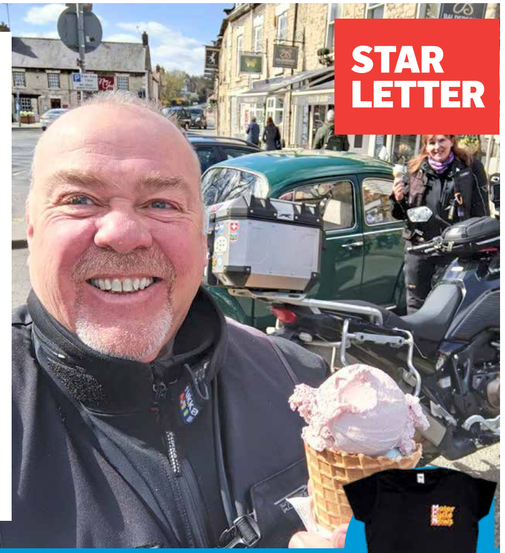
Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com motorcyclenews motorcyclenews MCNnews

STAR LETTER

'Keep up the miles, smiles & ice cream'



As a member of your #ride5000miles group it was great to see a selfie of Chris Hood and his ice cream at Thornton Dale in the April 12 MCN. If ever there was an advert for biking improving your mental health and happiness, it's got to be Chris' selfies (and I don't even know the guy!). A happier looking chap you are never likely to find... and can you blame him? Motorcycling has to be one of the best things ever for mind and spirit, whether you are pootling around the dales, tearing around a track or out with a group of like-minded people, it's a joy to be a part of. Keep up the smiles!
Rob Chesman, Barnard Castle

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

Biking in tough times

Recently I was told by my GP that I need tests for possible cancer. An hour after this I received the awful news that my niece had crashed her car. She has broken her neck, has multiple skull fractures and is still in a coma two weeks later. I managed to get out on my KTM 1290 Super Duke R over the Easter weekend, this helped massively. Please pray for my niece. Stay safe.
Simon Redford, email

Good work Remy!

Proud dad today, my son Remy passed his CBT just one week after his 16th birthday.
Peter Lee, South Wales
Ed: Top stuff and it looks like Remy has a stack of happy biking years ahead of him. Don't miss our New Rider supplement in next week's MCN.

New rider Remy shows off his CBT just one week after his 16th birthday

'Tactical? Yeah, right'

Pictures on page 10 of MCN, April 12 show a rider taking the p** out of the police and getting away with it. Letting a suspect go because officers are making a 'deliberate tactical decision' is not correct. The motorcycle does not have a number plate so the rider is not a suspect, but a criminal. The rider is pulling wheelies and riding illegally. The safety of the public is not even an issue for tactical contact because the picture shows the rider in a tunnel, so a tactical contact by a police car and an easy arrest. I could make an arrest without years of training and would not need a lot of dedicated police persons sitting in a control room to 'appropriately assess' what I should be doing.
Name and address supplied

I'll be talking Italian

I agree with Mr Hall's point about how one bike (or suit) can feel more special than another, irrespective of spec sheet (MCN Letters, April 12). However, likening a Norton 961 SP (or CR) to a Savile Row suit is somewhat 'over-egging the Spotted Dick' when the (bought in) quality components of brakes and suspension are supposed to compensate for the outdated lump pushing it along. No, I won't be test-riding one, I'll pursue more Italian cloth; but each to his own, and how one wishes to spend one's £16,500 is, thankfully, still a personal choice. I genuinely wish Mr Hall all the best with his 961 CR.
Steve Thomas, email

Racing's gone soft

In the sixties and seventies it was not unusual to see blokes racing, particularly Americans, with strapped-up limbs and joints that were severely damaged or even fractured. Now we seem to have MotoGP prima donnas. Perhaps when their motorbike careers end, they may like to take up professional football.
Andy Chetwood, Staffs

