## **THIS WEEK**

# Taking point Kaw

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## 'Let's save **road racing**

Surely, sport enthusiasts and the wider industry can find a way around the cancellation of Irish road racing due to insurance costs? For starters, are the following possibilities being investigated? 1. The industry must be big enough to underwrite its own major events. 2. An obvious source of income. at events where spectators have long enjoyed a free show, is to make a small charge to each person who watches other than from their own home or business location. I've seen figures for the NW200 weekend of 150,000 spectators. Even the cost of a £500,000 insurance premium would work out at only £3 per person. If it was a ticketed event. I don't think there would be a single complaint and a pay-whatvou-think-it's-worth system might bring in even more revenue considering a weekend ticket for a BSB meet costs £45. **Doug Harris, Stockton-on-Tees** 



Write something that spikes our interest, and you could get selected for the Star Letter slot. ach week one lucky reader will receive an MCN T-shirt in a variety of different designs

#### Fees? Just shop local

In response to recent letters from readers complaining about import charges on motorcycle related products purchased outside the UK. Call me old fashioned, but what is wrong with visiting your local dealer, seeing the products in the flesh, getting expert advice from the staff and, in the case of helmets and clothing, trying them on to get the right fit and if you purchase items, you can take them home with you. The internet has its place, but why not support your local dealer? They can often match internet prices and don't charge for delivery or returns. The saying 'use it or lose it' applies here, just look at your local High Street. Fergus Richmond, email

#### Don't get ripped off

Having made up my mind to sell one of my bikes, I chose an online dealer



who gave me a price over the phone only to turn up on the day, slag the bike off and offer me £600 less than the phone price. Is this the way they make big money? My advice is to sell privately to get a fair price. Alan Burnard, email

#### Sturgis memories

Saffron's Sturgis rally visit (MCN, February 8) brought back some great memories from our first big

bike trip back in 2007. My wife and I booked a guided tour with HC Travel which visited all of the same places as Saffron and her family. We were blown away by the scale of it all, while Deadwood Wall Drug and the Badlands are all essentials. We rode from Denver to Sturgis on our standard new Harleys from Eagle Rider and it seemed quite a long way, but on a fuel stop near Sturgis were taken aback by a custom chop that looked barely rideable - but the young owner had ridden up from Florida! Great memories and people. Neil Rivers, email

#### See sport for less

Regarding Pete's letter about the cost of BT Sport: if he has a mobile then he should consider switching to EE and one of the deals with 'inclusive extras', one of which is BT Sport. I pay an extra £5/month on

top of this which enables cast to a Chromecast (£35 for the latest, £20) on eBay for earlier models, you plug into TV) and see Hodgy, Gav and Suzi on the big screen. Jasper Hegarty-Ditton, email

#### 'l was a victim too'

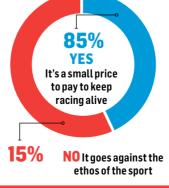
Reading about the French owner of a Multistrada that was stolen on the way to the TT made me feel sick as I was the victim of possibly the same gang when my Z900 was taken from outside our hotel along with seven other bikes, but recovered 12 days later in Liverpool. I was convinced mine was lifted in a van. As most of the gang just received suspended sentences, no doubt they will be eyeing up this year's spoils at TT 2023. Note to all TT travellers this year, please lock your bike with as much security as you can carry. Val Mellor. email

#### **Save British biking**

Regarding the story on not enough young people coming into the bike industry (MCN, February 15). Have we considered the possibility that young technicians who are interested servicing and repairing internal combustion engines may be instead replacing their skill set for swapping batteries? I speak from experience as a young lad I was speaking with the other day who's ecently completed his Level 3 NVQ is now looking elsewhere as he has little interest in working on electric vehicles. Great shame. Dan Fantham. Hastings

#### **READER POLL**

### Should NW200 organisers charge for tickets?



## Your tricky legal questions answered

#### 'Skip was left without lights'

A month ago I was riding my bike at night along a poorly-lit road having just finished my late shift. I was riding within the speed limit when suddenly I came upon an unlit skip parked about 15 metres away from me. I had no time to come to a complete stop. I tried to swerve but wasn't able to in time and instead I collided with it. I broke my ankle and will now be off work for a couple of months. Do I have a claim? Dave. Cheshire

You may have a claim Section 139 of the Highways Act 1980 deals specifically with skips. It states that the relevant highway authority may impose conditions that relate to the siting of the skip, its dimensions, its colour and lighting to make sure the skip is immediately visible to oncoming traffic.

#### 'There are laws around lights on skips'

As the skip was unlit, this is ndicative that it may be found to have constituted both an obstruction and a source of danger to road users. This would be enough to succeed as negligence. The Defendant will likely raise contributory negligence arguments for you not keeping as good a lookout as you ought to. It is possible that you could be found largely at fault, so it would be sensible to instruct a specialist solicitor to make sure you achieve the best result.

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

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Here I am aged 10 in 1979. It was my birthday and I was on my first bike. I am riding a Yamaha XSR900 now. Paul Ray



Aged 18 in 1978 on my first bike, a Honda SL125. Wish I'd hung on to this one, even with the dodgy electrics. Mark Hodgson



This was taken in the summer of 1969. I am still riding now at 70 years old on but on a Yamaha XJR1300. Bob Draper

My first real bike. This would have been April 1983. Just two months before passing my test age 18. David Aiken





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I loved this bike - a Suzuki GSX-R750 - so much so that leven owned a matching suit. Gio Aufiero



My first big bike after learning on a Tiger Cub. Bought 1967 for £25, sold 1968 for £40. What a profit! Richard Whitham



This was my first big bike. Safe to say it was very different to the Yamaha Diversion I passed my test on. Andrew Smalley



First date with Chris in 1968 (and my little brother in his PJs). Lots of bikes since but still the same girl. Nick Lucich

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