

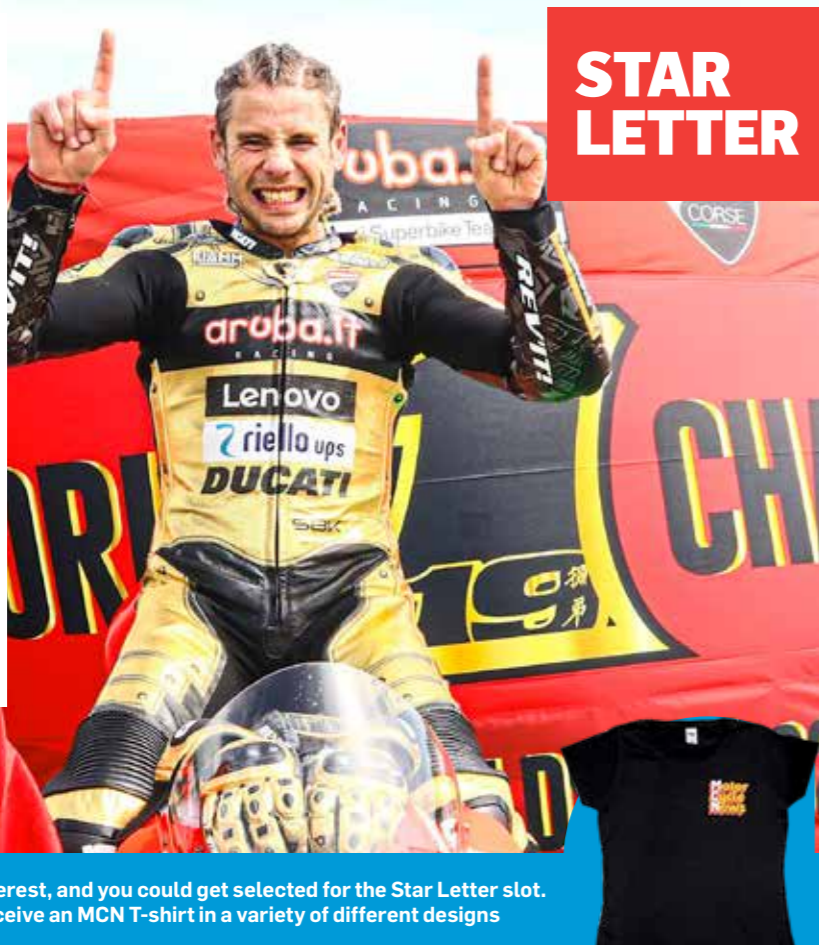
Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com motorcyclenews motorcyclenews MCNnews

Bautista is a genius

Alvaro Bautista always makes an excellent point in saying that if the bike makes such a difference then why wasn't everyone else winning regularly on it. I think people forget the level he's raced at and also the fine margins that these guys are dealing with. If the Ducati's top speed was such a factor as people are making out then he would be winning races by a huge distance, but as we've seen it's incredibly close. Maybe some people don't like him and that's fine, but give the man the credit he's due. These guys are doing things the rest of us can only dream of.

Michael Donald, email



STAR LETTER

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

Move will cost lives

Your article regarding the disastrous proposal to make MoTs biennial (MCN, January 18) is further confirmation that financial savings take precedence over lives. A similar scenario was the Government's fatal decision to open motorway hard shoulders as an extra traffic lane. Fingers crossed common sense will prevail, although 'clutching at straws' springs to mind.

Paul Garrod, Portsmouth
Ed: See p6 for the latest update

Riddle of the sands

This year like every year I watched the Dakar Rally on Eurosport and after two weeks and 13 stages I was really looking forward to the finale... Stage 14. But as with most years, a 'live' programme seemed to take precedence over Dakar. Ever since I can remember there have always been clashes. On Sunday I sat waiting for Stage 14 to start, but as time rolled on and on the snooker had at least four more



Should helmet testing go to a new level with a new British Standard?

frames to play, I soon realised that Eurosport had simply cancelled the Dakar listing. So, after two weeks of watching this amazing Rally Raid... Eurosport failed to show the final stage of what must be one of the toughest events in the world.