Out of pocket

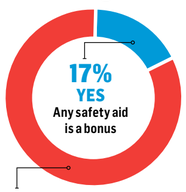
Over four years later and I've just received a cheque for £75 from the receivers for the £500 deposit I placed on a Norton Atlas. It's an absolute scandal that Stuart Garner has walked free and tarnished the name of an iconic British brand! I did test ride one in the wet and it was a bag of nails, so maybe I got off lightly. The Triumph Speed Twin I bought instead is proving to be a great ride. My Norton-engined Matchless G15 with a few upgrades continues to provide good service despite its 58 years on the road!
Nick Daniels, Harwich

Police own goal

Many police are working to improve their relationship with motorcyclists, as demonstrated at Silverstone BSB. The police had a large display showing their state-of-the-art machines helping them crack down on crime. But I expect a few will be disappointed to have seen a mobile speed camera a couple of miles from Silverstone on Easter Sunday morning. No excuse for speeding, but it does seem to negate the positive message.
Chris Smart, email

READER POLL

Would you buy a self-balancing bike?



MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

'I went over the bonnet'

Q I was involved in a nasty crash a couple of years ago when a Mini driver turned across my path and sent me flying over the bonnet. I was in hospital for three weeks and still feel the effects to this day. I was provided with solicitors by my insurance company and they were fine at first. But the person dealing with my case has changed four times and I struggle to get hold of them. It feels like my case isn't going anywhere.
Leo, email

A It's not unreasonable to expect to be kept updated with developments or to be able to get in touch with the person dealing with the case.

You have two options – you can make a complaint to your current solicitors about the service you have received to see if that improves matters, or you can do some research online to find the most suitable lawyer for you and speak to them to see if they can take over the case.

Generally, when insurers recommend a solicitor they are recommending a company they have a commercial agreement with, as opposed to the most suitable lawyer for your circumstances. Many such firms are geared up to deal with a high turnover of low-value or easy cases, and that can really show when they deal with serious injuries or complex claims.

'They are geared up for easy cases'

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

BSA BANTAM

This is my dad's ex-War Department BSA Bantam. Just one of our family's many bikes. Joe Main

Motorbike-mad Max

BIKING TOT INHERITS SPEED BUG FROM FATHER

YAMAHA PW50

Me at 20 months old in the Western Daily Press. Current bikes are a Yamaha XJ600 and a KTM 250 ISDT Enduro. Max Ryan

80CC STOMP PITBIKE

Starting them young! Here's Arlo ahead of his second birthday. He's got a bit of growing to do! Tom Reeve

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

A blast down memory lane

Send your first bike pics to: yourpics@motorcyclenews.com

HONDA CB750

Stripped it down in '78 and took two years to build my first hard tail, I now ride a 2010 VN900 (in comfort). John Ashcroft

YAMAHA RD400E

Me and my girlfriend (now wife) on my first big bike an RD400E after passing my test in 1978. Michael and Jill Hamilton

FANTIC GT50

Here is my dad on my Fantic GT50 in 1976. Andrew Bawden

MONTESA

Thought you might like this one of me on my Montesa Cota 250 in a Sussex quarry back in the day. Joe Main

APRILIA FALCO

Torqey V-twin, bespoke frame, horrendous ergonomics, hopeless electrics. I want another! Steve Herbert-Mattick

MCN

How to get in touch

Motorcycle News, Media House, Lynchwood, Peterborough, PE2 6EA

EDITORIAL
Editor Richard Newland, richard.newland@motorcyclenews.com
Deputy Editor Emma Franklin, emma.franklin@motorcyclenews.com
Office Manager Alison Silcox, 01733-468025 alison.silcox@motorcyclenews.com

SPORT & FEATURES
Editor Michael Guy, michael.guy@motorcyclenews.com
Sports Reporter Josh Close josh.close@motorcyclenews.com
Reporter Saffron Wilson, saffron.wilson@motorcyclenews.com

BIKES
Group Editor Andy Calton
Chief Road Tester Michael Neeves
Senior Writer Chris Dabbs chris.dabbs@motorcyclenews.com

NEWS
News Editor Dan Sutherland, dan.sutherland@motorcyclenews.com
Assistant Editor, Bauer Motorcycling Ben Clarke, ben.clarke@motorcyclenews.com
Staff Writer Stuart Prestidge, stuart.prestidge@bauermedia.co.uk

