydrophobic yarns only outwardly present to the technical face of the fabric, and the technical face forms eyelet openings formed by a tuck stitch being held in a repeated pattern to expose the underlying hydrophilic yarns of the technical back to wick moisture away from the technical face.

2. The moisture wicking layer according to claim 1 comprising absorbent cotton yarn.

3. The moisture wicking layer according to claim 2, wherein approximately 25% of the cotton yarn is chemically treated to make it hydrophobic.

4. The moisture wicking layer according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the technical face is a 2 course repeat of 1 course hydrophilic yarn x 1 course hydrophobic yarn.

5. The moisture wicking layer according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tuck stitch being held is hydrophobic yarn.

6. A gusset for a protective garment including a moisture wicking layer according to any one of claims 1 to 5, a moisture absorbing layer, and a moisture impermeable layer.

7. The gusset according to claim 6, wherein the moisture absorbing layer includes a sinker terry fabric knit comprising sinker loops with plush loops protruding from the fabric knit on at least one side, wherein the plush loops are made from synthetic fibrestreated with a hydrolysing enzyme that splits the fibres into fibrils.

8. The gusset according to claim 7, wherein, when the plush loops protrude from only one side, the other side may be laminated with a moisture impermeable sheet.

9. The gusset according to any one of claims 6-8, wherein the moisture impermeable layer includes a base fabric knit laminated with a polyurethane sheet.

10. The gusset according to claim 9, wherein the base fabric knit is a polyester jersey.

11. A garment including a gusset according to any one of claims 6 to 10.