

Talking point

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'Ciao and Grazie to Valentino'

Valentino Rossi was the 'soundtrack' to some wonderful years biking through Europe and I watched him win some incredible GPs, most notably the all-Italian rostrum at Mugello in 2005. It was great to get to Valencia for the final round and his final race on two wheels and say Ciao and Grazie to the great man himself. There was a fantastic atmosphere and plenty of love on show for the greatest motorcycle rider of our generation.

Michael Tanousis, email
Ed: It was emotional enough watching from home so the atmosphere trackside must have been electric.



Write something that spikes our interest, and you could get selected for the Star Letter slot and receive this brilliant Maintenance Pack from our friends at XCP worth £30



starring Phil Jones, I'd just like to ask: "Why are you warning people about a speed trap? They know the law and choose to break it."

Andy Dudd, email

Each to their own, eh?

Must say the Ducati Streetfighter range doesn't get any prettier with age... still looks like a mobile air source heat pump from the front view. Can't say opening the garage door to one would give me much joy at all. Still, each to their own.

Tim Wild, email

Smart's wise words

Sad and shocked to read of the passing of Paul Smart. After a few years working overseas I moved to Paddock Wood, where his dealership was located. Whilst I was lusting over some of the litre plus bikes, Paul came over for a chat. I commented how I'd love to buy one but being still in my 20s the insurance was just crippling. Paul replied: "I'd much rather be your age still with sky high insurance than my age paying very little." I've never forgotten that gem!

David Bones, email

Two-strokes are history

I can understand you getting all excited about the Langen 250 because it looks good but, please, get real - this is not a motorcycle that's in any way relevant in the 21st century! Why, I thought I'd been transported back to the 70s.

It's an anachronism - a polluting two-stroke that needs a top-end strip-down every 2500 miles. It belongs in a museum.

Chris Myers, email

It was the enemy within

In last week's letters a guy had a small socket extension puncture his tyre. I had the same thing happen to me straight after two new tyres were fitted, the only difference being that the item that wrecked my tyre was a 6mm bolt and nut with a large washer and it was on the INSIDE. Turns out the fitter had managed to get the bolt inside the tyre when fitting and it had punched through as I was riding.

Hugh Taylor, email

Just imagine the party

In this age of media tutored corporate MotoGP robots trotting out the company line, how wonderful to see Jack Miller in his base layer with no shoes and a bottle of beer, bantering with the guys on BT Sport. Surely with the retirement of the one and only Valentino there is only one person in the paddock with the personality to even try and fill the super massive black hole left in the sport. I'm praying he wins the title next year, imagine that party!

Mark Rowlands, email



Baby Rupert just wants to fire it up

Biking's next generation

Here I am on my 2017 BMW S1000R Sport with my newborn son Rupert Benjamin Deakin. I would love to see him in an issue of MCN to keep and give him when he passes his motorbike test.

Shaun Deakin, email

Ed: Looks like the young fella has some growing to do first!

We shall remember them

I really enjoyed reading about the WWII dispatch riders (MCN,

November 10). It brought home what these guys went through and what heroes they were. It's because of these folk that we can freely ride our bikes and enjoy the freedom and liberty we have. I would love to read more of their stories.

Alan Ford, Worthing

Licence mystery solved?

In reply to 'Licence from nowhere', (MCN Letters November 3), get your wife and your friend to check the code next to the Cat A entitlement on the back of their licence, if it reads '46' or '125', it means tricycles only which used to be part of Category B1, issued with a Category B car test pass. If you have a full motorcycle licence, you should have no such code showing next to your Category A entitlement on your driving licence.

Dave Hogg, email

Got yourself to blame

My dear old mother used to say: "If you can't say anything nice, then say nothing!" But if I had listened to her, I'd have never bought a bike. So regarding the MCN Law last week,

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Car turned across me'

I was filtering along the outside of a row of slowly-moving traffic just on the inside of the central white line at about 5mph faster than the cars I was passing when the car I was just drawing up to turned right across me. He did not indicate and I had no chance to avoid the crash. The police report accurately records what happened and even though the accident was not my fault my solicitor said when these cases go to court each side shares the blame equally. I've been told that the car driver is denying liability. This does not seem right to me.

Mitch, London

A The police report and witness statements will be useful in order to correctly apportion liability. There may also be CCTV available. When an accident victim who claims compensation is partly to blame for the accident it is known as 'contributory negligence'.

Each case turns on its own

'It's wrong to say filtering cases are all 50/50 blame'

facts but it is not correct to say that all filtering cases end up being 50/50 blame.

It is for the other driver to argue and prove that you contributed to the accident. From what you say, in your case your speed was appropriate for filtering. He did not indicate and it is likely he did not look in his mirror or over his shoulder (otherwise he would have seen you and not turned across you). As long as you were not filtering on the approach to a junction I would press for 100% compensation.

Andrew Campbell

Solicitor and author of the MCN Law column for the last ten years

Visit www.bikelawyer.co.uk or email andrew@bikelawyer.co.uk or call 01446 794169

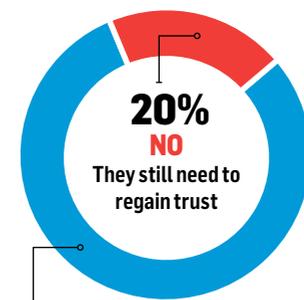


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READER POLL

Are Norton now on the right track?



80% YES The new owners have their heads screwed on