

Talking point

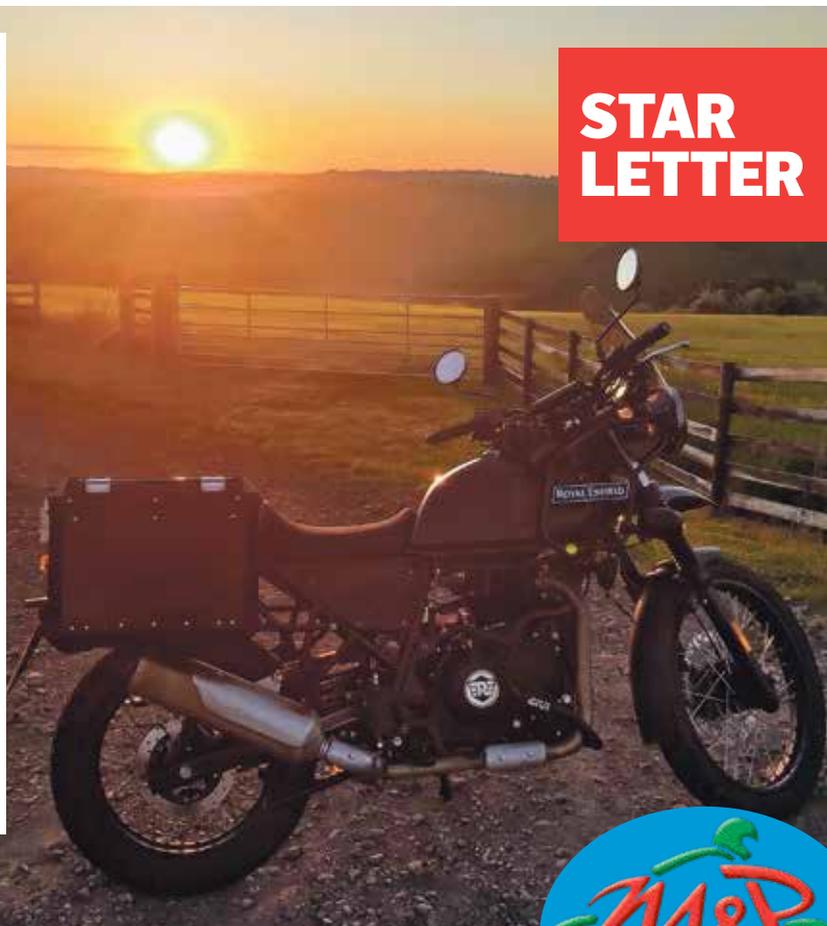
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Enjoying that perfect moment...

Riding home from a busy day on call, I had to pull over and capture the sunset over the Dorset hills... and my bike of course! For me there is no better way to unwind, the feeling of fellowship with other motorcyclists is a lifesaver. Having lost a relative to suicide I am pleased to see MCN promoting the CALM and Royal Enfield collaboration. Keep up the good fight on this one.

Russell, email

Ed: Thanks Russell and that picture sums up why biking is so good for your happiness and wellbeing. Turn to page 19 for more from our friends at the CALM campaign.



Write something that spikes our interest and you could get selected for the Star Letter slot and receive a voucher for £25 (excl postage) to spend online at www.mandp.co.uk

Stay calm, buy a bike

It is a roasting June evening and I am astride a motorcycle for the first time in two decades. This period includes one appalling family reversal, followed by ten years which somehow got behind me. A small amount of providence or maybe even serendipity may have been at play in bringing all this about. Agreed, I have been the orchestrator, but without the resource to bring it all about it would not have happened. That resource has been MCN. Roughly six weeks back, after spending most of this year trawling “bikes for sale” I found what I’m after. Oddly, that same week MCN featured the CBR1100XX in the expert guide. Odder still, in the same issue John Lee’s Higham Ferrers bike shop also gets featured. My mate at work – Motorcycle Gaz (all-round bike guru) – knows the Lees and recommends their services. I’m onto something. The CALM initiative featured in the following week’s issue chimes with me and without over-thinking it, I’m now of a mind that perhaps the stars are



Nice bike but what should it be called?

aligning... Neil Murray’s “Rocketships are set to soar” column is all the incentive I need and after some guidance from Chas Lee at Lee’s, I buy the Blackbird. His “just buy it” advice carried at least as much weight as four of deliberation.

