# Talking point LAW

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# 'Back in love with biking!

Having been riding since 1975, I was fast losing my love for motorcycling. I own a Ducati Hyperstrada and a KTM Duke. but during last year I just wasn't enjoying them. It was a combination of the condition of the roads in beautiful Lincolnshire where I ride and the buffoons that use them. So I sat down and had a good talk to myself and looked at why I ride motorcycles... and came to the conclusion that led me to buy a smaller machine. I ended up with a Husqvarna Svartpilen 401 and I feel totally rejuvenated by it! I can ride the backroads and green lanes and not see another vehicle that is trying to kill me or race me all day long! Pure bliss! I advise anyone in a similar position to try a smaller motorcycle and enjoy the sheer joy of riding for riding's sake once again. Mark Wardle, email



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

## 'We love London!'

My wife, grandson (14 months) and I went to the Devitt Insurance MCN London Show on the opening day. We all just wanted to say a big thank you to all involved for putting on such a fantastic event at a great location with all the mod cons. The effort put in by the exhibitors and the race stars was exceptional. We particularly enjoyed talking to the racers who didn't hesitate to have photos taken with the grandson. Thanks McGuinness, Hickman, Rutter, Johnston, Moore and Iddon It was great to see the classic racers especially the Sheene RGs, the Rutter TZ and Ducati and Bruce Dunn's outstanding Yamaha. Hope the guy who crashed in the sprint race is ok. Keep up the great work and really hope that this event continues next year.

 $\overset{\cdot}{\text{Kerry, Kerry and Harrison Green, email}}$ 

## Just buy a programme

sound credentials at each Irish road racing organisation to set up

Star of the show: Looks like Harrison loves Hicky and Johnston best of all

a crowd funding scenario? The bottom line is if we can afford to get there, then most can put the cost of a couple of pints in the pot. I've often been asked for "a quick look at your programme mate" but if everyone bought a programme instead of sponging that'd help too. Eric Coleman, Tonbridge

## '50p to save racing'

Having read the sad news that the NW200 was being cancelled due to

prohibitive insurance costs I was expecting hear that the premium had climbed into the multi-million pound bracket. However, this was not the case. The cost for the NW200 had increased from £30,700 to £97.000... surely the simple answer to this would be to charge the 195,000 spectators a 50p levy, thus covering the cost in full? I can't imagine any self-respecting road racing fan would complain if it

### Give Norton a chance

Rob Chesman, Barnard Castle

meant the event would go ahead.

Yesterday, I got my love of biking back with a test ride on the new Norton 961 CR. My god, what a machine. It was the sort of raw experience I thought I'd never get to enjoy again in our modern cotton wool/techno world. The new people at the helm of Norton should be applauded. We all know what happened before but give the new team a chance. Well, did I buy myself one? Damn right I did.

Tune in for MotoGP

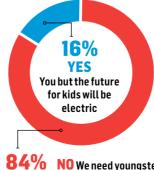
I have a solution for Pete Thompson who is facing paying to stream sports that he doesn't want (MCN Letters, February 8). You can have your wish and pay one subscription for just MotoGP. Just sign up to motogpyideopass on the internet. this will cost under £200 per year but you get so much for your money. Moto3, Moto2, and MotoGP live or there to stream at your leisure at a later time. You also get every single practice session, all the testing and all the press conferences. Best of all, if you click on a year from a dropdown menu vou can watch any race since Dorna took over running MotoGP, All I had to do was buy a lead from my PC to the TV and everything was sorted. I believe you can get the same for World Superbikes but I don't have time for that as well so just watch the highlights on Channel 4. Trevor Fisk. Suffolk

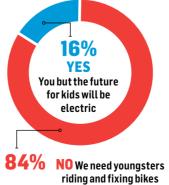
## Insurance farce

I was unfortunate enough to be hit by a car on the wrong side of the road while I was out on my bike. My insurance company recovered the machine and here I am three and a half months later still waiting for the bike to be returned to me. I have constantly requested a return date and still they cannot give me one, they get paid storage for every additional day that they have the bike! Frankly unbelievable. Paul Williams, email

# **READER POLL**

Is the industry doing enough to bring in young people?





questions answered

## 'My ex says our kid can't ride'

My wife and I are separated but we have a 15-year-old daughter who likes to ride pillion on my bike. Now my ex is claiming I am breaking the law by not asking for her express persmission for the bike rides. I thought that since I am the dad then I am able to make such decisions myself and don't need my ex to have her say. Who is correct here? James S. email

There is a requirement for parental consent for carriage of children as passengers on motorcycles. The rule states that "no person under the age of 17 may be carried on a motorcycle without the consent of a person having parental responsibility for that person... otherwise that person is committing an offence.

The rules specifically refer to the consent of "a" person. The

# 'The law does not require both parents'

rules do not refer to both parents having to give consent. It is therefore my view that you do not need your ex-wife's consent as you have parental responsibility for your daughter.

However, your ex-wife is free to apply to the court for an injunction if she wishes to do so and then it would be for a judge to decide on the specific facts of the case, for example if there is any evidence of reckless riding which I am sure there is not.

## **Andrew Campbell** Solicitor and author of the MCN Law

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





This was back in 1976, parked up for a picture at the Sound on the Isle of Man. Andy McClean

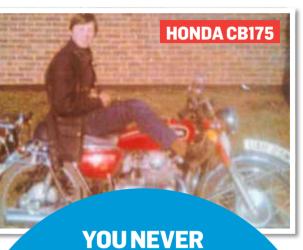


This is what I was riding back in 1975. Sorry that I'm not in the nicture as well... Robert Smith



...but I am in this picture from a little later with the 1984 GPZ1100. Robert Smith

My first bike on my 17th birthday in 1974. Bought from Clark



**FORGET YOUR** 

A blast down memory lane

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



1980... I wasn't even two and couldn't pedal a cycle but I could ride a motorcycle. Scott Moore



My grandfather on a Husqvarna 500 in Denmark in the 1950s. myself ride a Ducati Monster 1200S. Colin Gordor



This is my mate Ged fooling around when he bought his Indian to resurrect about two years ago. John Hogan



Me and my wife with my first big bike in 1984. We are both still riding but on Triumphs now. Peter Cook

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