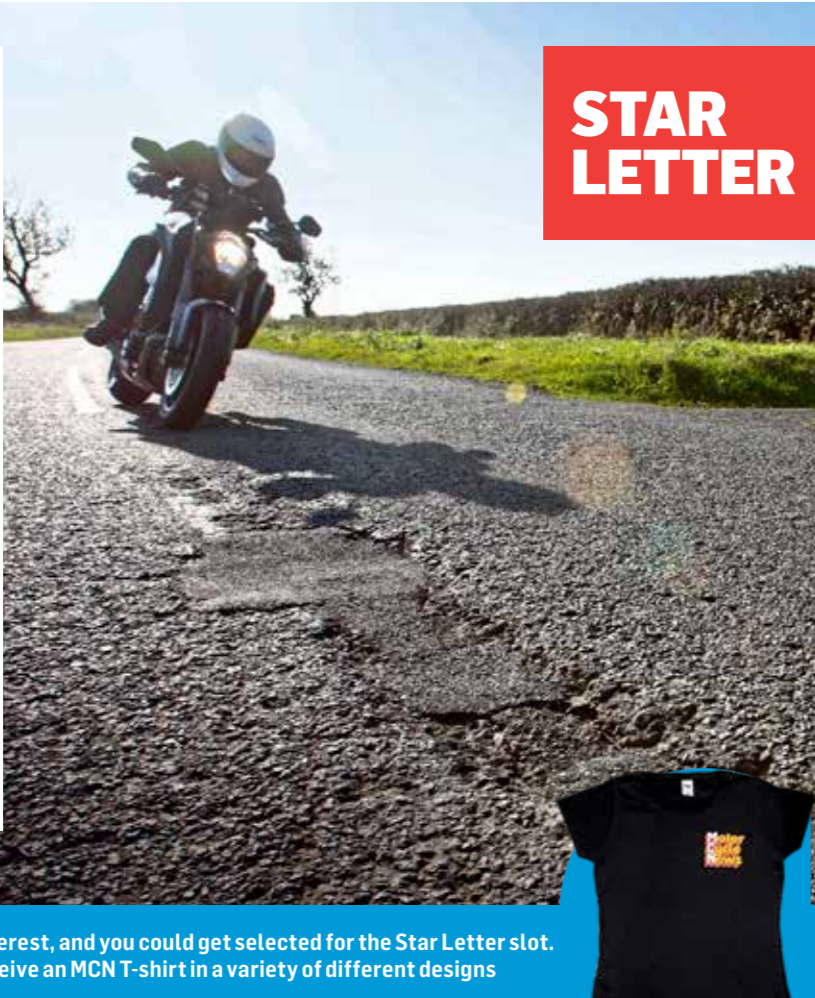


Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com motorcyclenews motorcyclenews MCNnews

'Fight the pothole menace'

Following on from your recent article, I am shocked to see the number of deep potholes in the middle of roads designated for fast traffic (motorways and A-roads). Whenever possible I have used the FixMyStreet app to report them (others should, too). However, the response is always the same: "Priority 4 – we will endeavour to fix within 6 months". This is unacceptable. Every day I see holes that are potentially lethal to motorcyclists. The Government really need to up their game. I urge everyone to write to their local MP, as I shall be doing. **Peter Thompson, Northampton**



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

Barking mad

Loved the article on Moxie and Jess – the perfect bond: rider, bike 'n' dog (MCN, April 5)! And all the kit to enable others to do the same. **Peter Scatchard, Oxford**



The spec sheet doesn't tell the full story with bikes like the Norton

Electric nightmares

We're moving towards unnecessarily dangerous times with the loss of the petrol/diesel engine as we know it. I find it almost laughable that terms such as 'hybrid' are spread around as some form of new thing. Anyone with an ounce of interest in vehicles will know that the marine industry, military and railways have been running dual fuel systems for decades. This brings me on to a Government which is clearly backing electric and has a very short memory. We had electric trolley buses which were scrapped, we had trams which were scrapped only to reintroduce later at an astronomical cost. As far as I'm concerned these were a clean, brilliant means of getting about.

