

# Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com motorcyclenews motorcyclenews MCNnews

## 'Thanks for the memories'

What a great way to wave a very fond farewell to the East of England Showground as a venue for the MCN Festival of Motorcycling... we camped the weekend and had a fabulous time. From the test rides, to bagging loads of bargains, the evening entertainment (the bands were brilliant!) and most importantly the camaraderie and joy that being with other bikers and those who simply love bikes brought us. We really hope a new venue can be found to continue the fun but for now thanks for the memories Peterborough. Andy Price, 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

## Distinguished service

Thanks to the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride and the riders for everything they do (MCN, May 17). I was diagnosed with prostate cancer six months after my father passed away from it, and my world crashed. A few months later I had an operation and started to get my life back. So, when I heard about the DGR, I had to join. Five years later I'm still helping others with raising funds and awareness. If it makes just one guy get help, it's a start. Us guys are the world's worst for asking a doctor for help until it's too late. On a brighter note, I am two years clear now and looking to the future. I've been back on the tartan again this time around as a true Scotsman riding from Bridge Motorcycles in Exeter. Iain Duthie, email



True Scotsman Ian Duthie dons the tartan and does his bit for the DGR

vehicles is pointless as they are not green at all. Hence the rest of Europe has backtracked on dates regarding the final production of internal combustion engines. Yet we've heard nothing regarding this from the leaders of our country. Rob Beswick, email

## Electrics aren't green

I'm becoming increasingly tired of reading about electrics. I've not yet come across one I could honestly say I liked. The push on electric

## A necessary evil

As much as I understand the frustration at being caught out by mobile speed cameras, surely we

can see the road safety benefit? If they didn't exist, the standard of riding and driving would be barbaric. The fact a camera may be around the next corner needs to cross motorists' minds to keep us in check. It's a necessary evil. Let's be honest, they aren't everywhere. I can count on one hand how many I've seen on popular biking routes. Dan, County Durham

## Make the Sprint count

Why on earth doesn't the MotoGP Sprint (which isn't a race) determine the grid for Sunday's full-length GP? It would certainly be good for Quartararo who, even when unable to qualify well, could concentrate on improving his position on the main grid. John Randall, Llandoverly

## NW200 fiasco

Following the fiasco that is the NW200 and the exclusion of FHO Racing, surely the point at which a bike is declared illegal is at scrutineering and NOT

minutes before the race starts. The bikes were allowed many laps of practice without complaint. FHO is a valuable and highly respected member of the paddock and will probably never return. Shame for the spectators, shame for the team and a disaster for the event. Peter Kynnersley, email

## Vive La France!

I have been riding in France for years and having just returned from a long weekend, I came home with two observations: French drivers are so much more bike aware than those in the UK and the French road surfaces makes ours seem like those of a third world country. Dominic Tee, Folkestone

## Moto2 heroes

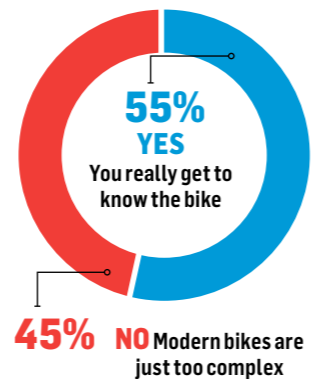
A herculean effort by Sam Lowes and his team getting him back in the race at Le Mans. The team were spinning tools like six guns! Andrew Smithers, email

## It's not us and them

It was disappointing to read Glenn Irwin's comments regarding the NW200 v the TT. Road racing is in a perilous enough situation without top riders trying to create an 'us and them' situation. Each event stands alone on its own merits but as an event, to use Irwin's football analogy, the TT is the World Cup and the North West is the FA Cup. In terms of the entry, the North West has recruited many riders on the back of the TT, and TT riders use the North West as a warm-up event. Mike Hammonds, TT Supporters Club

## READER POLL

Do you do your own servicing?



## MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q 'Knocked off while filtering'

I was filtering past a line of slow-moving cars using the area within the broken chevrons. When I was next to one car, it pulled out to the right and knocked me off. I couldn't have avoided it. Fortunately there was no oncoming traffic and I was only slightly hurt. The driver's insurer is claiming that I was overtaking and the accident was mainly my fault and has therefore only offered me 30% of the compensation. Is this worth pursuing with a solicitor as I am not happy with the figure? I realise you should only ride in the chevrons when necessary and safe. Michael Hartley, email

The definition of 'necessary' and 'when safe to do so' are open to judicial interpretation based on specific facts relevant to each case. The many cases like this I have dealt with have resulted

### 'Cases have seen 75-100% compensation'

in 75-100% compensation for the biker. I would rely on the case of Davis -v- Schrogin, which went 100% in favour of the rider. There are many less favourable cases that insurers like to argue. I would need to see all the relevant evidence. Things like relative speeds of the vehicles, the presence of a junction and the chevrons will all be relevant. I suggest you get a specialist solicitor.

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



MZ TS250

My first new bike... an MZ TS250 bought from Bridgnorth. Colin Warrington



HONDA SS50

Here I am on my Honda SS50 five-speed machine many years ago. Trevor Gill



HONDA SUPERDREAM

First bike after the Fizzie... 17-year-old me on new 250 Superdream. I now have a BMW R80RT. David Birkbeck

Shortly after my test which involved a smartly dressed gentleman observing from the pavement. Richard Lewis



YAMAHA TZR250

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



HONDA CB125

Me and my two daughters: Jasmine on her first 125 and Aimee on her first bike without stabilisers. Lee Garratt



YAMAHA PW50

Baz and Rob at Cadwell in 1985. That PW50 was great fun. They've both got full licences now. Cliff Briggs



HONDA SS50

This is my little sis on her SS50, she now rides a Triumph Street Twin. Jed White



KAWASAKI GPZ500S

Me posing in the garden with the Kawasaki GPZ. This must have been around 1997. Caroline Passey

## MCN

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