

Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com  motorcyclenews  motorcyclenews  MCNnews

MCN
LAW
Your tricky legal
questions answered

Top-notch work from Toprak

Many congratulations to Toprak Razgatlioglu for winning the World Superbike crown. The deciding race was a real thriller and it was nice to see Jonathan Rea being the first to congratulate him on the slowing down lap. However, I think Dorna need to think carefully about when or if they return to Lombok as a racing venue, even though the riders seem to really like the circuit. To lose races at such a pivotal time because of weather is very disappointing and it was fortunate that Toprak did enough to secure the title.
Paul Baker, email



STAR LETTER



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

GOLD AND GOOSE

Faster online? No chance

I read with interest the article on page 11 of the Nov 17 MCN regarding driving licences. It stated that the DVLA had said that licence renewal was cheaper and quicker online. My wife renewed her licence online on August 13 at a cost of £14. Up to this date she has not received her new licence. When we check the website with her ref number it just states 'in progress'. We have tried phoning the DVLA several times, and each time a recorded message either says 'this number is unobtainable' or 'all of our lines are busy'. We have also tried the webchat, but that perpetually states all of the advisors are unavailable. Applying online may be cheaper but as for being quicker, I not so sure.
David Thomas, email

Zero chance of buying one

Is it just me or does it seem wrong that Zero (MCN, November 17) are giving you the full package with hardware that could very easily be unlocked from day one yet charging you hundreds if not thousands to use it, after you've paid for the bike?



Eric Law with his bike on active service

Seems like they're really just giving you bad firmware on purpose and then swindling you to put it right - imagine if you bought a normal bike but they sent you a bill every time you wanted to use sixth gear.
Ross Curtis, email

Biking's true heroes

Ref your article on Despatch riders in your November 1 issue, I found a couple of photos of my dad, Eric Law, on his BSA M20, dated July 14, 1945. By the look of the houses in the background, probably

somewhere in Germany or Austria. His mate's bike looks the worse for wear. Dad served throughout the war in Africa, Middle East, Italy, and France, luckily without any injuries - nothing physical anyway.
David Law, email

Get Rossi to Goodwood

Now that Rossi is not having to race MotoGP all season I wonder if the Duke of Richmond will get him to be a regular feature of the Festival of Speed. Maybe even racing alongside other greats at the Goodwood Revival Barry Sheene Memorial Trophy. It would definitely be a sell-out race; get your tickets early!
Haydn Barnett, Somerset

Bikes built for two

Excited to see new sports-tourers being reintroduced. In my eyes a sports-tourer must be able to comfortably take rider, pillion and luggage on a long journey and is not just about how sporty or engaging it feels. Your 250-mile route would therefore be the perfect route to test the latest arrivals with pillion (important because it always brings

a different perspective to riding). If a bike can have a topbox (essential if my wife is to go on the back), have them. If topboxes are not permitted by the firm then report the comfort levels without.
Terry Rose, email

Haven't the foggiest...

After reading your recent article regarding heads-up display tech for helmets, I'm disappointed there was no mention about a heated a visor system which should be well within reach with today's technology. Not much point in a heads-up display if you can't see it.
Vic Price, Croxley Green

Rossi too ruthless?

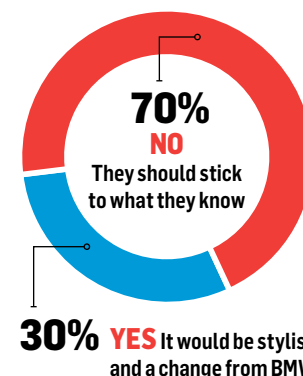
Whilst acknowledging that no other racer has raised the profile within MotoGP as Valentino Rossi, I feel we need some balanced reflection. VR's achievements may well never be matched and we have all enjoyed the celebratory antics and costume capers. However, as a keen racing fan for over 50 years now I have at times found some of VR's clashes and ruthless mind games a difficult watch. The true judgement of any person's character is demonstrated in the respect they show to others.

When VR was in his glory days anyone he thought to have the beating of him was treated with contempt. On track many times but maybe the most controversial MotoGP incident ever with Marc Marquez, or the red marks appearing on Max Biaggi's face going to a podium, or the pit wall to block out having to look at the faster Jorge Lorenzo.

Dave Johnston, email

READER POLL

Would you buy an MV adventure bike?



Q 'Can I claim from cyclist?'

I was riding along the Old Kent Road in London when a cyclist came out of a side road to my left without stopping at the junction. I managed to avoid him, but lost control and came off. I ended up with lower leg injuries and am still on crutches. Although the cyclist did not stop, a witness caught up with him and called the police. He is being prosecuted for failing to stop and the police have provided me with his details for a compensation claim. What are the chances of making a claim stick given that most cyclists don't have insurance cover?

Scott King, London

A While motorists must have (at the very least) third party liability cover, it is not compulsory for cyclists to have insurance. Some cyclist organisations do offer insurance for cyclists, such as British Cycling which has over 150,000 members, and part of the membership is third party cover.

'He may have cover from his house insurance'

You should therefore make enquiries as to whether your opponent is a member of such an organisation. Alternatively, many home contents insurance policies have legal expenses insurance attached which would include cover for negligent actions of the policy holder away from the home. Finally, you could pursue the cyclist personally, but you are correct that he may not have the means to pay your claim and legal costs. An asset search could give you a better idea of his ability to pay compensation and costs.

Andrew Campbell

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

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