

Talking point

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Make life safer for marshals

In a couple of weeks' time it will be my 50th anniversary of marshalling at the TT. I have witnessed many changes over the years. Riders are no longer allowed to continue after crashing and there are strict rules regarding marshals going onto the road. The death of a marshal at Brands Hatch was a shocking, albeit fortunately rare, event – however it does ram home how dangerous motorsport can be. In recent race meetings I have witnessed riders crashing and then trying to rejoin the track. Surely in the interests of safety for the rider and the marshals, this practice should be reviewed?
Mike Hammonds, TT & MGP Marshal



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

DOUBLE RED

Murray's love of bikes

I'm sure I speak for many who were shocked and saddened to read of Neil Murray's passing. I have followed his articles in several magazines over the years, and his wit and knowledge have always been informative and entertaining. I did know him some 20 years ago when we both had CB400/4s (I believe he still had his) and he sold me some parts for mine. Always reliable and a good bloke to deal with, he once went out of his way to hand deliver a small plastic part to my home rather than entrust it to the post. My condolences to his colleagues and of course his family.
Alan Bennett, email

Love of the old and used

Over the years Neil Murray's brilliant individual style, infectious enthusiasm, and encyclopaedic knowledge made his weekly column in MCN my one absolute must-read. He gave us, the readers, everything: insight, alternative thought, ideas, humility, and no little humour. So sorry he has gone so soon; totally devastated for his



Simon is a bit of a Rossi fan then...

family's loss. Let his love of the old and used stay with MCN and us all.
Mark Allford, email

Three cheers for VR46

My tribute to Valentino Rossi (above). No words do him justice in what he has given to MotoGP.
Simon Morgan, email
Ed: Careful or Valentino will be using that for a spot of car racing

Rossi left it too late

Valentino Rossi hasn't won a title in 12 years. Sorry VR you should have

gone five years ago. Give a young kid in the sport a chance.
Jeff Waller, Alicante

Praise is well justified

Bruce Dunn's praise for his D-Air Racing 3 jacket (one of very few CE certified to Airbag Level 2) certainly wasn't inflated. I nabbed one at a deflated sale price and – despite its integrated back armour and airbag – it weighs the same as my old jacket with a back protector. It's an Olympic ergonomic achievement.
Mark Samuels, email

Go green, buy a classic

I follow with interest the various discussions on the way forward as regards environmentally friendly vehicles and would like to put forward another option. Buy an old Velocette! It will be so difficult to start or make run properly that it will rarely be ridden. I have had my current one for about five years and it has rarely been out on the road. Carbon emissions are therefore virtually nil. I can recommend following my lead; in fact, I invite you to compete in offering me vast

amounts of money for my Velo so that you too can do your bit for fighting climate change.

Gus Smith, Betchworth

Ed: And all that kicking is good for your fitness levels too. Win/win.

Have we joined Saga?

Now that the average UK biker, as opposed to scooter courier, appears to be over 50... am I right to worry about the future of motorcycling? The age thing is borne out by reading MCN where the readers are all grey beards. Why, even the MCN staffers are – ahem – mostly in 'late middle age'. What has happened?
Chris Myers, email

Ed: Us lot in late middle age? Can't think what you mean squire.

Not barking orders

There I was at the Owls Nest café, Llandovery, when this just made my day. It's a choice we all struggle with... other half or the dog? At least good old Fido keeps still, doesn't lean the wrong way in bends and won't nag through the intercom.

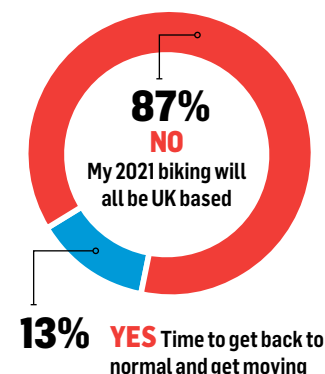
Andy Stephens, Cardiff



Sure beats going for a walk, eh?

READER POLL

Are you planning a tour into Europe



MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Some satnavs are dangerous'

I would be interested to know about the rules about fitting aftermarket satellite navigation systems in cars. I have seen them on windscreens partially blocking the driver's view. Yesterday I passed a driver with the satnav at eye height right in front of her face. I am concerned that a badly positioned satnav like this could obscure a biker (along with anything of our size) and must be a danger and even illegal.

Florence, Leicester

A I cannot find any regulations which refer specifically to satnavs, but the following are relevant:

- Section 40A Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Road Traffic Act 1991: "A person is guilty of an offence if he uses, causes or permits another to use a motor vehicle on a road when: The condition of the motor vehicle or of its accessories or equipment, or the purpose for which it is used, or the number of passengers carried

'She had the satnav right in front of her face'

by it, or the manner in which they are carried, or the weight, position or distribution of its load, or the manner in which it is secured, is such that the use of the motor vehicle involves a danger of injury to any person."

- Regulation 100 (1) of the Road Vehicle Construction and Use Regulations 1986 says the same thing but attracts a lesser penalty.

It would depend on the Court's interpretation of the word "condition" but people should place units in such a way that they do not obstruct the driver's view.

Andrew Campbell

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

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