PRODUCTION
Production Editor Simon Brown

ART
Group Art Director, Motorcycling Steve Herbert-Mattick
Senior Designer Simon Relph

MOTORCYCLENEWS.COM
Online Editor Gareth Evans

ADVERTISING
Group Commercial Director – Automotive Gareth Ashman, 01733-366444
Commercial Director - Motorcycling kelly.mills@bauermedia.co.uk
Group Digital Commercial Director Rob Fairburn, 01733-366455
Key Accounts shaun.collin@bauermedia.co.uk James Armstrong, 01733-468391
Account manager rebecca.jackson@bauermedia.co.uk
Classifieds Sarah.frisby@bauermedia.co.uk
Dealer Team Phil Martin, 07784-234101
Marketing Manager Sarah Norman

PUBLISHING
Publisher Rachael Beesley
Managing Director Niall Clarkson

H BAUER PUBLISHING
CEO of Bauer Publishing UK Chris Duncan
Chief Financial Officer Bauer Magazine Media Lisa Hayden
H Bauer Publishing, company number LP003328, Media House, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6EA.

BACK ISSUES
To order back issue please call our UK Number on 01858 438884, for overseas +44 1858 438884.

SUBSCRIPTION QUERIES
UK number 01858 438884
Overseas call +44 1858 438884
To contact us about subscription orders, renewals, missing issues or any other subscription queries please email bauer@subscription.co.uk or call our To manage your account online visit www.greatmagazines.co.uk/solo
Syndication syndication@bauermedia.co.uk

No part of the magazine may be reproduced in any form in whole or in part, without the prior permission of Bauer Consumer Media. All material published remains the copyright of Bauer Consumer Media and we reserve the right to copy or edit any material submitted to the magazine without further consent. The submission of material (manuscripts or images etc) to Bauer Consumer Media, whether unsolicited or requested, is taken as permission to publish that material in the magazine, on the associated website, any apps or social media pages affiliated to the magazine, and any edition of the magazine published by our licensees elsewhere in the world. By submitting any material to us you are confirming that the material is your own original work or that you have permission from the copyright owner to use the material and to authorise Bauer Consumer Media to use it as described in this paragraph. You also promise that you have permission from anyone featured or referred to in the submitted material to its being used by Bauer Consumer Media. If Bauer Consumer Media receives a claim from a copyright owner or a person featured in any material you have sent us, we will inform that person that you have granted us permission to use the material and ask if they will be responsible for paying any amounts due to the copyright owner or featured person and/or for reimbursing Bauer Consumer Media for any losses it has suffered as a result. Please note, we accept no responsibility for unsolicited material which is lost or damaged in the post and we do not promise that we will be able to return any material. Whilst we try to ensure accuracy of our material when we publish it, we cannot promise to do so. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage, however caused, resulting from use of the material.

H Bauer Publishing is a member of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (www.ipso.co.uk) and strives to respond to and resolve concerns quickly. Our Editorial Complaints Policy (including details of how to contact us about editorial complaints and IPSO contact details) can be found at www.bauermediacomplaints.co.uk.

H Bauer Publishing is authorised and regulated by the FCA (Ref No. 840888). H Bauer Publishing is a company registered in England and Wales with company number LP003328, registered address: The Lanterns, 75 Hampstead Road, London, NW1 3PL, VAT no 880587011. MCN, ISSN 0027-8963, USPS 887 0 is published weekly by H Bauer Publishing Ltd, Media House, Lynch Wood, Peterborough, PE2 6EA, United Kingdom.

The US annual subscription price is £230.88. Air freight and mailing in the USA by agent named World Container Inc, 150-15, 183rd Street, Jamaica, NY 11413, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn, NY 11256. US Postmaster: Send address changes to MCN, World Container Inc, 150-15, 183rd Street, Jamaica, NY 11413, USA. Subscriptions are maintained at Bauer Media, Subscriptions, C/O Global, Tower House, Sovereign Park, Lathkill Street, Market Harborough, Leicester LE16 9EF, United Kingdom. Air Business Ltd is acting as our mailing agent.