

Talking point

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'Proper men at Elvington'

John McGuinness's assertion that the Portimao Grand Prix was like a club meeting at Elvington was way off the mark (MCN, March 29). A good 350 Proddy Racer would have wiped out half the field, knocked over the burger van and cut off the power supply to York. Proper men, not Spanish wimps.
Brian Beck, 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

Sammy's the best

We were visiting friends in Christchurch and popped into Sammy Miller's wonderful establishment. It is brilliant with around 500 bikes, and many makes you will never have seen before. We returned the following day for a longer visit it was that good.
Keith Gamble, North Norfolk

Buzzing about my Hornet

I've just bought a new Honda Hornet - a fantastic little bike which most people who've ridden it agree is a step up from bikes like the Trident and MT-09. How about doing a group test with the Hornet against the Aprilia Tuono 660 and the latest KTM Duke?
Paul, email

What's the best airbag

Interesting reading Emma's thoughts on the Tech-Air 3 from Alpinestars. I was, by chance,



Allan's trip takes pride of place

drawn to air-vest garments at J&S in Oakmere, Cheshire. A really clued up, polite and helpful chap called Adam explained all the pros and cons. J&S stock the Alpinestars Tech-Air 5 and the Dainese air vest. I have done further research on these and other vests since. I don't want a wear-over-the-jacket vest but a vest to be worn under a suitable jacket such as Alpinestars V2 Missile. For me the jury is still out so I ended up buying the V2 Missile jacket a month later with a

fit not to accommodate an air vest. What would be really useful is if you could do an article on air-vests, whether on top or underneath the jacket, with all the independent pros and cons listed.
Jim Williams, N Wales

Fifteen minutes of fame

Was brilliant having my tour featured in MCN's The Trip column this month. Loved it so much that I have had a copy printed and framed for the wall in my room. Too good for the man cave!
Allan Murray, email
Ed: Love it! Anyone else been out touring? We want to hear about it via yourpics@motorcyclenews.com

Ditch the aeros

Having just watched first MotoGP round, can I just say please ditch all this aero? The bikes look fugly! As for launch control etc, they look like a load of drag bikes from Santa Pod. Let the riders show their skill without all these electronics.
Paul Castell, email

Why all the Ducati fuss?

Why all the concern over the number of Ducatis on the MotoGP grid? Go back 50 years and the world grid, and, virtually every other championship was dominated by 350/352 TZ Yamahas. Ducati are the leaders now, it's up to the other race teams to catch up. And no, I don't own a Ducati.
Mick Post, email

Marquez's big bloop

Just got my chance to read MCN on the train back from London to Southampton and noticed this from your March 22 edition: Marquez... "That was the biggest mistake I ever made." Nope, sorry Marc I think that may have been on lap three of the Portuguese MotoGP.
Lee Westbrook, Southampton

Sprint is mint

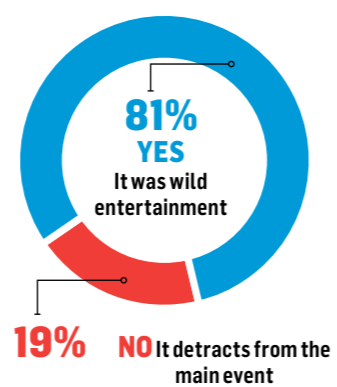
The MotoGP Sprint on a Saturday is a brilliant idea. Hopefully this will encourage BMW, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Triumph to take more than a passing interest in the series.
Gary, email

Greed outweighs safety

Well it's happened, first time out. The greedy, money-grabbing MotoGP Sprint race has put a title contender out for two races at least. Will the organisers now be giving refunds for the people who won't see their favourite rider? Total and utter greed, just trying to get extra money from fans some of whom only go on the Sunday.
Rob Burr, email

READER POLL

Did you enjoy the new MotoGP Sprint race?



MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Can I ride over pavement?'

My neighbours have complained about me parking my bike on the slabbed area at the front of my house and crossing the pavement to get it there. They think that I need permission to keep my bike there and that I need to apply for a dropped kerb directly outside my property, instead of using the one at the end of the pavement.

I have parked motorcycles this way for over 10 years, but they have now threatened to contact the council about it. I have checked with the police and am satisfied that I'm allowed to keep my bike on my property without committing an offence, but I've

'You are OK to go for a short distance'

had difficulty finding a definitive answer about the pavement.
Lance James, email

A The key issue here will be how far you travel along the pavement to park. As you would expect, the Road Traffic Act 1998 prohibits riding on pavements generally; however, there is an exception that allows you to do so for up to 15 yards (45 feet) if the purpose is to park your vehicle. The requirement that you go over a dropped kerb to cross the pavement is contained in the Highways Act 1980.

