

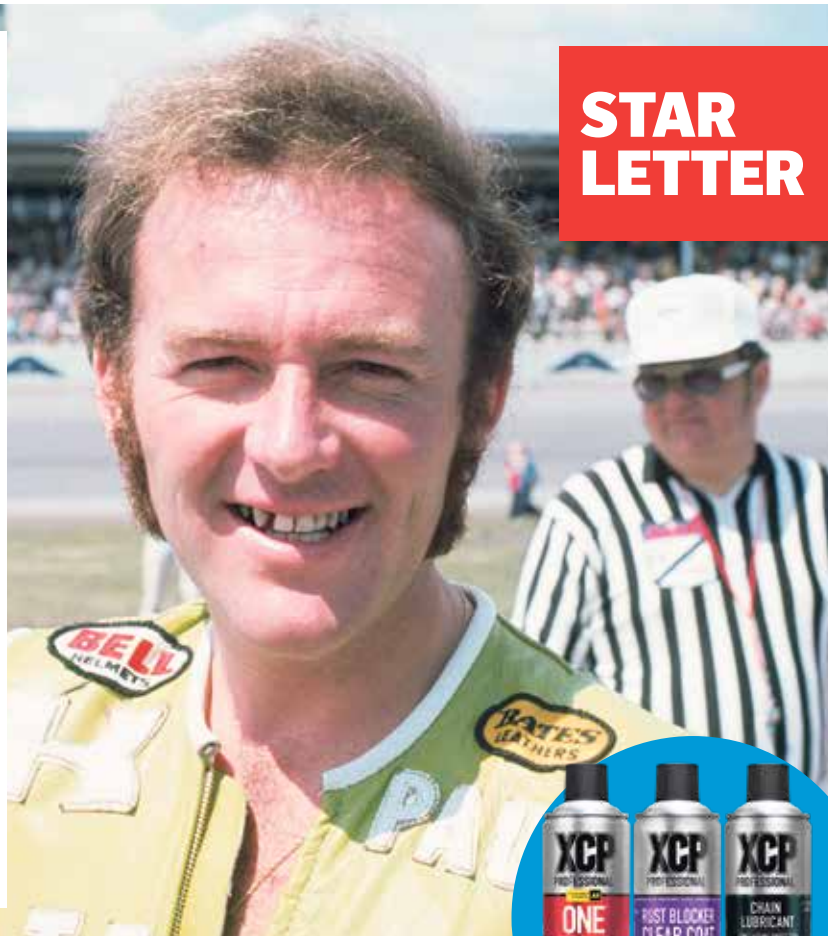
Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com  motorcyclenews  motorcyclenews  MCNnews

Tragic loss of our great local hero

Last week I heard the very sad news that Paul Smart had died. I sat slightly numb, here was a racer that I'd watched, nose pressed to the wire fencing at Brands countless times through my formative years and chatted to at his bike shop in Paddock Wood as I started my own riding obsession. How incredibly sad, he was a talented local, no, national legend, who raced in a time when it was far from safe, competing with the very best around the world, only to lose his life riding on the A21. The bloody A21, with all his skill and experience, what chance for the rest of us mortals? I shall ride out there and pay my respects, but ride safe everyone, ride safe. RIP Smarty.

Vince Holden, Robertsbridge



STAR LETTER

Write something that spikes our interest, and you could get selected for the Star Letter slot and receive this brilliant Maintenance Pack from our friends at XCP worth £30



built all over the country? These are being built to end the landfill problem but pump out huge quantities of carbon.

James, email

A ride with a difference

After seeing a shoutout on the #ride5000miles group I took blind bike fan Steve out on the back of my machine. I picked him up from central London and we rode down to Loomies at West Meon for lunch. We got chatting to a few guys while we were there, and they let him sit on their bikes. One was a KTM 790, and the other was a Ducati. Steve loved every minute, especially the thrill of the ride down there. I think the furthest he'd been pillion before our day out was a run to the Ace Cafe. Seeing as it was the first time I'd had a pillion on my bike for about 25 years, we did well on the 130-mile round trip. Hopefully Steve is going down to Brighton with another R5K'er soon, and I've said we'll take a run to the Bike Shed soon, to hang out with the hipsters.

Duncan Saunders, email



Blind pillion Steve loved Loomies

In tears over the GOAT

After watching Rossi's final home GP last Sunday my eight-year-old son Dylan was brought to tears by the thought that the GOAT will never race Misano again. After spending the majority of his young life watching all sorts of competitive motorcycle racing, he has never been so passionate about any other rider. Brought a tear to my eye, too.

John Evans, Bridgend

Makes bikes seem cheap!

Had to laugh the other day. I was in my local cycle shop with one of my Lycra mates looking at the latest e-bikes. There was one in particular that caught our eye. A top-of-the-range electric Specialized. It looked the business until I turned over the price tag: £13,500! And that didn't include pedals! I'll put that into perspective - I'm about to take delivery of a Triumph Speed Twin 1200 from Jason Griffiths M/C. On the road: £11,200 (no pedals required). Modern bikes can be expensive but just think what you could have bought with your dosh.

Chris Ditchfield, email



Alan and Lynne living it up at Misano

So great to be there

Ten years ago you published our photo at the Indianapolis MotoGP here we are a decade later at Misano. Brilliant weekend: Lowes win, Quartararo crowned World Champ and VR46's last GP in Italy.

Alan and Lynne, Motherwell

E-bikes? You can keep 'em

Love reading all your articles especially the Bucket Lists. I have been lucky to do some of the same activities but am not tempted by the

electric bike ride from London to Brighton (MCN, Oct 27). Reader Heather Collins says being on an electric feels like flying, well if I wanted that I'd go on a plane!

Tim Leech, email

Best mod? Just join MAG

Following the DfT's announcement that it wants to stop owners from altering or modifying their vehicles in any way, I've decided that the best accessory that bikers can buy this year is a subscription to MAG. It only costs a few quid, and could help to ensure a healthy future for biking as we know it. The alternative is all being dumb passengers in an automated box!

Colin Humphries, Hampshire

Why punish motorcycles?

Every time I read an article on CO₂ reduction it's always the same, hit the motorist by taking petrol/diesel vehicles off the road or hit us hard in taxes and fines within low emissions zones. If CO₂ reduction is so high on the Government's list, why is it they continue to support Energy from Waste facilities being

MCN
LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Warning got me a fine...'

After I saw a police motorcycle parked up in a layby I flashed my lights at some oncoming bikers to warn them as I rode away. I don't think they were actually speeding but I was then followed by another 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 issue a fine?

Phil Jones, email

'You need to find out if there was an actual camera'

A There is an offence of warning others about a speed trap but you need to seek some clarification from the police before you pay up.

1. 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
2. Betts -v- Stevens from 1910 - this confirmed that there must be some act of warning and there must be evidence that the driver was breaking the law.

The policeman was probably thinking of the case of Bastable when he gave you the fine but he may not have acted in accordance with the law because you have not mentioned that there was actually a mobile speed camera.

If you have not yet paid the fine I would seek clarification from the police that they 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

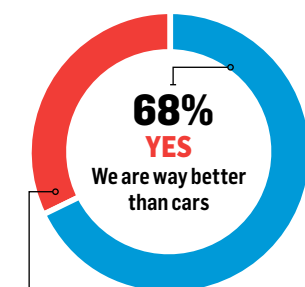


Bikelawyer

Motorcycle Accident Solicitors

READER POLL

Can bikes help save the planet?



32% NO There is still carbon involved even in E-bikes

We are way better than cars