

# Talking point

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## McPhee was better than any F1 star

On Sunday October 23 Britain's John McPhee came from 22nd on the start grid to win the Malaysian Moto3 race, overtaking four riders into the penultimate bend. Moto3 is the most competitive of motorcycle classes with sometimes 10 riders going into a corner at the same time. And what did the BBC breakfast sport news report the next day? Zilch, nada, not a mention. They would rather feature Lewis Hamilton fourth in (boring) F1 practice than an actual British GP winner. **Paul Whitfield, Els Poblets, Spain**



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

## Suzuki guys are the best

Michael Scott may be right about Suzuki. Surely the hottest group of people in MotoGP at the moment isn't the riders, but the Suzuki race bike designers. Could they be in the running to build the Yamaha M1 in 2024? And would Honda stand by and let that happen? **Andrew Smithers, email**

## We're left in the cold

We should throw down the gauntlet to glove manufacturers: why is it so hard to find winter gloves with the best certified protection? We have numerous CE Level 2 products (Alpinestars GP Pro R3, LS2 Swift, etc) plus Level 2 mid-season gloves (e.g. Five TFX1 GTX) but manufacturers give us the cold shoulder when it comes to winter protection – a season when slips are more likely with rain and frost. **Mark Samuels, email**

## Phil was a proper legend

Well done to MCN on the article for the late Phil Read MBE, a racer who



Reader Chris Hornsby has great memories of the mighty Phil Read

was never truly recognised for his amazing achievements in the motorcycle championships. I had the great pleasure of meeting him many times over the years and he was always available for a chat and a photo. This is my photo of him at Cadwell Park when he was still

racing in the Classic Championship, he was just a man with a bike in a van parked at the edge of the paddock loving his racing. Over the last couple of years he still attended motorcycle events like the Staffordshire Motorcycle Show, Donington Classic and Mallory Festival of 1000 Bikes, obviously looking very ill, but still loving what he was doing, chatting and signing autographs for everyone. **Chris Hornsby, email**

## My dad's final rideout

My dad, Trevor Wise, sadly passed away after a fight against early onset Alzheimer's. He was a life-long biker and an IoM veteran, riding the Mountain course on a number of occasions in the Manx and the TT. He really wanted one final ride and my family want to make it special for a special man. People are invited to arrive in Uppingham marketplace between 10am-10.15am on Tuesday, November 8. My dad's motorcycle hearse will be passing at 10.20am and heading to

Kettering Crematorium for 10.50am. People are welcome to join along the route too.

**Alex Wise, email**

**Ed: Condolences from all at MCN**

## Just monkey around

I had the same issue as Bruce Dunn (MCN, October 19) with the Chain Monkey where I found I had to remove the hugger on my GSX-R750 K6 – so now I put it on the bottom of the sprocket and I just look underneath instead. Works a treat. **Darren Pendleton, email**

## Get that cow a helmet!

I know we can't just ignore the serious stories... but we really need to sort out helmet for the beautiful Highland cow riding the bike in the Virgin Media advert. Keep smiling! **Phil Bridgewater, Leicestershire**

## Naked truth on power

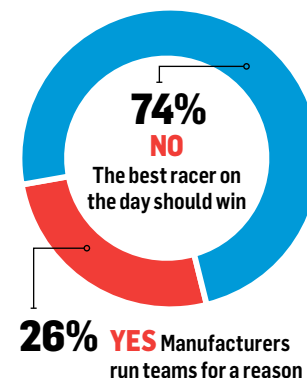
200bhp naked? All that power cannot be transmitted to the road below 80 (perhaps 90mph?) with standard gearing. Slip the clutch and half of that 200bhp is not reaching the tyre. Power at low revs is what is needed, not pub talk. And those wings on a road bike? Same as spoilers on a car: Zero effect. **Joe Crennan, email**

## Petrux is the best

Is it me or is Danilo Petrucci the nicest guy ever top throw his leg over a MotoGP bike? He is also one of the most talented and toughest – who else in the paddock could win a Dakar stage? **Trevor Fleming, email**

## READER POLL

Are team orders in racing a good thing?



## MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q 'Deer leapt out of long verge'

I had an accident last summer on the A34 near Newbury where I hit a deer that came out of a field to the right of the road. I had a few fractures but fortunately nothing life-threatening. Since the accident the Highways Authority have been cutting this verge down very low to the grass. Could this be seen as an admission of blame – do you think I have a claim? **Claudia S, email**

**A** I think you will have real difficulty establishing liability against the council / highways for the accident. If it could be shown it was a deer that belonged to a deer farm, as opposed to a wild deer, then there may be something in it (because then you could go after the owner for compensation) but I suspect this may not be possible.

You could always write to the council alleging they knew of the problem with deer on the road (it appears to be a deer accident

### 'You could argue they should fence off the verge'

hotspot) and say they should have fenced off the verge and tell them you wish to make a claim compensation for your injuries and financial losses.

You should ask for their relevant risk assessments and any minutes of meetings discussing the problem. I think they will deny liability but you may think it is worth a shot. If you do decide to pursue it then you have three years from the date of the accident to issue a claim at court.

### Andrew Campbell

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

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