

Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com  motorcyclenews  motorcyclenews  MCNnews



Biking puts you on top of the world

Just thought I'd share a of picture I took while out with some friends on our bikes this summer, it was taken at a place called White Horse Hill near Uffington in Oxfordshire – the home of a prehistoric chalk horse carved into the hillside – and to my mind sums up perfectly the end of a great summer evening ride and the pure joy of freedom you get from a motorcycle.

Dave Church, email
Ed: What a great shot and that feeling after a long summer ride truly is hard to equal.

STAR LETTER

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

Keep wildcards coming

I was struck by the poll on wildcard rides at international events. I agree that they give the spotlight to up-and-coming hopefuls and that all can benefit from this exposure. But it is also true that points lost by regular riders can upset the championship, even if only at the lower rankings – after all, a wildcard is unlikely to podium. There is a simple solution: Encourage wildcards, but exclude them from the points. Note the achievement of wildcard results, but just bump every rider behind them up one place in the scores. Young riders just need to be seen and be able to prove their mettle.

Andrew Richford, London

Sportsbikes aren't dead!

I'd always said I'd never get another sportsbike... too uncomfortable, totally ridiculous having 200+ bhp, too complex, too noisy too flash, too well, just too! Until I traded my GSA in for a S1000RR in a fit of mid-life, post-Covid, pre-geriatric fervour.



Happy birthday to the Walden Riders

And my god was I wrong, firstly, it is totally comfortable, I haven't sat on many modern sportsbikes so the S1000 may be 'softer' than others, but I used to own a 748R – an instrument of torture painted red. As for having 200bhp, that is only there when you are wringing its neck – when the opportunity presents, my goodness! As for complexity, we are so lucky to live in what is, let's face it peak ICE, things that burn petrol will never

be better. Modern sportsbikes aren't dead, in fact getting one is the most life affirming thing I've ever done.

Neil Fraser, email

Doing our bit for charity

Thought you might like this picture from our eighth birthday meet at Walden Riders (left) where we reached the milestone of raising £30,000 for the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, a charity that being bikers we strongly support. We have more than 1.1k Facebook members and meet once a month.

Alex Luckett, email

Just how do they do it?

One of my biggest pleasures when getting a new bike is purchasing mods for it. And in this arena, the craftsmanship from Evotech Performance blows every other company out of the water. I have no clue how they are able to machine a radiator guard that looks better in your hands than it does as a 3D render. And their attention to detail, from their laser engraved

logo on a screw head, to how a tail tidy gets assembled, is right up there next to the iPhone.

Felipe Lessa, email

Prevention beats cure

Josh Close's article on pump arm was really interesting (MCN, July 27). It was fascinating to read how 'Surgeon to the Stars' Michael Hayton deals with the problem, which seems pretty common in racers. At the back end of the trackday slow group, I had been experiencing something similar in my left forearm. So I fitted a quickshifter, and solved it. At medical school, they taught us that prevention was always better than cure. I've found this to be very true, although cure is more glamorous and easier to bill for. My point is that "pump arm" occurs because many racers' right forearm muscles are being asked to do too much. Surely an engineering, rather than a surgical, solution is needed. My cars have had servo systems to augment the force I apply to the brake pedal for decades, after all.

Dr Andrew Coe, Consultant Anaesthetist

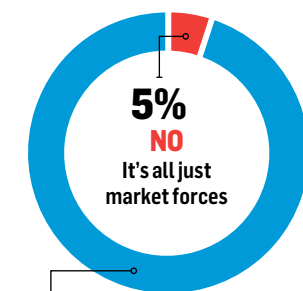
Community spirit?

Late July, I took off from Edinburgh, a pleasant ride till a lorry making a sudden move hit me and kicked me off the road. No car drivers bothered to stop. No worry though, don't we belong to this great motorcycling fraternity? How many stopped after seeing the wrecked ZZR14 and distressed rider? None.

Bruno Peault, email

READER POLL

Should fuel firms lower their prices?



The recent profit news has been obscene

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'They claim I'm faking it'

I have a personal injury claim following a motorcycle accident in 2020. I was badly injured and I was off work for nearly a year. Although my injuries have limited my hobbies I have continued to work on my bikes and DIY projects. Last week my solicitor called me to say the other side has surveillance footage of me working in my garage. They say that this shows that I am not as injured as I claim to be.

Roger, Deeside

A Surveillance filmed from a public place is not illegal but the agents are not permitted to trespass onto private property. There is not much a legal representative can do to prevent an insurer carrying out surveillance or objecting to its use in court. It is a widely used tool by Defendants in personal injury cases because if the footage shows that the extent of the Claimant's injuries is not as severe

'They filmed me through my garage door'

as they have suggested, the value of a Claimant's compensation can be reduced. A claim can even be completely dismissed.

Claimants can be assured that if they are honest and consistent when reporting injuries then surveillance is unlikely to harm their claim. Sometimes such surveillance even helps to show the day-to-day impact of injuries.

Make sure your solicitor requests the unedited footage and agent witness statements.

Andrew Campbell

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

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