Why? Because they ran on a grid system and didn't rely on batteries that would run flat and take hours to recharge, leaving folk stranded. **DR Fantham, email**

Like a Savile Row suit

I feel compelled to reply to the letter from Mr Thomas (MCN, March 29), regarding 'Nostalgia sure ain't what it used to be'. He has a valid point, if you choose a bike from a spec sheet only then the Norton 961 does not

make total sense. I have ridden the new 961 and have a CR on order, because the riding experience is far superior to what the spec sheet would lead you to believe. I think Mr Thomas should test one and see if he still feels the same. After all, you can buy a suit from M&S or have one made for you from Savile Row. They are both suits, but one feels far more special than the other. **Daz Hall, email**

Show me more action

I pay for BT Sport through SKY each month to watch MotoGP but the Friday sessions are missing the BT crew of Hodgson, Gavin Emmett and co. Saturday is as bad. No Moto3 or 2, just pit lane chat. You can hear bikes circulating but do not get to see them. What is going on? **Jeff Pryce, email**

'Dangerous liability'

As a Simoncelli fan who also liked Rossi lots because both had spirit and importantly character, it is not about time all those

MM93 worshippers took off their rose-tinted specs? Marquez is a dangerous liability. He has always been the same, smashing into the back of another bike at full pelt after the flag was put out was an early indicator of this. Bayliss, Stoner, Lorenzo, Edwards, to name but a few, could ride but never beyond their limit. I look at MM93 and all I can see is a rider that can do nothing but push past his limit. Do not mistake character for recklessness, the crash in Portugal is the most recent 'incident' in a long list. **Phil Cross, email**

Talking out of his pipe...

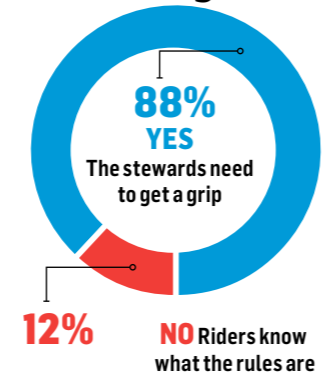
Interesting article in the April 5 MCN regarding zero emission fuels. I see that Grant Schapps, in his latest ministerial role, stipulates zero emissions "at the tail pipe". This caveat is no doubt due to the fact that producing greener fuels, whether with battery, hydrogen cells or synthetic fuels, isn't exactly free of emissions, while producing zero emissions at the end of the exhaust isn't exactly rocket science. **Jim Williams, N Wales**

Bruce's wisdom

Thank Bruce Dunn for the zip lube tip (MCN, March 29). I've just had to replace the zip on my jacket, so this stuff will keep it going longer. Here's my tip: Before putting kit in the machine, run it empty on a hot wash to get rid of any washing powder and softener – waterproof textile kit really doesn't like them! **Chris Hall, email**

READER POLL

Are inconsistent penalties wrecking racing?



MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'In trouble for being nice...'

I saw a police car lurking in a layby, so I flashed my lights at oncoming bikers to warn them. I don't think they were speeding but I was then followed by a police motorcyclist. He stopped me and gave me a fixed penalty notice saying I had broken the law. I have looked into it, but cannot find anything about using headlights to warn other drivers as being wrong. Can you confirm if he was right to fine me? **Ian Dawes, Bagshot**

A There is an offence relating to this. Warning the driver of a motor vehicle who is driving in excess of the speed limit that there is a speed trap amounts to obstructing a constable in the execution of his duty contrary to s.89(2) of the Police Act 1996: based on the case of Bastable –v– Little from 1907.

'You haven't said if there was a camera'

In addition, Betts –v– Stevens from 1910 confirmed that there must be some act of warning and there must be evidence that the driver was breaking the law. The officer was probably thinking of the case of Bastable but may not have acted in accordance with the law as you've not mentioned whether there actually was a mobile speed camera. If you have not yet paid the fine, I would seek clarification that the police have complied with the law.

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



YAMAHA PW50

Phoebe, age five, jumping her first bike. She loves her PW but definitely needs an upgrade to a KTM. **Kevin Haywood**



SUZUKI GT380

This shot was taken in 1978 by my then girlfriend on my Suzuki GT380 on the Isle of Mull – and below...



BMW F800GT

...in exactly the same spot with my current bike, while my girlfriend is now my wife of 42 years. **Cameron McMurdo**

My Suzuki RGV250 Gamma back in 1994, I've never had a sensation of speed like it since. Happy days. **Steve McWhan**



SUZUKI RGV250

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

A blast down memory lane

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



YAMAHA RD250LC

Some great memories, me and the Yamaha back when I had hair! **John Elliott**



HONDA MSX125

At 5ft I thought I'd be too short to get into motorcycling, but this bike has opened the doors for me. **Kayleigh Palfreman**



HONDA XL

Me with the Honda many years ago. **Graham Davis**



CZ 250

This was my CZ in the late 70s. It was followed by a Kawasaki KH250, Suzuki GS400 and Honda CB550. **Chris Smith**

MCN

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