G.J.P, email

Daft to call it an R7

There is no way Yamaha should be calling their new twin an R7. It’s basically the same weight as my 2018 Fireblade and puts out less power than a Triumph 660. A friend

has a 2010 GSX-R750 and I think that’s probably the perfect ‘road’ bike. Why are the new breed so weedy in comparison? I’m not asking for a rocketship, but come on. While I admit the Blade is arguably too powerful for the road, this new (not an) R7 and even the CBR650R and Aprilia RS660 are too underpowered to tempt me.

Andy Morrison, email

The true MM93 is coming

Marquez and HRC are suffering from the same problem – a bike that was built around a rider with phenomenal reflexes who, at the moment, can’t ride as he once did because of injury. Marquez will get back to full fitness and then we will see the old MM93 return. So, to the other riders... make hay while the sun shines, a storm is brewing.

Nigel Langley, email

Petrol’s miles better

The debate about electric vehicles and internal combustion will rumble on for some time to come. I own an R1250GS, because I like to tour with the wife and luggage.

Touring two-up I know I’m good for 160–180 miles before a break and refuel. I have never seen tests like that on electrics, yes I know Charley and Ewan did their thing, but with massive back up.

Gary Giles, email

These guys are the best!

When my Triumph Tiger Sport wouldn’t start on a bank holiday Monday morning in Moffat, both David and Clint from the Buccleuch Hotel sprang into action. Bearing in mind on this occasion I hadn’t even stayed overnight, Clint immediately volunteered to wheel my bike round to their hotel’s rear yard to make it easier to work on. Despite all our best efforts we couldn’t get it started. I then contacted my recovery company who took two hours to arrive, during which time the hotel’s hospitality extended to a comfortable shaded area and refreshments, all of which were appreciated. So a big thank you from me and the biking community.

Bob Buckley, email

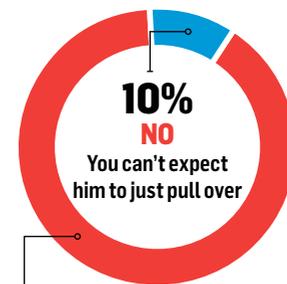
Sting in the Brexit tail

I am sure you guys are well aware of Brexit’s implications for online buying from overseas, but I just bought a pair of Alpinestars boots for £140 (I take a 48 and couldn’t get them in UK) and have been hit with a tax and shipping charge of £42. I’m returning to motorcycling and the Spanish, Motocard site was all in English with prices in pounds. Taxes and shipping charges on new bikes and spare parts must be extortionate but it seems that charges are unavoidable.

David Ansell, email

READER POLL

Should Quartararo have got a black flag?



90% YES Riding with leathers undone could be lethal

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Help! I am going to court'

I was flashed by a static speed camera at 8am on a sunny Saturday. The speed was 84mph in a 60mph zone and the road was a bit damp. However, the stretch of road was very quiet at that time of the morning with no hazards, obstructions or junctions. When responding to the Notice of Intent to Prosecute I confirmed I was the rider and then got a reply saying that due to the speed it will go to court. Could you give me some advice on where I may stand and any action I can take to minimise any penalties. I have a clean licence and have enrolled in a training course run by the police.

RP, email

A The court will look at aggravating and mitigating factors when deciding on the punishment, so you should highlight the positives of your case. Previous speeding offences and the timing of them may be considered. Therefore it is helpful that you have a clean licence.

'You are most likely to get points and a fine'

Good character can be considered so it is helpful you have enrolled on the training. The location and time can be important. For example, they will look less favourably on someone speeding past a school with children around than on a quiet open road.

They will likely consider the weather conditions so the damp roads may go against you.

Whilst it is open to the magistrates to disqualify you for a short period (seven-28 days) I suspect you will end up with a fine and six points.

Andrew Campbell

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

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