

# Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com  motorcyclenews  motorcyclenews  MCNnews

## 'Biking is better together'

After reading the feature on biking couples (MCN, September 14) I felt that I too should share. I ride all year round, whereas my wife is strictly fine weather only. But we both ride BMW S1000Rs and it is a time that we treasure and enjoy when we can be out together on our bikes – we are not part of any group as we like this time just for us. We have intercoms and find that we ride along chatting about all sorts of what is around us, and as I am normally the one out front, I often say if there is a pothole or if a junction is clear. Riding the bikes offers very special times that we share and treasure.  
**Gair Talboys, 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

## MM93 strikes again

Somebody tell Marc Marquez that starting a race is not the same as finishing a race – getting a fantastic start and passing many riders then being involved in two incidents as happened at Aragon is not racing.  
**Andrew Smithers, email**

## Rea's blatant foul

The incident when Rea took out Bautista out in France was a blatant foul. Rea should have been disqualified from that race. After all, why should he be rewarded for such blatant misconduct? Rea's victim didn't score any points, and neither should he have.  
**Pat Keenan, Guildford**

## Nortons for the masses

I question the wisdom of Norton shelving the Atlas 650. Recent talk is of the middleweight section of the market growing, so it makes little sense to ditch such a machine. I do hope they aren't only concentrating on machines that few can afford.  
**Andrew Hayes, email**



Ron's ZX-7R is a definite looker

## Investment? Maybe not

I've owned a 1999 ZX-7R for the last few years. Its first incarnation back in 1996 was what attracted me to bikes... I thought it was space age and beautiful. Not a view shared by all, it seems. However, when I bought mine in 2018 with just 9000 miles on the clock, I paid top dollar at £3200 and chose it more as an investment as well as a reminder of my early biking career. Now, over four years later with 14,000 miles

on the clock, I look at the current values and have to say it's not really been an investment. In fact, quite the opposite. Average prices for a similar model today are coming in at around £2300. With that in mind, the question for me now is: Are modern classics really worth investing in? I guess I'll just keep the Kawasaki a little bit longer.  
**Ron Rookledge, email**

## That's my kind of Husky

Last Spring I bought a Husqvarna 450 and since then I have ridden more miles than ever before! Am I some kind of masochist who likes riding miles on an uncomfortable enduro? No. My Husqvarna is a robot lawnmower. The two hours I used to spend cutting the grass every weekend, I now get to ride my bike. Happy days!  
**Paul Degg, email**

## Striking the right tone

Many, many, tributes have been written about Her Majesty in the past days but much praise must be

given to Richard Newland for his words in the editorial in the September 14 issue. He absolutely nailed it; a superbly written piece!  
**David Cather, Devon**

## Freedom of choice

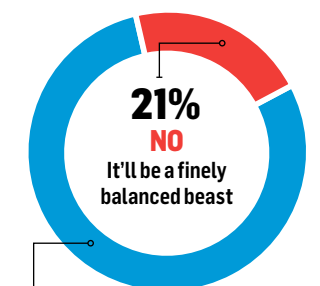
I'd like to respond to Pete Eblett's letter in MCN (September 14) commenting on 'the exploitation of beautiful young girls holding umbrellas...' As a female rider and avid MotoGP fan, I don't find it offensive at all. These women CHOOSE to do this and earn in excess of \$1500 per race, free travel, accommodation, free race tickets, sponsorships and contracts plus more. It is a professional role. Pete, us women and 'beautiful young girls' (a statement I do find offensive) do not need a bloke to tell us what to do, be looked after or told what's offensive! The old 'we know what's best' is not needed, thank you. We women riders and motorcycle racing enthusiasts (yes, women race too) are capable of making our own decisions.  
**Lynn Bee, email**

## Grid girls are outdated

I am in agreement with Pete Eblett regarding the grid girls holding the umbrellas. I'm a fairly new MotoGP fan and find it a bit bizarre to see these girls in very short skirts holding an umbrella to protect a rider wearing a helmet! Also, at British Superbikes you have the Monster Energy girls alongside the riders on the podium. It all seems a bit outdated to be honest.  
**Ben Hogan, email**

## READER POLL

Is BMW's R1300GS just too big?



79% YES Weight and capacity are getting out of control

## MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q 'Caught riding one-handed'

Whilst out riding with a friend I got pulled over by the police. Apparently the officer saw us riding with one hand on the bars and gave us a warning out of courtesy that this was not safe and we could be prosecuted. The officer was also a biker, so he was very friendly. I was not aware that it is against the law to ride one-handed – was he correct?

**Michael, Gosport**

**A** There is no law that says you can't ride one-handed. However, if a police officer believes there are other factors that do constitute the offence of 'not being in proper control' (S41 D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Regulation 110 Construction and Use Regulations 1986) you could find yourself being prosecuted. Mobile phone use by road users is covered by the same legislation.

Therefore, riding one-handed is fine so long as you remain in proper control. If you are not

### 'There is no law that says you can't ride one-handed'

then you could be found to have committed an offence. A police officer could argue in court that resting your one hand anywhere else other than on the handlebars for an extended period of time seriously hampers your ability to brake and, for example, swerve around a sudden obstacle.

The penalty for this offence at a Magistrates Court is a maximum fine of £1000 and three points on your driving licence with the discretion to disqualify.

### Andrew Campbell

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

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