

# Talking point

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## 'Where will new riders get trained?'

We should all be alarmed at the insurance situation for riding schools in Northern Ireland (MCN, May 24). If training is compulsory but no one can provide it, then the bike world there will die as no younger/new riders will be able to take their test. If it can happen there, then it can happen here as well. I have often felt that by riding a motorcycle I am discriminated against as a road user; high insurance costs and little done to recover stolen machines just add to that feeling. The insurance companies' answer that it isn't lucrative enough should not even be considered, they certainly make enough out of me!  
**Ian Shakespeare, email**



Write something that spikes our interest, and you could get selected for the Star Letter slot. Each week one lucky reader will receive an MCN T-shirt in a variety of different designs

## Loving life on two wheels

Both my son Tom and I have featured as your star letter, me when I wrote about getting back in the saddle after 40 years and Tom about starting his motorcycle journey. We're now 19 months in and after testing many bikes, including, Enfields, Yamahas (at last year's MCN Festival), Triumphs, CCMs, Hondas, an R nineT and a couple of Benelli 800s (at this year's Festival), we have chosen and bought what could be our long-term bikes. Tom has a Kawasaki ER6 and is loving it and I've bought a CBS500X. We're now looking forward to our first long ride together in the Peak District.  
**Bill Theodm, email**



Reader Richard Pawelko had a great time at the Cardiff DGR last week

## Long live the DGR

Had a great time on the Cardiff Distinguished Gentleman's Ride. Around 300 bikes took part - here's one of my pictures from the day.  
**Richard Pawelko, email**

## McElnea's a legend

I remember 'Big Rob' racing with all the greats and he was fast, very fast, if a little too big (MCN, May 24). McElnea has done so much for WSB and BSB. We should celebrate our champions. We've had some greats!  
**Pete Edwards, email**

## Not just an oil change

How about in addition to the poll 'Do you do your own servicing?', ask 'Do you keep up with recommended servicing?' Most riders may change the oil and

## STAR LETTER

– as 'clever' and 'cheeky'. Neither of these is the word I would use to describe KTM for doing this.  
**Richard Shepherd, Isle of Man**

## Festival must live on

After several decades, the MCN Festival of Motorcycling has reached the end of the road at the East of England Showground. I first went in '83 when it was the BMF, camping for the first few years with the bike club I used to ride with. With the arena and grandstand, it was perfect for a bike event. I hope you can find a new home for it.  
**Graham Waddington, email**

## Play fair on roads

Yet another cop-out for those road users that pay nothing to use the roads. I recently learned that cyclists are not obliged to use the cycle lanes that we spend millions on, then I read in MCN that horse riders are not obliged to clean up after their horses have pooped all over the road, creating a hazard.  
**Will May, email**

## What's in a name?

So they have renamed the Brecon Beacons, Bannau Brycheiniog. Who's gonna say 'fancy a trip up the Bannau Brycheiniog on the bike this weekend?' At least if you going to Bognor Regis and it rains you can come back and say 'bugger Bognor'. Guess Bannau Brycheiniog could read and sound a bit like 'banana Brycream' after a few pints and you're planning your next motorcycling trip.  
**Gary Cox, email**

filters, but who does the important valve checks and throttle body synchs? Especially at the intervals suggested by manufacturers. I ride about 15,000 to 20,000 miles per year, and if I had a BMW, Royal Enfield or some Chinese models, I would have to have servicing done three times a year, just to keep the warranty valid.  
**Jim Cox, email**

## Three-wheels good

Re Jon Urry's column on the popularity (or not) of the Yamaha Niken (MCN, May 24). He should watch the TV coverage of the major cycling tour races (Tour de France, Giro d'Italia etc.), they're everywhere! Obviously, a niche but they seem to be perfect for it.  
**Ian Craig, Aberdeen**  
**Ed: Turn to p36 for the latest Niken GT**

## That's one word for it

Recent articles in MCN have described KTM's demo-mode – where you have to pay to unlock features already built into the bike

## MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q 'I was blinded by the lights'

I was returning from my work night shift on a rural road when a car came around a bend towards me. I think the driver must have had the main beam on because it blinded me, causing me to come off and hurt myself. I am still recovering. The driver realised what happened, as he stopped and called the police. His insurers insist he did nothing wrong and did not have his main beam on, but I think he did. What I can do?  
**Niall, email**

**A** A lot will depend on the evidence you have to show that the other driver was negligent – i.e. that he drove towards you on full beam, it being reasonably foreseeable that the lights would dazzle you.

