

Talking point

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Harry Dunn deserved better

It appears to me that the result of the Anne Sacoolas case is that the accused has suffered little more than an opinion from the Old Bailey and the United Kingdom after getting a suspended sentence and a driving ban. Surely the persistent apparent chicanery and cynical attitude of this now convicted absconder should also be taken into consideration.

J McLaughlin, 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

Can they be safe?

Just read the article about self-driving vehicles, and how the Minister, Grant Shapps, and his minions deem them to be safe. Question for Mr Shapps, are these advisors the same ones who deemed Smart motorways to be safe, before being found to be lethal?

Nick Brown, email

Saga of injustice

The killing of Harry Dunn was a tragic saga of injustice (MCN, December 14) but can anyone agree that a 12-month driving ban is anywhere near appropriate? It's academic in any event as Sacoolas will never set foot in the UK again, but it should have been life! On a political note, our extradition treaty with the USA will always be a one-way street – westward.

Paul Garrod, Portsmouth

Playing the system

Anne Sacoolas admitted her mistake then fled justice. People who flee justice and play the system



Magnificent but it's not for everyone

are usually treated to a tougher sentence; her punishment was a mere slap on the wrist.

Andrew Smithers, email

Supercharged heaven

With Ref to Martin Jones' letter (MCN, December 7) saying the TTS Busa is too much and 98% of riders don't have the skill to deal with this sort of power – my response is, don't judge other people's riding skill by your own. Up until 2021 I had a Gen 2 Busa with a TTS

supercharger which gave 325bhp at the wheel. She was assembled and dyno'd by Andy Martindale of J33 Dyno Developments, in Lancashire, with brake and suspension changes and was an absolute joy to ride, fast, very fast or normal cruising. The fact that it's not for you Martin is fine but, don't knock other people for wanting one or owning one.

Keith Devlin, email

Rough justice

Referring to the biker jailed for 22 months (MCN, December 7). Sometimes you would think that the criminals were paying the police and judiciary's wages and pensions, not the victims of crimes. If criminals do not want to be 'victimised' by the person they are trying to steal from, don't commit crime or if caught in the act don't run away. The police are rarely at a scene when a crime is being committed and that is not their fault, but it follows that they are unlikely to catch the criminals unless there is clear evidence.

But what are the general public supposed to do when confronted by criminals trying to steal from them or attack them? Tell the criminals to get on with their activities or tell the criminals to wait for the police? Name and address supplied

Snobby Ducati

Ducati's sales strategy of only going for the top end of the market has confirmed my suspicions that they are a rather snobby and elitist brand. Do I want to be associated with this image? I think not. As a teenager my first bike was a Honda 125 and I have always gone back to Honda as my first choice. Honda introduced me to motorcycling and I haven't forgotten that.

Mark Edwards, email

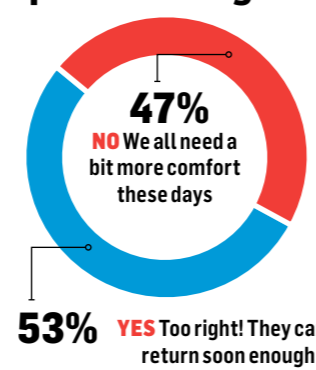
Sky-high servicing

We all accept that motorcycling is no longer totally the poor man's transport but over £800 for a service on my six-year-old Africa Twin came as a bit of a surprise. At 48,000 miles it was a large service, of course, so time was involved in re-shimming tappets as well as the simpler stuff. Even the £70 plus for the air filters was sort of acceptable, but there was a need to replace one of the plug caps because of degradation of the shield that keeps muck and such out, and at £63 this was not acceptable. In today's world of wonderful materials it should not be beyond the wit of Honda to produce a plug cap that lasts longer than my not so excessive miles.

Robert Wilson, email

READER POLL

Does KTM's new RC990 show we love sportsbikes again?



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

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



MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Misled by an indicating car'

I was waiting at a junction to turn left onto a main road and because the car coming towards me from my right was indicating left, and looked like it was slowing down, I assumed he was turning into the road I was leaving. However, as I pulled out he collided with me and I came off. Their insurers are claiming that it is 50% my fault which cannot be right, can it? Richard Holloway, email

A There is quite a lot of case law on this but the case of Winter v Cotton is closest to the facts of your accident as that involved a slowing down vehicle that was indicating, like in your case. Winter relied on both the signal and Cotton's slow speed and the court decided that Cotton was 100% responsible.

The Highway Code makes it clear that a driver on a main road has right of way but the court will look at all the circumstances

'As I pulled out the car collided with me and I came off'

including signalling, behaviour and witness evidence. The advice to those emerging from minor roads is to wait and only do so when you are 100% sure it is safe.

You should press for 100% of your compensation based on Winter v Cotton but do be prepared to accept a reasonable offer bearing in mind the ever present litigation risk, as other cases like this have not ended up 100% in favour of the driver or rider pulling out.



YAMAHA RD250E
This was around 1978, it was originally white but I trashed it and it was brought back to life in black. Ross Stothard



HONDA CB500F
My big bike at the age of 59 having just gained my full motorbike licence (first bike, above right). Tracey Walding



PUCH GRAND PRIX
My first bike, the trusty Puch Grand Prix bought new in 1977 and traded in for a Honda 250 a year later. Mike Sherburn

One year old me sitting on my dad's NSU in Slovenia. David Dolenc



YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

A blast down memory lane

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



SUZUKI AP50
16 years of age in 1979 on the AP50 outside my parents' house in Northampton. Tracey Walding



HONDA MBX125F
My Honda MBX125F with a full fairing and solo seat mod. Faster than the local RD125LCs. Gary Tufnell



TRITON
Me and my best mate Phil in 1965. Still riding today under the Spanish sun 57 years later, both on our MT-09s. Andy Holtom



INDIAN
My first bike bought in 2019. Of course went straight round my mum's to take her for a ride. Danny Wood

MCN

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