

Talking point

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Smart idea to beat fake kit sellers

Surely one way of tackling the fake kit problem as highlighted in your supplement (MCN, April 13) would be for manufacturers to impregnate legitimate gear with Smartwater security markings because fakers would not have the means of duplicating this and local trading standards officers could spot fakes easily using equipment supplied by Smartwater. The treatment is already used to great effect to combat theft of bikes and in many other areas and is simple to apply while remaining invisible to the naked eye.

P Cousins, email



STAR LETTER

Be our Star Letter writer and win these DXR Jordan Boots worth £69.99 available exclusively at www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk

'I called for security'

It's good to see the feature about fake kit. The cheek of the dodgy retailers to openly sell this stuff at bike shows is amazing. A few years ago at the NEC, I got caught up in such a situation. I was looking for a jacket and was scanning the outer edge stalls, when I spotted one that looked promising. The stallholder was very polite and took the jacket off the peg for me to try on. On closer inspection the stitching didn't seem great, so I asked about the PPE rating, while I was looking for the correct tags. The seller got irate and tried to push me away. I wasn't having any of that and called for security and the event manager. About an hour later, the stall was closed. One thing I will say is that not many can afford £2.5K for a suit. I can't afford that for a bike! So the fake dealers will prey on those, like me, who are not millionaires.

Tony Anderson, Lincolnshire

Our own worst enemies

Totally agree with your item on stamping out fake motorcycle gear, but we tend to be our own worst



Irwin is off to a dream start in BSB

enemies. Almost every large show has a stand or two flogging cheap, unbranded tat.

Martin Rayner, email

Amazing start to BSB

What a fantastic first round of BSB at Silverstone and brilliant to see Glenn Irwin win all three races against all the favourites. Well done Glenn. I cannot wait to see what he does at the TT on the Fireblade. I will put money on him being the fastest rookie around the island.

Alan G McLaughlin, email

It's a road, not a track

I read your article on police targeting bikes (MCN, April 20) and am not at all surprised. I live in Lincolnshire and the routes to the coast are treated like race tracks. I was out visiting a friend on the bank holiday and witnessed some appalling riding. I feel qualified to make this judgment as I have ridden and occasionally raced since 1974 and ride with some vigour.

Mark Wardle, email

Big up your trips

Would it be possible to give more page space for 'Your Trip' articles? Sometimes it's virtually impossible to follow the route pictured unless you have a magnifying glass.

Chris Brian, email

Ed: It is certainly something we could look at for the future. In the meantime, keep the trips rolling in at yourpics@motorcyclenews.com - whether it is a few days in the UK or an epic to Mongolia, we want to hear about it...

Don't just top it up

I can't be alone in my frustration over seeing the phrase "Top up the

brake fluid". If your fluid is below the minimum line, it's an indicator that you either have worn pads or you have a leak. By topping it up and assuming it's fine you're just inviting headaches - namely the annoying job of having to syringe out brake fluid when you suddenly realise your pads have nearly reached the metal and the system will be overfull when you fit new ones. Or worse, a leaky fitting that fails under load.

Ross Curtis, email

Not so green solution

I shouldn't get too excited about extending battery longevity by adding niobium (MCN, April 13). Apparently significant virgin rainforest will be destroyed mining this mineral.

Tim Wombell, email

Cops need to think again

We all wish for safer roads and riders but police forces who target particular social groups are walking down a dark path (MCN, April 20). Lincolnshire Police should think twice. Setting the public to spy and inform on their fellow citizens seems to be a dangerous route reminiscent of some of extreme regimes around the world.

Trevor Fleming, email

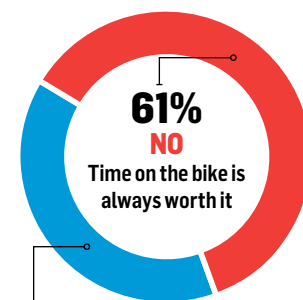
Inspired by Maxwell?

John Faulkner's letter last week, got me thinking. I have been watching the Robert Maxwell documentary which has been on the BBC. Do you think Stuart Garner was a student of the infamous Mr Maxwell of pension robbery fame?

Andrew Smithers, email

READER POLL

Are fuel prices limiting your riding?



39% YES What happened to that famous 5p reduction?

MCN LAW
Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Can I just get someone new?'

I am not happy with the lack of communication I am getting from the solicitors provided by my insurer after my accident. I am always having to chase them and each time I call no progress has been made but I always get told that things will improve. I've had enough and want to know how I can go about changing solicitors. I am six months into my claim for soft tissue injuries and some financial losses as well.

Andy Jones, Brighton

A I am sorry to say that you may have difficulty in persuading a new firm to take your case on. This is because in matters where the injuries are fairly minor, very limited legal costs are payable by the third party insurer and it is quite likely that your current legal firm will have exhausted the costs entitlement already.

I often take over serious injury cases from other firms as there is not the same restriction on

'They may have used up all the costs already'

legal costs. You do have complete freedom of choice over which lawyers you instruct and you do not have to instruct the firm appointed by your insurer.

Whilst it used to be the case in lower value cases that insurers could insist you use their solicitors until the point of issuing court proceedings, the courts have clarified the law and confirmed injured bikers can instruct the firm of their choice from day one utilising the before-the-event legal expenses cover they have through their insurers.

Andrew Campbell

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

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