

Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com  motorcyclenews  motorcyclenews  MCNnews



'The very best kind of celebrity'

Phil Read was the best kind of celebrity, because you got no hint of celebrity behaviour when speaking with him. In July this year, I bought some merchandise from Phil, which he kindly signed with the comment "this will be worth much more money when I am dead". I replied that I would rather that he stayed alive, because I would never sell it. This typified the down-to-earth attitude I always encountered with Phil. The motorcycle world has lost one of its greatest racers, a unique character and a great representative. Classic motorcycling events will never be quite the same.
Paul Delaney, 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

'A man ahead of his time'

I will never forget meeting Phil Read at Brooklands Museum in 2017. It was amazing to spend time discussing technical details of historic machines on two and four wheels. He was a true technical aficionado and mechanic par excellence. Little did I know this was the last time I would get to meet the Prince of Speed – a man of great talent who was so far ahead of his time that when he was doing over 35 years ago what nowadays riders do commonly, it was often seen as 'controversial'.

Kiril Ianatchkov, Czech Republic

Chrissy was an inspiration

I'd like to convey a sincere thank you to MCN for so generously covering the heart-aching loss of my very dear friend and colleague Chrissy Rouse. He was truly remarkable; a smart, bright, lovely lad who somehow had time for everyone.

Besides his podcasts, his maths degree and his teaching for three years back at his old school (which



Reader Kiril Ianatchkov met the Prince of Speed at Brooklands Museum

is consumed with grief, such was his popularity), he was also offered professional terms as a footballer in his mid-teens and for the past six months been working closely with Luke Gregory as his 'franchise manager' on the re-launch of BSA.

Remember when Eurosport held a 'keepy-uppy' contest in the hospitality area at Snetterton a few years back? I was very impressed with the efforts of fellas like James Ellison, Brad Ray and our own Matt

Roberts. But when Chrissy was persuaded to have a go (against his better judgement) there was a collective groan from the assembled contenders. The TV crew eventually had to call a halt otherwise he'd have gone on all night.

Thanks also for giving so much room to the sad passing of Phil Read. He joined us onstage at Stafford in April and, despite being grumpy and decrepit was still somehow charming. Phil had also lived a full life, but unlike Chrissy was spared to a great age.

Chrissy also joined Eurosport this year as a commentator on the World Endurance championship (he was good at that too). After his final stint on the Bol d'Or three weeks ago we had breakfast at our hotel and I'll treasure forever our hug as he left. He was a truly special boy and his light will shine on.

Jack Burnicle, email

It'll appreciate, honest!

Re Ron Rookledge's letter on how his ZX-7R has depreciated (MCN,

September 28) and asking if modern classics are worth it – it depends on the bike! I sold my NC30 in January 2019 for £2000 (having bought it for £2500 three years earlier). Decent models are now upwards of £6k! I've just bought a lovely 1996 FireBlade which I've assured the wife is an 'appreciating asset'.

Andy Morrison, email

They were proper champs

Great piece on Bayliss v Edwards (MCN, October 5). I can't believe it was 20 years ago. Me and my mate Steve and our wives did an MCN trip to Bologna flying from Gatwick on the Thursday and who was sitting next to us in departures? Colin Edwards and his wife.

Berny Rea, email

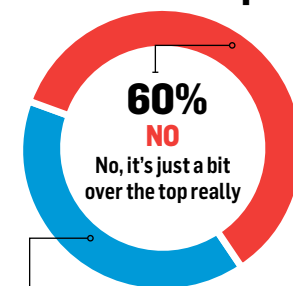
Manx needs a rethink

We are a group of race fans who've attended the Manx for many years. This year we were so disappointed at the event that we decided to contact the IoM government and the TT organisers. In our opinion, the reduction of this year's event to nine days and the slimming down of the racing schedule went too far and impacted on the attendances and the consequent benefit to the island. We hope that the island's government will conduct a thorough examination of the economic impact of these decisions in a post-event review.

Peter Wright, David Atterbury, Richard Merryfield, John Barnes Tony Fray, Bob Haseel, Tom McGovern, Mark Sheldon, Martin Simms and Darren Woolcoot

READER POLL

Does a naked like the M1000R really need 200bhp?



40% YES Why not? The throttle works both ways y'know!

MCN LAW
Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Can I ride with a pacemaker?'

I will soon turn 70 and I have sent all my documents to the DVLA to renew my driving licence. I have a car as well as my Norton motorcycle. In 2018 I had a pacemaker fitted that, along with medication, has cured my heart arrhythmia but the DVLA say I am unfit to drive/ride because of my pacemaker. Can this be appealed? My licence has not yet been revoked and we are still corresponding over the issue.

Roger Simpson, email

A After having a pacemaker fitted you can start driving again after one week

as long as you don't have any symptoms (such as dizziness or fainting) that would affect your driving, you have regular check-ups at the pacemaker clinic and you haven't recently had a heart attack or heart surgery. You must also tell your insurer that you have a pacemaker. If you drive a large or passenger-carrying vehicle, you'll

'You should be able to ride again after just a week'

have to wait six weeks after your pacemaker is fitted before driving.

If you disagree with the DVLA's decision to stop you driving you must be able to provide relevant information that was not included in the original assessment.

You can also appeal the final decision if you contact your local magistrates court within six months. I suggest you provide the DVLA with supportive letters from your GP and cardiologist and maybe follow the appeal route.

Andrew Campbell

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

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