Steve Edwards, email

Drive up standards

ECE22.06 does not go far enough with regards to testing of helmets. The standard only advises the

minimum test requirements, not the highest. As far as I am aware there is no process within ECE22.06 for a manufacturer to determine a higher classification. Since the UK is out of the EU, should we be pushing for a UK based test standard via the BSi route? The standard could encompass various levels of classifications which would indicate the safety levels achieved for each model, rather than the all-encompassing standard currently in use. A new BSi rating could utilise ECE22.06 as the base, but adding the new classifications such as higher coefficient of friction testing, reintroduce penetration testing and I am sure SHARP and Mips could contribute further tests.

Carl Atkinson, email

Pothole warning

I was watching the breakfast news a few days ago and up came an item on potholes. The segment concentrated on the lamentable state of many of our roads, the item was focused on Scotland but is just

as relevant throughout the UK. I'm a new rider at 61 and still on L-plates and I must say since having covered about 4000 miles this past year, I heartily concur that many of our roads are in a terrible state. The thing I did note on the news item, however, was the focus on indignant car drivers and also the danger to pedal cyclists: no mention at all was made regarding the dangers facing motorcyclists!

Ian Pratt, Wales

It's a thieves' charter

I read about the plight of Adam White (who was jailed after pursuing thieves) and feel the need to express my frustration. Here is a person who, through no fault of his own, becomes a victim of crime. He chooses not to simply acquiesce to this, but fights back. A normal society would applaud his actions. But what do we do? We imprison him for such 'taking control' and release the criminal perpetrators on suspended sentences.

Andy Cowman, email

Taxing issue

My Daytona Road Star boots finally gave up after over 20 years. I looked online and decided to order from FC-Moto in Germany, as the price was good and delivery was only £6. This morning I received a letter from Parcelforce requesting a payment of £96 for import duty. Has anyone else encountered this problem? Is this now the norm now after Britain left the EU?

John Laughland, email

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

'79 in a 60... am in trouble?'

I was caught speeding on a sunny Sunday morning. The road was still a bit damp from overnight rain but otherwise the conditions were fine. My speed was 79mph in a 60mph. The road was very quiet at that time of the morning with no hazards, obstructions or junctions nearby. I responded to the letter confirming it was me riding. I got a reply saying that due to the speed it will go to court. I have since enrolled in a training course run by the police. Could you give me some advice on any further action I can take to minimise the penalty? I currently have a clean licence.

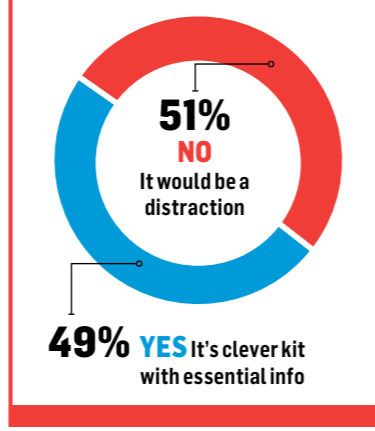
Roger D, email

'What can I do to lessen the penalty?'

The court will look at aggravating and mitigating factors when deciding on the punishment so you should highlight the positives of your case. Previous speeding offences and the timing of them may be considered. Therefore it is helpful that you have a clean licence. Good character can be considered so it is helpful you enrolled on the safety course. The location and time can be important. For example, they will look less favourably on someone speeding past a school with children around than on a quiet open road. They will likely consider the conditions, so the damp roads may go against you. I suspect you will end up with a fine and up to six points.

READER POLL

Would you use a head-up display in your lid?



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



BSA BANTAM

Aged 12, with sister Linda and brother Dennis. I learned in my parents' yard after bouncing off a few trees! Alan Masters



DKW

This photograph was taken in about 1968 and the motorcycle was a cut-and-shut DKW Hobby. Stephen Frew



HONDA CB250 RSA

This was my first proper bike in 1981, a Honda CB250 RSA. It would be great to see it in MCN. Roger Bateman

My first motorcycle was a Hodaka Ace 100 handed down from my big brother, we still have it! Timothy Ellis



HODAKA ACE

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



BSA BANTAM

The bike BSA should have made? Everyone's friend Fred Harvey on his self-modified first bike in 1964. Andy Holtom



HONDA FIREBLADE

Steph has three of her own bikes now and is a motorcycle training instructor with CAMrider in Warwick. Dave Finch



TRIUMPH CAFÉ RACERS

Great memories here... Me and my mate Steve in 1970 on our 650cc Triumph café racers. Matthew Nichols



SUZUKI TS185

Me on my 1979 Suzuki TS185. This picture was taken in around 1980 and I still own one today. Steve Gabriel

MCN

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