

Talking point

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We must fight ban on bike mods

I write with reference to the recent article which appertains to the DfT looking to ban modifications (MCN, October 20). I am strongly against this proposal and as such followed MAG's request to respond via the official site. This is a typical government website that takes absolutely ages to navigate! I gave up half way through, as I am sure will most people. Can we call upon MAG to organise some form of statement supported by a group petition that would be accepted by this consultation process? Signing up to a petition is far easier and will hopefully result in huge numbers. If we do not take this approach then the DfT will simply impose their will.
Andrew Walker, email



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



Banned for a reason

Get real Mr Colin Brown of MAG fame (MCN, October 20). The fact of the matter is the only reason why mods are now being challenged is because lots of them are coming out of dodgy backstreet workshops. And the plastics do not crack they shatter and become projectiles. Plus it's time the motorcycle buying public demanded that our bikes are emissions proof, after all you would not expect a brand new bike not to conform. Having spent a lot of time in Spain, I can tell you that you'd not get an MoT without having any parts approved by the Spanish dept of transport via EU testing. Wanna flog bike parts? Get them tested to see if they are fit for purpose.
Gary Cox, email

Mix and match testing

I fully understand the logic of testing two similarly priced motorcycles against each other as potential buyers set themselves price and specification limits and then choose, but this strategy eliminates the potential of bikes outside of a small range, especially



Good job it doesn't leak any oil, eh?

ones in a lower licence category. Riders with full licences rarely ride lower capacity bikes and therefore harbour incorrect visions of what these machines might have to offer. Might I suggest a touring test between two very popular models which have price points thousands of pounds apart, perhaps a fully-loaded BMW GS v a Honda CB500X.
Paul Bredael, email

New SMT? Bring it on

I read with interest about the move to give KTM's 890 the 17in wheels

(MCN, October 13). Sounds like they are making a new SMT. I had the SMT for the last seven or eight years and loved it (but it got stolen).
Steve Robertson, email

Who needs a garage?

Delighted to see the photo of John McGuinness with his Blade inside the house. I also have my No.3 indoors - my Thruxton R which has Joey's number on the nose.
John Selman, email
Ed: Perfect spot to park!

Rossi was wronged

It is such a shame that Rossi is retiring after such a dismal season - an ignominious end to a glorious career which undoubtedly helped raise the profile of MotoGP to its current level. I know that Michael Scott has rarely displayed a positive view of Valentino but I feel that his column dismissing what I and many others consider to be legitimate grievances as 'undignified spats', 'accusing Marquez of conspiracy', goes too far. In 2015 it was blatantly obvious that Marquez was trying (successfully) to rile Rossi by

repeatedly overtaking and then slowing, causing the infamous and indefensible 'red mist' incident.
Simon Hubbard, email

Honda are onto something

Been hoping for a while now that Honda would put the big twin from the Africa Twin into a TRX850 type of sporty all-rounder. It would make a terrific real-world bike.
John Randall, Llandoverly
Ed: Turn to page 6 and you may find what you seek.

Trouble getting a test ride

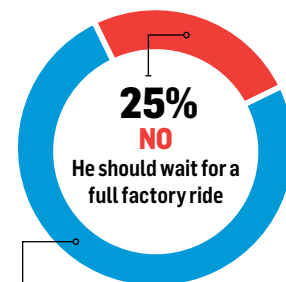
I have enjoyed the MCN YouTube video about the Aprilia 660 and fancy a test ride on one, but the problem seems to be this year that even if you go cash in hand you can't get one or even get a test ride, not in the south east, anyway. The same with new Ducati Monster, no test bike available. You wouldn't want to buy without a good test. It would appear that we can enjoy magazine road tests of the new bikes but can't touch. How are other buyers faring? Let us all hope next year will be better for bike buyers.
Paul Roberts, email

Skewer the beaky bikes

A few years back the car industry was getting hammered for having pointy sharp low front ends and flat-fronted cars with bull bars. It seems the designers of the former all left cars to design motorbikes. Some new bikes today resemble medieval jousting machines. "My beak can skewer three pedestrians and yours only fits two at one time..." Stupid design if you ask me.
Tim Wild, email

READER POLL

Should Mackenzie go straight to WSB?



75% YES He should get himself on the world stage now

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

'Kid on e-scoot pulled out'

I was riding along at a leisurely pace when a lad on an e-scooter pulled out of a junction into my path. I narrowly managed to avoid clattering into him but ended up losing control and coming off. Unbelievably, the lad didn't stop - instead, he carried on like nothing had happened before casually taking the scooter up onto the pavement and out of sight. I wasn't hurt too badly - just some bruised ribs which were sore for about a month or so. My main concern was the cosmetic damage to my bike, which was TPFT. Is there any prospect of getting the repair costs back? And is it relevant that Cardiff doesn't have an e-scooter trial running right now?
Rory, Cardiff

A The fact that the e-scooter rider cannot have been on the road legally is not a bar to bringing a claim. The Motor Insurers' Bureau pay out for vehicle damage in cases involving untraced drivers, such as

'You could try making a claim from the MIB'

yours, but only in circumstances where 'significant' injuries were sustained. In order to qualify as 'significant', any injuries must have required two or more nights of consecutive inpatient care or three or more sessions of out-patient treatment. There is also an excess of £400. Based on the description of your injuries it seems unlikely that they would meet the criteria, however, you could still make a claim for the injuries from the MIB and use any compensation towards the repairs to the bike.

Andrew Campbell

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

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