

# Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com motorcyclenews motorcyclenews MCNnews

## 'Held to ransom on electronics'

With the ever-increasing use of electronics on bikes (and cars) there is also a trend for withholding some of their best functions until a ransom payment is made. As your MCN250 test (MCN, May 3) of the KTM 890 Adventure R discovered, four of its electronic controls which worked from new are, after a short time, automatically shut down unless a significant extra payment is made. It is disingenuous of KTM and others to claim these extra costs because all these facilities are fitted, working and thus already paid for, on your new bike. This insidious practice should be discouraged. **David Bagshall, 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

## Noise isn't an issue

Admittedly, some exhausts can be OTT but the vast majority are not. If everyone is going to have to succumb to more road policing with decibel meters, then I seriously suggest the relevant authorities do their due diligence first. 'In head first' might be a polite way of putting it, just as in the case of smart motorways all those years ago, in the name of 'safety', and look where that got us. Arguably, lives can be saved by an exhaust louder than 77dB at approximately 30mph. **Jim Williams, N Wales**



Have you fallen off your motorcycle or are you just pleased to see me?

riders throw their machines at the Scottish wilderness. Brilliant effort by all those who took part and the Edinburgh Trials Club whose members and marshals put huge amounts of time and effort into the event – and the people of Fort William who welcome everyone. **Deborah Watson, email**

## Throwing some shapes

Wow! Can't wait to get on the dancefloor with those airbag

jeans (MCN, May 3), the girls will definitely be impressed. Yes ladies, I have big thighs wink, wink. **Andrew Smithers, email**  
**Ed: See this week's poll (right)**

## Cops have a job to do

I'm probably going against the majority here, but since the early 1990s, probably earlier, police up and down the country have been using unmarked patrol cars. When living in the North West I watched a local TV news article about them on the M6 through Lancashire and Cumbria the evening before I was due to drive from the Wirral to Edinburgh and passed two unmarked cars on the journey. Cop shows on Channel 5 prove they are used extensively. Since then I have chosen to drive and ride within the limit and surprisingly I have never had a speeding ticket. I now live in Leicestershire where no end of drivers choose to exceed the limit, very often dangerously. So if unmarked speed vans have the intended effect and encourage

drivers to keep within the limits, then show me the downside. **Peter Highcock, email**

## Speed related?

It would be useful to know the reasons for the 44 deaths on Northamptonshire's roads – it is unlikely they were all directly speed related. How many were the result of drugs or alcohol? How many resulted from poorly maintained roads? Were any on the smart M1? How many resulted from poor vehicle maintenance? Are Northamptonshire Police addressing these issues? You could also ask how many assault, drug dealing, burglary, shoplifting and criminal damage cases had been reported but not investigated. The cynical would say these issues are related. It is much safer to sit in a van than it is to tackle criminals. **Michael Price, email**

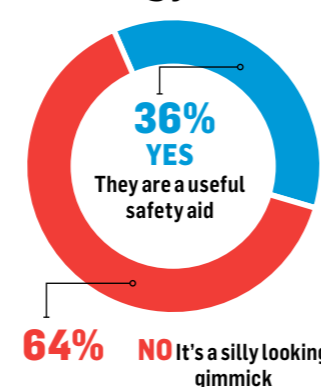
## Nice slice of nostalgia

I'm sure many of us look back fondly and wish we still had that first provider of wheeled freedom. With that in mind, it was great to see last week's 'You never forget your first bike' page with one very fortunate reader sharing a picture of themselves as a very young rider and being able to say the magic words "and I still have this bike". Just wish I could same the same of my little brilliant 1976 S1. Keep sharing the memories.

**Brian Hambly, Stirling**  
**Ed: Keep sending your first bike shots to yourpics@motorcyclenews.com**

## READER POLL

Would you wear airbag jeans?



## MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q 'Horse muck hazard...'

I was riding through a village when I came to a bend and there was horse poo spread all over the road where cars had driven through it. After about another 150 metres the traffic in front of me had stopped. There was a group of horses and riders on the road and we had to wait until they went down another lane. If I'd come off my bike because of that horse mess, would I've been able to claim against the riders? **Luke Stevens, Herts**

**A** You would need to establish (i) that the horse rider responsible owed you a duty of care; (ii) that by failing to clean up the mess, the rider breached that duty; (iii) that breach caused you loss (i.e. injury, and/or damage); and (iv) that the loss caused was not too remote. It is reasonably foreseeable that manure on a bend would

### 'You'd struggle to prove which horse did it'

cause a hazard to road users. However, I would expect the rider to contest any claim on the basis that you couldn't prove whose horse was responsible and that this is a peril of rural riding. There is no legal requirement for horse owners to clean up mess but section 161 of the Highways Act 1980, makes it an offence to deposit anything on a highway which injures/ endangers other road users. You'd still face the problem of not being able to identify the rider responsible.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Solicitor and author of the MCN Law column for the last ten years  
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KAWASAKI MACH 3

This was my first bike when I was 20 back in 1972. I am 70 now and ride a 2011 Ninja. I also have an FJR1300. **Bill Patton**



SUZUKI ZR50X1

I bought the Suzuki instead of an FS1-E because it looked like a real bike. Is PPP 572W still around? **Graham Waddington**



YAMAHA RD200

Lorraine Jones (nee Snow) with her sister Dionne on the pillion plus Michelle and Julie piling in. **Dave Finch**

My grandson Raffy can't wait for his first bike, so helped himself to a go on TGI Friday's display Harley. **Tim Moore**



HARLEY

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE  
A blast down memory lane  
Send your first bike pics to: [yourpics@motorcyclenews.com](mailto:yourpics@motorcyclenews.com)



YAMAHA RD100

My Yammy RD100 back when I was learning. Those were the days, my friend... **Nigel Baguley**



KAWASAKI ZXR400

This was my first road bike back in 1995. What a beauty that was! **Clive Bell**



YAMAHA XS750 & HONDA CB400

These were my motorcycles back in the early 80s, pictured here with my (now) wife. **Denis Calvert**



SUZUKI RE5

I was in awe of the Suzuki rotary when it was released in 1975. I managed to realise my dream a few years later. **Greg Archer**

## MCN

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