

# Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com motorcyclenews motorcyclenews MCNnews

## Are airbag lids wise?

Your 'What's new in tech' feature about the new airbag lid being developed by Airoh and displayed at the Milan show (November 30) was very interesting and hopefully the invention will save lives once marketed. The only caveat I can see is its weight, which wasn't mentioned in the article. Serious neck and spinal injuries are exacerbated by 'heavy' crash helmets; kinetic energy is a potential killer!

**Paul Garrod, Portsmouth**

**Ed: The concept is definitely worth exploring and Airoh are serious players, so it'll be very interesting to see the final product and the test results.**



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

## Focus on real crime

I read that Hampshire police have acquired a fleet of six off-road motorcycles (MCN, November 23) to enable officers to pursue 'nuisance and anti-social' motorcyclists through alleyways and across fields. The problem is that a typical anti-social rider could be a 14 or 15-year-old who has acquired an old MoT-failure bike and stripped it down to use as a field bike. Field bikes are, of course, not road-legal and teenagers can be irresponsible and there are bound to be complaints. However, whether he is an anti-social nuisance or not, he is definitely not a criminal. I would like to see a greater focus on more serious crime and theft.

**John Stevenson, Co Down**

## Bit of a Joker

Way back in 1983 the MCN Masters Championship introduced a new rule that gave each rider a 'Joker' which he could play just once during the season, this would then double his points scored at that



Grant and co weren't Joker fans

round. The riders did not like the idea and they signed a petition in protest. I have always felt that to make the series most fair and most exciting the grid positions for all the races should be drawn up before the season starts. These grid positions would be evenly distributed

throughout the season so all the riders would be at some stage be at the front, back, middle whatever.

**Robin Soar, Peterborough**

## Just get an eye test

Ah, just finished disabling one of my twin headlights (2020 Fireblade RR-R) knowing that I will now be safe each time I enter a roundabout in darkness because a driver won't mistake me for a distant car (MCN Letters, November 30). Is this not yet another example of blame being apportioned to the motorcyclist in lieu of a driver accepting his vision requires medical intervention?

**Rick Barnes, Warks**

## Priced out by Ducati

I read with interest that Ducati are now comparing their brand to Ferrari. After celebrating selling over 100,000 units this year of their fantastic entry-level Scrambler totalling over £7 billion turnover, are they now going to turn their back on the humble motorcyclist? As a very happy Multistrada owner

and a previous owner of many other Ducatis, this announcement leaves me with nothing but sadness and disappointment. I hope they remember that there are other brands who make equally wonderful motorcycles.

**David Meyer, email**

## E-bike tax inevitable

Did everyone think there would never be road tax for electric vehicles? Where else is the £7 billion that the Government gets at the moment going to come from?

**David Winstanley, email**

## Very a-moosing

Derek Hoblyn (MCN Letters, November 16) please thank your wife because I had a good chuckle at her 'Cowsaki' comment regarding the cow on the bike in the Virgin Media ad, very funny!

**Andrew Smithers, email**

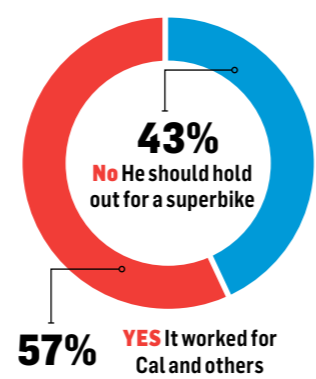
## Cut us some slack

I am soon going to have my 74th birthday and have been reading MCN for nearly 60 years. My enthusiasm for bikes has never faded and I bought an ex-demo Ducati Monster this year. I really do want to ride for as long as possible, but manufacturers are making it tough. The riding position on most bikes is plain uncomfortable. Why are footrests not adjustable? At 5ft 11in I am forced to crunch up my stiff bones on my bike. Come on designers, it's time you gave us dihard some slack... literally.

**Richard Pawelko, email**

## READER POLL

Should Taz Mackenzie go to WSS?



## MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q Can I cash in an interim payment safely?

I had an accident when a car pulled out of a junction. I couldn't swerve as there was a car coming the other way. We collided and I went over the bonnet. My claims company sent me an interim payment from the third party's insurer and said I should pay it into my bank account. I'm worried if I do cash it, it will be seen as full payment, or I may have to repay it because the letter is worded 'This is an interim payment issued without prejudice. We reserve the right to claim this payment back'.

### I'm worried I may have to repay it'

This is a partial payment paid on an interim basis, until such time as the claim concludes. The value of interim payments made is deducted by the paying party at the end of the claim to avoid a Claimant making a double recovery. The wording used by your opponent's insurer is to protect them should something come to light meaning that, in fact, the accident was your fault. Based on the scenario you have outlined, this is unlikely.

Sometimes insurers issue interim cheques with the cover letter stating that it is in full and final settlement of the claim. In these circumstances the Claimant's solicitor should write confirming the real position and that it will be banked on the basis of it being an interim payment, not a full and final settlement.

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



**SUZUKI SHAOLIN**  
My old 1988 Suzuki Shaolin, at 12bhp it had the first five-speed gearbox on a bike sold in India. **Meskin Moses**



**YAMAHA MT-09 SP**  
Me on the left on my MT-09 SP (my 23rd bike) with my son-in-law, Rich, on his first bike, a 1999 VFR800F. **Kev Trueman**



**OSET**  
Charlie has been riding an OSET since he was two years-old and he has also been riding my PW50. **Lee Dodson**

Help me find it, it's definitely out there as the V5C was last issued 30/3/22 (it's now gold). Reg: JGC559N. **Steve Rogers**



YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR

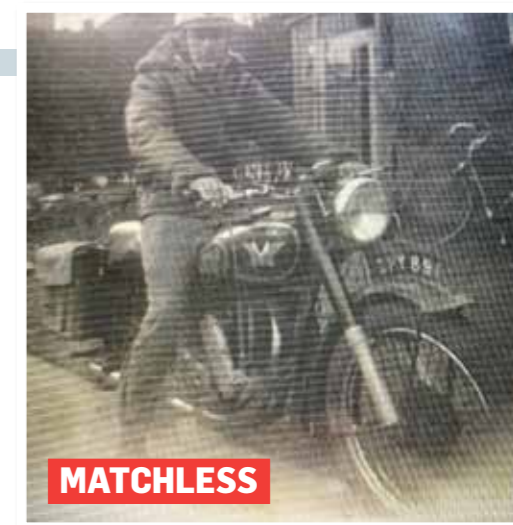
# FIRST BIKE

A blast down memory lane

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



**YAMAHA YDS7**  
My first new bike, bought new from Padgett's in 1972. My son perched on tank now rides a TL1000S. **John Leaver**



**MATCHLESS**  
This was actually my second bike in 1957 and I clearly thought I looked the business. **David Horner**



**APRILIA RS125**  
My son Max turns 17 in January and has done his CBT. He's just waiting to get out on the RS. **Karl Priestley**



**YAMAHA PW50**  
Taken around 1986, me, age four channelling my inner Evel Knievel on my little PW50. **Mark Ryan**

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