

# Talking point

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## 'Henry and Jellybean are real stars'

I think that the festive MCN Christmas Special was probably the best one yet, and I particularly enjoyed the article on Henry Cole and the team from the Motorbike Show. Admittedly, he is a Marmite character, but at least the programme brings biking to more people's attention which must be a good thing. And Jellybean the dog is a real star!

Colin Humphries, Hampshire

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

## Pro tip on tyres

I read with interest Neevesy's article regarding his comparison of the Rally Pro with the Tiger GT he has on long-term test. I recommend he tries the Rally Pro with road tyres. I tried both bikes before I actually bought the Rally Pro. The Pro is ergonomically superior and, more importantly, seems to ride and steer more progressively (with the road tyres) and turns plenty quick enough for a bike of this type.

Paul Williams, Malvern

## McPint's greatest fan

We were in the Grandstand at the TT when John won his first race on the Isle of Man. He actually signed a ticket for us but, sadly you can only just read it now. I'm sure he would like to see it and I could always send it to him to sign again. Many thanks, his greatest fan.

Mike Sinclair (Dr), email

## DCT's a winner

Although the NC750X (MCN, December 14) is indeed a brilliant



Mike's treasured Grandstand ticket

commuter, as an owner of a DCT model for 12 months I have to put people straight about its all-round excellence. I know it won't lift a wheel or embarrass a sportsbike, but the key is to learn how to ride it. Most testers don't have the bike long enough to fully get to grips with the DCT. Trust me, when you get the hang of it, great fun can be had, especially if you set up your own user mode. I could go on to write a full review, indeed I have done online, but suffice to say there

is a lot of grinning to be done on this bike – mind you, I am nearly 70!

Iain S, email

## It's not justice

I cannot quite believe what I'm reading, the police and the CPS took Adam White to court giving him 22 months for protecting his own property from theft by a pair of low-life rodents (MCN, December 7). Adam deserves a medal for chasing down these offenders, not prosecution. If criminals get injured as a result of their crimes that's on them, not on their victims.

Bruce Atkinson, email

## Trident and tested

With reference to the Richard Pawelko's letter (MCN, December 14), I too have been riding (off and on, pun intended) for over 50 years and recently swapped my Ducati Monster 821 for a Triumph Trident 660. The Monster was a superb bike but as one gets older the weight and power delivery get a bit tiring, so I looked for a lighter, more

manageable bike. After a test ride I was hooked. It's light, easier to ride and responsive without the sudden power of the Ducati.

Adrian Powell, Merseyside

## Switch off crims

Regarding the subject of bike-jackings in Edinburgh, why don't manufacturers fit a device to enable the bike to be disabled from say a smartphone app, or a dongle carried in your pocket? With all the electronics on bikes nowadays it must surely be achievable.

Chris Dale, email

## Rebel without a group

Just read about the Rebel owners Facebook group (MCN, December) and found it very interesting. I've only been involved in biking for two years and have an AJS Cadwell on which I have passed A1 Mods 1 and 2, and a Rebel 500, which I absolutely love. I would join the group but for two snags. Firstly, I don't do Facebook. Secondly, I'm not a woman. Oh well.

Tony Norton, Bournemouth

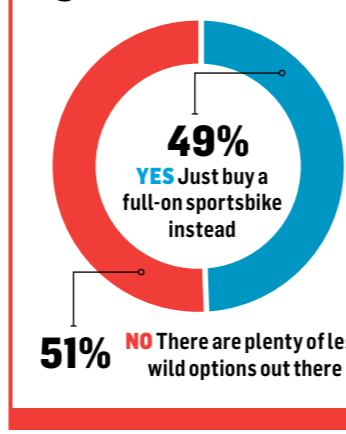
## Lock it or lose it

Regarding the article about the Blood Biker theft. I feel sorry for Phil, but people need to understand that you just cannot leave your bike parked in front of your house and expect it to be safe, certainly not overnight. As soon as you get home, lock it away and if you have been followed or there are kids in the street, go round the block.

Paul Beacall, email

## READER POLL

Have super-naked got too extreme?



## MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q 'Can I claim for car use?'

Eighteen months ago I was involved in a collision with a car that pulled across my path, causing me some fractures and psychological problems. I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. My injuries have healed but I had to buy a car as I am too nervous to get back on a bike. This is costing me a lot more to run and as I am only 39 this is going to be a large amount of money over my lifetime – can I claim this cost in my compensation claim?

Harry, email

**A** Potentially, yes you can claim this from the other side. Your solicitor should send you to a clinical psychologist. They will be able to determine whether or not you are suffering from a 'phobic anxiety disorder' relating to the fear of returning to motorcycling. The expert will also be able to

### 'I am too nervous to get back on a bike'

provide an opinion as to whether Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) would be of assistance in curing the fear. If CBT is recommended then to comply with your duty to mitigate your loss (keep it to a reasonable minimum) you should try the suggested treatment. If the expert feels therapy will not help, or you try it and it does not help, then you should claim for the costs of having to run a car rather than a bike. Considering your age, this could amount to a significant sum of money.

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

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Riding my motorcycle to the prom back in 1990. Henry Abel



As a budding car salesman, I wanted to turn up to work in style! Best I could do was a Revere! David Kennedy



My first bike in 1976 – a Yamaha FS1-E. Unfortunately, I didn't keep it as it could be worth upwards of £7000. Mike Brooke



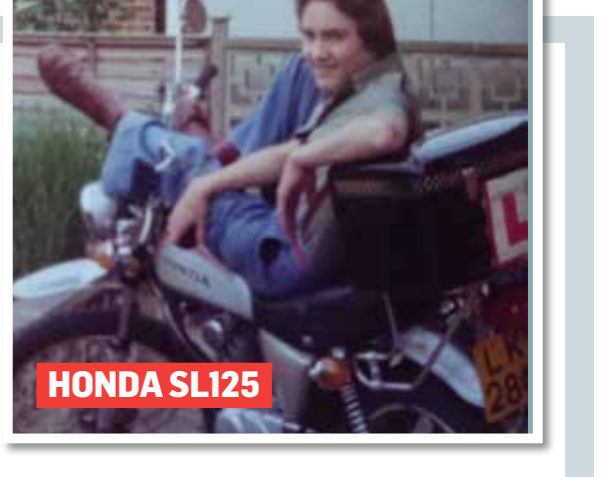
Me and my dad on my first bike in 1966, I'm still riding now. Pete Cowling



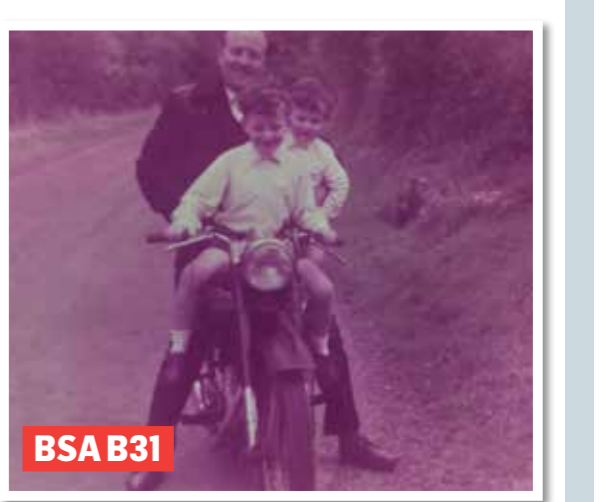
October 1969, that's me in the middle at the age of three. My mum took the photo, dad had just arrived home from working nightshift. Winston Johnston



Got my first proper bike in May 1985 £828 from Taylor's Motorcycles in Misterton, Somerset. I was 17 years old. Sam Gibbs



My parents offered to pay the deposit if I didn't get a moped but waited to get a proper bike. Mark Stroud



October 1969, that's me in the middle at the age of three. My mum took the photo, dad had just arrived home from working nightshift. Winston Johnston



My mate Dan Bate's first ride on a bike, these days he rides an R nineT and a Himalayan. Matt Little

**YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE**

A blast down memory lane

Send your first bike pics to: [yourpics@motorcyclenews.com](mailto:yourpics@motorcyclenews.com)

## MCN

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