

Talking point

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'Time to sort security'

When I take the ignition key out of my car, the steering lock is automatically engaged and the alarm (that was included in the price of the car) is automatically switched on. But when I take the key out of my bike, I go through a little ritual to engage the steering lock and turn on the (optional extra) alarm – neither of which are particularly 'state of the art' security systems. Isn't it about time that bike manufacturers took security seriously and put some effort into providing it as standard equipment?

Dave Sibert, email



STAR LETTER

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

'My Monster's sulking'

Ultimate Monster? Would my sulking 2015 Ducati Monster 1200S be justified to feel a little slighted by your February 22 edition front page headline? Although the new Monster SP is a brilliant machine.

Bruce Wilson, Manchester

Dial up the sounds

Was just looking at the MCN Zero calendar at work and was thinking that as car drivers can't hear us or see us now, we've got no chance on an electric bike. For work I drive a Toyota hybrid and the amount of people who walk out in front of me because they can't hear it is crazy. Maybe on an e-bike you could install an engine soundtrack. Imagine... one day you could be on a 500 two-stroke, the next a V4 or even a MotoGP bike. Could be fun.

Pete Harrison, email

Is it just me...?

An old MCN that I was using in the workshop caught my eye the other day. Does anyone else think this



It might look like it but we are sure that the racing wasn't pants...

map of Thruxton circuit resembles an old pair of baggy Y-fronts?
Martin Welbank, Cambridge

Go green, feel good

I'm finding it more and more difficult to justify riding my 1300cc gas guzzler around the countryside. Sure, it's great for my mental health. But at what cost to the environment, and my conscience, and therefore my mental health? Having purchased an electric car

a few months ago, it has been a life changing revelation. I now feel much more comfortable doing unnecessary journeys, especially as I'm lucky enough to have solar panels installed at work to charge the car. So I have decided to bite the bullet, and my next bike will be electric. As for trackdays, I'll investigate converting my SV650 to electric, as it wouldn't require an extensive range. Where does that leave my 1990 Harley Fat Boy though? Any offers?
Emmanuel Baumard, London

Where's Dave?

Your Legends features are always good. How about one on the great Dave Croxford? That would be fun.
Chris Haynes, email
Ed: We'll see what we can do

Tickets aren't the answer

Really sad news that due to the cost of insurance the 2023 road racing programme looks likely to be cancelled. While I have the utmost respect for Phillip McCallen as an

ex-racer, his view from comments on Radio Ulster seems to suggest that these costs should be passed on to the spectators. While an event like the NW200 may well be accessed for free in some places, other closed roads events do require payments. I attend the Cookstown 100 as a spectator and while the entrance fee is very modest £25, the ferry, and B&B alone pushes the cost up to north of £500 for two people for two days of albeit spectacular racing. While I share Phillip's sadness, I think he needs to be realistic about what is a fair and market price for road or circuit racing to charge and think more widely about who benefits from spectator attendance and perhaps vent his spleen at the tourist board, the ferry companies and motorcycle dealers who benefit from the events.
Bob Broadhead, Rotherham

Pumped up service

Back in September 2020 after reading your product review regarding a VT32 Venhill tyre pressure gauge, I purchased one from AR Racing Services. The gauge performed as per your review until recently when it developed an air leak. I contacted AR Racing services to ask if there was a seal/O-ring kit available. AR contacted Venhill and were informed no repair kit was available. In light of that, AR sent me a new gauge from their own stock. The new gauge arrived today, at no charge to me (they did not even charge postage). I very much appreciate their 'Good Guy' service.
Robert Blake, email

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Can I claim for dodgy repair?'

I was riding along a wet country road outside Swansea last month and as I rounded a bend my bike lost traction and I ended up in a hedge. I was able to pick myself up and went back to look at the road – which had recently been repaired. The seal at the edge of the repair looked much wider than normal – about 75 to 100mm in total. Can I claim for my injury and damage to the bike?

Steve, Swansea, email

A

Depending on the type of road, the local council or the Highway Authority are responsible for maintaining the road surface and all repairs. Authorities often contract this work out, but the contractors have a duty to make sure the road repairs comply with statutory requirements and guidelines. The seal around a repair is known as overbanding and is

'Overbanding must comply with regs'

known to be a potential accident risk to motorcyclists because it can cause skidding. If wider than 20mm, then the material used is supposed to have a grit like substance added to provide wet skidding resistance, and should never be more than 40mm wide or 3mm thick.

If you can prove that the overbanding did not comply, then it would likely be considered a hazard and you may well be able to bring a claim against either the authority or the contractors.

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

Visit www.bikelawyer.co.uk or email andrew@bikelawyer.co.uk or call 01446 794169



SUZUKI M15

My brother Mervyn's first bike. He later owned the amazing Kawasaki 750cc Mach IV! Reuben Stanley



BSA A65

I've had 9 bikes since, of various types and capacities and am awaiting the arrival of a new BSA Gold Star. Pat Sturman



TRIUMPH STREET SCRAMBLER

My husband Tom with his dream first bike. Hes wearing my late father's jacket for his first ride. Eloise Chatfield

Me on my trials bike age 12 in 1981. I now have a KTM 350 EXC-F enduro bike. Paul Ray



YAMAHA TY175



SUZUKI TS50

My dad wouldn't let me ride it home from the dealers so he put it in the boot of his Ford Sierra! Aaran Gordon



YAMAHA DT50 MX

My very first bike DT50 MX 1983 at 16 years old. Look at those guns! Alan Ashmore



KAWASAKI ZX-9R

This is me on my Kawasaki ZX-9R. My dad owned the bike from new and has now passed it on to me. Ben Dearlove



YAMAHA RD200X

Me on my first bike in 1979, with my nine-year-old brother Phil on the back. It got stolen after two months! Andrew Tennant

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