If you are travelling under 15 yards along the pavement there's no issue, whereas, if it's further, you would need to apply to the local council for a dropped kerb outside your property.

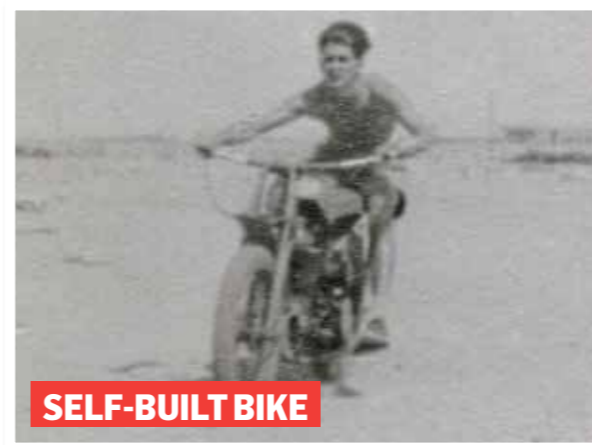
Andrew Campbell
Solicitor and author of the MCN Law column for the last ten years

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



KAWASAKI ZX-6R

Me sneaking my daughter out on my Kawasaki ZX-6R in 2002 as she wasn't allowed on it. Don't tell anyone. **Craig Rogers**



SELF-BUILT BIKE

My father Brian was stationed in Egypt with the RAF where he and his mates used to build their own bikes. **Mark Davis**



CZ 250

This was my first bike. I passed at 17 and went on to have a Kawasaki KH250, Suzuki GS400 and more. **Chris Smith**

Here is my first bike, a Suzuki 250 X7, back in May 1982, it cost £267 secondhand. **Lee Thompson**



SUZUKI X7

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR

FIRST BIKE

A blast down memory lane

Send your first bike pics to: yourpics@motorcyclenews.com



YAMAHA DT175

My first bike, a Yamaha DT175 bought new from Waltham Cross Motorcycles. **Steven Smith**



BSA DANDY

My Dad got me the bike when I was 11 and taught me to ride it round the garden until I wore the grass out! **Roger Eede**



SUZUKI GS550

TT 1984. The tank was red, after falling off on the Hairpin I painted the sides black to cover the scratches! **Rick Cullen**



BSA LIGHTNING

Spotted the Pat Sturman's first bikes pic and immediately recognised VRC 327G as my old bike. **Stephen North**

MCN

How to get in touch

Motorcycle News, Media House, Lynchwood, Peterborough, PE2 6EA

EDITORIAL

Editor Richard Newland, richard.newland@motorcyclenews.com
Deputy Editor Emma Franklin, emma.franklin@motorcyclenews.com
Office Manager Alison Slocum, 01733-468025, alison.slocum@motorcyclenews.com

SPORT & FEATURES

Editor Michael Guy, michael.guy@motorcyclenews.com
Sports Reporter Josh Close, josh.close@motorcyclenews.com
Reporter Saifron Wilson, saifron.wilson@motorcyclenews.com

BIKES

Group Editor Andy Callon
Chief Road Tester Michael Neeves
Senior Writer Chris Dabbs, chris.dabbs@motorcyclenews.com

NEWS

News Editor Dan Sutherland, dan.sutherland@motorcyclenews.com
Assistant Editor, Bauer Motorcycling Ben Clarke, ben.clarke@motorcyclenews.com
Staff Writer Stuart Prestidge, stuart.prestidge@bauermedia.co.uk

PRODUCTION

Senior Production Editor Simon Brown
ART Group Art Director, Motorcycling Steve Herbert-Mattick
Senior Designer Simon Replh

MOTORCYCLENEWS.COM

Online Editor Gareth Evans

ADVERTISING

Group Commercial Director - Automotive Gareth Ashtam, 01733-366444

Commercial Director - Motorcycling

Marketing Manager Sarah Norman
Key Accounts James Armstrong, 01733-468391
Account manager rebecca.jackson@bauermedia.co.uk
Classifieds Sarah.Frisby@bauermedia.co.uk
Dealer Team Phil Martin, 01778-234011

PUBLISHING

Managing Director Niall Clarkson

H BAUER PUBLISHING

CEO of Bauer Publishing UK Chris Duncan
Chief Financial Officer Bauer Magazine Media, Lisa Hayden
H Bauer Publishing, company number LP003328, Media House, Lynchwood, Peterborough PE2 6EA.

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