

# Talking point

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## 'Fix the roads not the limits...'

Council plans to reduce speed limits appear to be an attempt to avoid repairing potholes and reduce compensation paid out because damage to vehicles is less at lower speeds. The repeated mantra about increasing road safety and reducing pollution is just PR spin to sell the idea. Engines run less efficiently at lower speeds in lower gears and increase emissions, while road safety could be improved by better education of all road users.  
**Chris Bell, Galashiels**



STAR LETTER

hold the throttle in the desired position and the tension in the arm is also used to feel what the front end is doing and be ready to hopefully correct any unwanted movement. Motocross riders suffer arm pump yet they don't brake as hard as the track guys. I am now on my second bike with cruise control and, for me, the best thing about it is that it allows me to ease my grip on the right handlebar and get the circulation going again.  
**Wain Parnell, Merseyside**

### Thank you very much...

I'd like to thank Stuart Shaw and MCN for telling everyone about the 'reasonably-priced' fuel in Hawes, North Yorks (MCN Letters, August 17). My wife and I were travelling home on the night ferry from the Isle of Man and as there weren't any filling stations open on the route back, it would have meant driving into Lancaster to fill up. However, I was confident we could make it to Hawes, where they have a 24-hour card service. I must admit to being a tiny bit twitchy as we climbed up that last hill before Hawes, but then, as we slid down into the town and limped into the petrol station at 1.30am, we both sighed with relief. We then noticed all the unleaded pumps were covered with those yellow, plastic "we've run out" things, and our hearts sank. "Thanks, MCN!" I thought. Incredibly, we managed to get home to West Witton, using whatever fumes were left in the tank. Phew!  
**Andrew Hirst, Wensleydale**

### Pointless with no cops

I see no case for reducing speed limits to 20mph when the authorities can't even get drivers to obey the current 30mph limit. All this is due to a lack of enforcement; drivers know there are few police patrols, so if you know where cameras are then you just do what you like as the risk is minimal.  
**John White, email**

### We're not wired right!

Had a wonderful time at Cadwell Park British Superbikes. We met Hicky, Leon Haslam, Tom Sykes and they we're all brilliant, but the highlight was time spent with the Haz Bean sidecar racing team. They laughed with us, answered a million questions and let us climb all over the sidecar. They may not be leading the championship, but they're a credit to their sport. If you're at a BSB round, check them out, you'll have a scream. I loved their parting comment: "You guys ain't wired right... bit like us really."  
**Joe, Grace and Matt Hyde**



Not long now until MM93 is racing

### MotoGP needs Marquez

I want to let Marc Marquez know that we are all missing him. We want him back and soon. MotoGP is not the same without him, we need that spark back!  
**Helen Ebrey, email**

### Licences still go AWOL

Right at the core of biking in England is the DVLA/DVSA and their authoritarianism. Licences with motorbike and HGV inclusions

on them are often being returned with those qualifications removed, leaving the licence holder with no choice but to go through the expense of a new test. The DVLA won't countenance complaints and claim that they don't make mistakes. Lots of people know it's happening but no one seems to be able to do anything.  
**Robert Chalmers, email**

### We're not in the 1970s

I was watching MotoGP last weekend as I am an avid fan, but I fear that I have finally cracked. The exploitation of the beautiful young girls holding umbrellas over the macho bike racers is becoming too much to stomach. "It's tradition!" I hear you cry, well any tradition that exploits females in this manner needs to be ditched.  
**Pete Eblett, email**

### No one cause of arm pump

There is another control that adds to arm pump and that's the throttle, it needs almost constant tension to

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LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q 'Parked car was a hazard'

I was out riding on some quiet country roads when I was involved in an accident with a parked car. The car was parked on a sharp bend next to a field gate. Luckily, I avoided any serious injury, but I hurt my shoulder, and my motorcycle was badly damaged. I have spoken to my insurance company and they told me that this accident would likely be marked as my fault. This seems harsh. I was riding below the speed limit, and the car was parked in a dangerous spot. Is my insurance company wrong?  
**Ben, Cambridge**

A I'm sorry to hear about your accident. Unfortunately, these cases can be difficult. As a starting point, Rule 243 of the Highway Code states that you should not park on a bend. However, it is also an established law that drivers should reduce their speed when approaching a bend in order to

### 'The Highway Code says don't park on a bend'

navigate around or stop before an obstacle. There is a chance you will succeed in your claim, although if you do, it will likely involve a substantial reduction for contributory negligence. The result will come down to the specific circumstances. For instance, was your speed reasonable and was there a legitimate reason why the car was parked where it was? It would be sensible to contact a specialist motorcycle solicitor.

### Andrew Campbell

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

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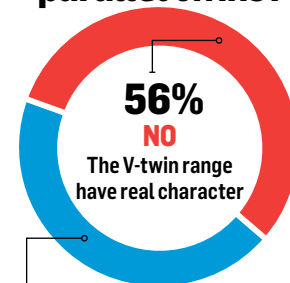


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### READER POLL

Are Suzuki on the right track with new parallel twins?



44% YES It will enable them to modernise their fleet