

Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com  motorcyclenews  motorcyclenews  MCNnews

'Make it easier for kids to ride'

Triumph building more bikes in the UK is great news and all the brands are making such desirable new bikes. So PLEASE can the Government address the current impossibility for young riders to get a full licence without waiting years and paying ridiculous amounts of money? All three of my boys want to ride bikes but are frustrated by the amount of time and cost required to do so in comparison to driving (and don't get me started on why learning to drive a car doesn't involve MUCH more motorbike awareness training).

Andy Pidden, West Sussex



STAR LETTER

DXR



Be our Star Letter writer and win these DXR Code Evo Boots worth £79.99. They are available exclusively at www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk

Make every ride special

I have just read the latest road test (MCN, March 9). As with any test, we all have our own opinions and I was interested because I recently purchased an MV Agusta Brutale 800 Rosso. One of the riders said that the Aprilia Tuono in the test lacks a little character, I definitely think it looks boring in black. I do like the Ducati, but it costs £3000 more than my bike. Owning a bike should be about the exhilaration you feel when you ride it. When I pull my bike out of the garage, there is that nervous excitement at the thought of going for a journey. The three-cylinder engine, with the three exhaust tail pipes and all the history surrounding the brand, makes every ride special.

Nigel Cousins, Bude

Don't misread the code

It seems many people do not quite understand some of the new Highway Code rules. You do not necessarily have to stop mid-turn to give way to pedestrians who may be waiting or already crossing, but need to be aware that they are there



Happy 60th to MCN reader Keith

before executing the turn, therefore, give way to them and wait on the road you are exiting until it is safe for the pedestrian.

Pete King, email

Little Yamaha was a blast

I've just spent a week on Fuerteventura to celebrate my 60th birthday. While there I hired a Yamaha MT-07 from East Coast Rides - who were a joy to deal with. Back home I ride a Kawasaki Ninja 1000, but getting on that little Yam was a blast. Not as big and powerful

as the Kawasaki, but just as fun on the back roads of that lovely island.

Keith Burke, email

Ed: Sounds like the perfect way to spend your special birthday too!

Bastianini's my top tip

You were asking who'd backed Bastianini at Qatar. I did at 9/1, he was on the front row after all. I also backed Vietti in Moto2. Result!

Alan Gell, Whitley Bay

Ed: Nice one. Are you any good with the lottery numbers as well?

Time for action on roads

After an almost 15-year break from riding I picked up my new-to-me NC750X and I absolutely love being back on the bike. What is apparent, though, is the increasing degradation of the roads in the UK with an alarming lack of funding to sort them. We as bikers enjoy the freedom of a free-flowing rideout with the odd twisty B-road and the joy that brings. Well, we should anyway. On my last ride I found myself weaving around deep potholes, standing the bike up out of corners to avoid poor road

surfaces, sunken manhole covers, potholes, temporary fixes using loose media... Something needs to be done. The longer it is left, the more of us will end up having accidents. My love for biking will never stop but our roads need attention, and fast. Stay safe all.

David Johnson, email

Open and shut case

The question about what happens when someone opens a car door without checking and so causing a collision has cropped up a couple of times. The answer lies within the motor vehicle construction and use regulations. The passenger 'causes' and the driver 'permits' the door to be opened. All of which is no help if the CPS won't prosecute, however it's worth remembering that during the morning commute passengers will randomly get out of stationary cars. Reg 105 MV (Con and Use) 1984 states: 'A person shall not open, or cause or permit to be opened, any door of a vehicle on a road so as to injure or endanger anyone.'

Mal Bennett, email

Fight road tax hike

I have started a petition after learning that VED on motorcycles is due to rise to over £100. Please sign it here: tinyurl.com/2p9yyap7

Nick Jones, email

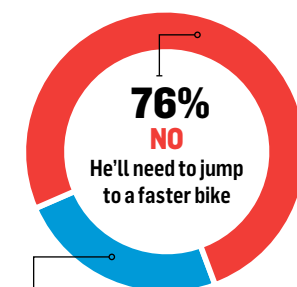
Where are the new bikes?

I haven't seen anything in the press about the crisis in the supply of new bikes. Dealers can't get stock and manufacturers don't give any indication of when bikes ordered will be available.

Mike Johnson, email

READER POLL

Will Quartararo stick at Yamaha in 2023?



24% YES The M1 still has the potential to win big

MCN
LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Is extra cover worth getting?'

I am renewing my motorcycle insurance and have always paid extra to include legal insurance. I've never had to use it and with the increase in living costs, I was wondering whether legal expenses cover is worth it?

Tom Roberts, Lincolnshire

A These policies are known as 'before the event' insurance and protect policyholders, by paying legal costs in future legal actions. In theory, these policies can be useful. However, in practice, they are frequently not fit for purpose and don't cover what they should. The most common complaint is insurers refusing to cover the client's chosen legal representatives rather than the panel of solicitors the insurer has links to. This can lead to the appointment of a non-specialist firm which can then affect the outcome of a claim.

If you choose to take out legal insurance, then it is best to read

'In practice these policies are often not fit for purpose'

the terms of the policy carefully to find out exactly what is covered (such as your choice of legal team). You should also check whether you already benefit from legal expenses on another product, such as home insurance.

If you choose not to take out a policy, then you will still be able to take out a similar 'after the event' insurance policy should legal action be necessary. These are standalone policies specifically designed for the legal action you are pursuing and will cover you for exactly what is required.

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