

Talking point

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Give the new generation a chance

Odd that the satellite WSB Kawasaki team Pedercini, after parting company with Loris Cresson, should replace him with Leon Haslam. According to their own website, Pedercini have "always tried to help young riders come through" so, with no disrespect to Haslam, I'd have thought Rory Skinner at almost half his age would be a more suitable candidate. Not only is Skinner already on Kawasaki's factory BSB bike, his excellent performances to date surely make him a better long-term prospect. Will he ever get that chance?

Ian Craig, Aberdeen



STAR LETTER

Be our Star Letter writer and win a pair of touchscreen-compatible Weise Apex leather gloves worth £59.99 from weiseclothing.com

Snooper's charter

Just read the article on Lincolnshire Police's action about drivers 'snooping on motorcyclists to improve safety' (MCN, April 20). I've been a motorcyclist for over 50 years and I'm sick and tired of the authorities' continual victimisation of anyone who rides on two wheels! Why don't the police try educating myopic car and lorry drivers to acknowledge that two wheels actually exist on today's roads and improve their 'safety' awareness, before opening us up to every Tom Dick and Harry's opinion of our driving standards? Stay safe.

Alan Sawford, email

Don't go to Portimao

We bought the most expensive stand tickets for MotoGP at Portimao but were unaware that once in, you're confined to a small area of approx 250m. Our seats were not within sight of the one small screen. We were not allowed to, (unlike all other circuits), wander freely during practice, to watch from other corners. Also, we were not allowed to take in healthy food,



Reader Darren met his racing heroes

such as fruit or salad, but forced to opt for burgers and chips. Stands were only half full, I wonder why! Really poor. I'll spend my money in Spain or Italy in future.

Jon Higgins, email

These guys are the best

A rose between two thorns, the 50 gang, 150 years between us (above). Been watching these legends race for over 25 years. John McGuinness and Michael Rutter - an inspiration to anyone on two wheels.

Darren Martin, Manchester

Truly friendly circuit!

Taking advantage of the warmer weather I got my TL1000S out the garage and had a steady run up to Mallory Park, The Friendly Circuit, on Tuesday. While having a look around, I bumped into Stuart Hicken, Buildbase BSB Suzuki owner and Mallory Park owner, and what a great bloke he was. We had a great chat about my bike, racing and to put the icing on the cake he invited me into his BSB workshop and gave me an insight and tour around looking at his past and present race machines and their memorabilia. Riding back home I thought not many people would have that opportunity, what a great day! Thanks Stuart.

Andy Bryan, Wolverhampton

Gave me a warm glow

Outstanding service from Motohaus Powersports. I contacted them about my Keis Heated Gloves that had become faulty, but were out of warranty. I received a quick, polite response and their follow up service was equally amazing. After testing my glove it was found to be a wiring

fault, not the heat panel, so it was not covered. However, Motohaus kindly sourced an exact second-hand replacement and returned the gloves to me boxed with new cables as if I had purchased a fresh pair. As if this wasn't enough, they have even sent me a 20% off voucher.

Angela Fitzgerald, email

Dealers need to wake up

I've been riding for 28 years and have had 28 different bikes - from scooters to superbikes - so I change roughly every year (which drives my wife mad). I'm looking for a sports-tourer and almost every manufacturer has an example in their range - I just can't make my mind up by reading or watching reviews as to which one to go for. You would think that dealers would be putting 100% effort into drawing in the public and making the customer experience a memorable one. My experience suggests the opposite. I want to feel special, valued, wanted... you get the picture... not just a wallet carrying a crash helmet! We love to talk about bikes - it should be the easiest opening line in sales! Not for the dealers I've been to so far.

Tim Temple, email

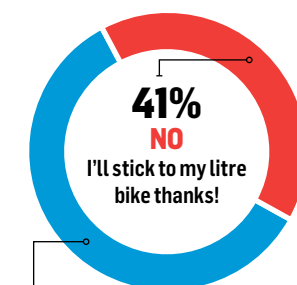
Where's Jack gone?

Has Jack Burnicle had the push as a British Superbike commentator? The spark, laughter and banter of James Whitham and Jack Burnicle has gone from BSB. Yes the racing is top notch, but now it is going down the road of WSB and MotoGP. Too boring, too clinical, too serious. Bring back Jack!

Malc Dunstan, email

READER POLL

Are you thinking about downsizing?



59% YES Less is more with bikes like the Yamaha R7

MCN
LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Can my lad make a claim?'

I had an accident two weeks ago. I was carrying my 15-year-old son on the back when a van driver pulled out of a side road without looking. I was able to swerve out of the way and there was nothing coming in the opposite direction. However, we both hit the ground and we were both slightly injured. My son sprained his ankle and hurt his wrist. I have been given a lawyer to represent me, but they won't act for my son. They said something about recoverable costs. What is going on?

Michael Lamont, email

A Acting for children in personal injury claims that involve minor injuries has become unprofitable in most cases because of the low fixed fees that these cases attract and because the court insists on "an infant settlement approval hearing" to approve the compensation which further reduces any fees.

This is made worse as courts

'Your son could wait until he is 18 to start the claim'

have been refusing to make a success fee payable by a child despite there being no such exclusion in the rules.

The result is that children involved in road traffic accidents but who are not badly injured are finding it very hard to find a solicitor to take on the case and as such access to justice has been hampered. Your son could wait until he is 18 because time doesn't start running for a child's claim until they are 18 and he will be more likely to find legal representation then.

Andrew Campbell

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

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