Before Xenon headlights, also known as High Intensity Discharge (or HID) lights, it was easy to tell when someone failed

### 'It will be hard to prove it was on full beam'

to turn off the main beam but these days it is much harder to tell. There used to be lots of claims made to the Motor Insurers' Bureau for negligently dazzling someone, although they are so much harder to prove now due to technological advances in the brightness of headlamps. An independent witness may have helped, but if the other driver does not admit to having his main beam on when he should not have and the vehicle has these HID lights, you are going to struggle.

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

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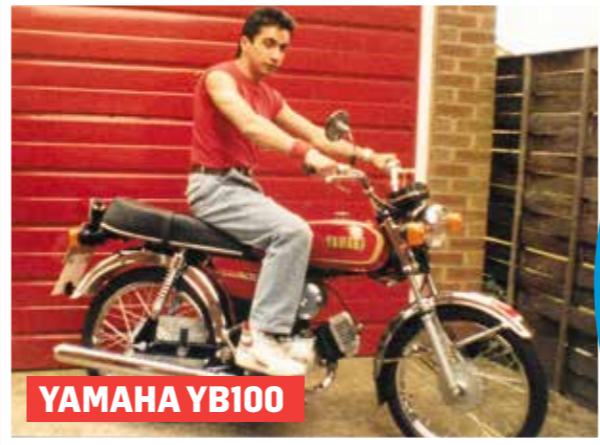
EXCELSIOR TALISMAN 250

This was my AP50 – my first road bike in 1980 seen here complete with L-plates. **Brian Brown**



SUZUKI AP50

My father-in-law Ernie Tetlow on his first bike in 1955. He still takes a keen interest in bikes at 90. **Jamie Wilson**



YAMAHA YB100

This is me on my 1987 Yamaha YB100 back when I started riding. **Sonny Bobal**



SUZUKI ZR50

Have owned 38 bikes but this was the first, a Suzuki ZR50. Helmet must have been on loan from NASA. **Jonny Maze**



BSA A65 SPITFIRE MK IV

Me on the BSA Spitfire. I have owned motorcycles since 1968 and now have a Fireblade. **Atan Bland**



DUCATI 250 MK3

Not my first bike, but my first brand new one. August 1975. Proudly displaying my full bike licence. **Ian Wildgoose**



VESPA 100 SPORT

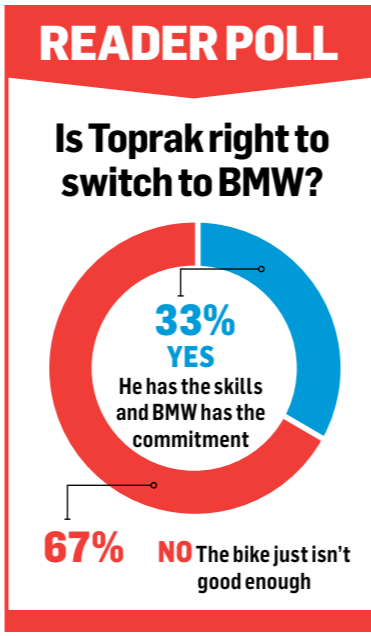
'We Are The Mods!' This is me on my Vespa 100 Sport, aged 16, back in 1985. **Justin Davenne**



YAMAHA RD125LC

Here I am aged 19 in 2002 on my Yamaha RD125LC. I ride a Triumph 1050 Sprint ST these days. **Kieron Shaw**

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