

# Talking point

mcn.letters@motorcyclenews.com motorcyclenews motorcyclenews MCNnews

## 'Brilliant instructors helped me through'

I just wanted to say a hearty well done to Phoenix bike training for recognising the need for mental health awareness among trainers and students (MCN, April 12). When I was learning to ride certain life events happened and tanked my mental state partway through. If I hadn't had such incredibly patient and understanding instructors during a time when I was probably not best geared to learning something new, then I may well not have stayed the distance. I've been riding damn near every day since passing and loved every minute, even the commutes. Hats off Phoenix, smart thinking. **Ross, email**



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

## Cost of biking

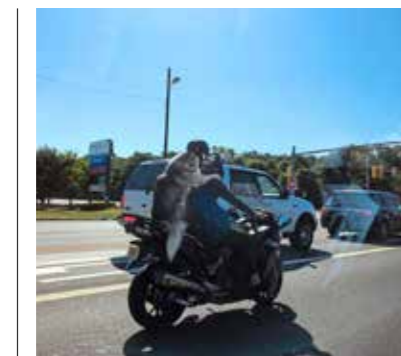
It's all well and good comparing new bikes with inflation and saying they haven't risen that much (MCN, April 19) but wages are not keeping track with inflation, so in real terms yes bikes are more expensive!  
**Trevor Fleming, email**

## Keep it simple

Whilst manufacturers have to meet emissions and safety regs, they do not have to foist machines on us that sport unfathomable screens and switchgear that cannot be used with thick gloves. And don't get me started on gadget failures which immobilise machines that are otherwise mechanically sound. Ask yourself this... who is selling more, Royal Enfield or MV?  
**N Senior, email**

## Not sitting pretty

I am looking to get a cruiser for its low seat height as my wife struggles climbing on our R1200RT, but what is it with cruiser pillion seats? They are all house brick size and totally



This fella looks like he enjoys the feeling of the wind in the fur...

uncomfortable. Sure we have the BMW Transcontinental and big Harleys with armchairs but that's about it (and they have prices bigger than their giant seats).  
**Bob Dumbell, email**

## Biker's best friend

Hello from the USA. When in England visiting my wife's mum, two things are a must: snag the MCN then bangers and mash at the Ace Cafe. On the flight home I read the

'Taking the ruff way round' feature and had to send a couple of pics of what I am sure must be Michael and Sox on their way to MotoAmerica.  
**Gery Torok, USA**

## Suck it up

I am so furious about these mad plans to get rid of petrol cars and bikes that I have put chainsaw engine on my vacuum cleaner. Brings the rugs up lovely and the fumes are great for my asthma.  
**N Fraser, email**

## Reckon you're hard?

In reply to Andy Chetwood's letter about the MotoGP prima donnas (MCN Letters, April 19), maybe he should pass on his details to all the current teams and the next time they have a rider ruled out he could jump on and show how easy it is.  
**Michael Donald, email**

## Clobbered by kit prices

In the 60/70s I rode many bikes, mostly ex-army and ex-post office Bantams. In 1972 I treated myself

to a brand new Montesa and had many years of fun riding round Derbyshire with my friend. When we went out we just chucked on a Lewis Leather and an old open face helmet from my uncle's shed. Now in my 60s I am thinking of buying a bike, I can afford nearly anything in our local dealers but what concerns me most is the amount of gear I need: leathers, boots, gloves, waterproofs, 500 quid helmets...

**Michael Ward, email**  
**Ed: True but there is plenty of value kit out there that offers great protection, check out the gear pages in this week's New Rider supplement for inspiration.**

## Inflexible insurers

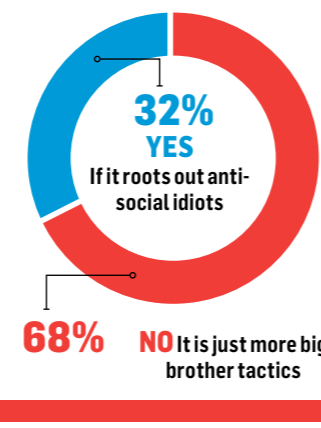
My car had to go into the garage for a few days following a failed argument with a pothole. I called my insurer to arrange temporary commuting cover for my F800 and they quoted £760 plus an admin fee! I only needed two or three days cover, a week at most but they would only offer it for the remaining period of the cover. Why can't insurers be more flexible?  
**Robert James, email**

## Police state

I have written to my MP to act upon the information that the police will be using drones to monitor road behaviour. If you value the old words that esteem 'motorcycling is freedom', please do the same as that freedom has now completely evaporated with this new tool.  
**Ric Marr, email**  
**Ed: See this week's poll, below**

## READER POLL

Is it fair that police are using drones?



## MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

### Q 'Will filtering claim be 50/50?'

I was filtering along the outside of a row of slow-moving traffic, on the inside of the central white line, about 5mph faster than the cars I was passing, when the car I was just drawing up to turned right across me. He did not indicate and I had no chance to avoid the crash.

The police report accurately records what happened and even though the accident was not my fault my solicitor said when these cases go to court each side equally shares the blame. I've been told the car driver is denying liability. This can't be right, can it?  
**Lance, email**

**A** The police report and witness statements will be useful in order to correctly apportion liability. There may also be CCTV available. When an accident victim who claims compensation

### 'Your speed was appropriate for filtering'

is partly to blame, that is known as "contributory negligence".

Each case turns on its own facts but it is incorrect to say that all filtering cases end up as 50/50 blame. It is for the other driver to argue and prove you contributed to the accident. In your case your speed was appropriate for filtering. He did not indicate, and it is likely he did not look in his mirror or over his shoulder. As long as you were not filtering on the approach to a junction I would press for 100% compensation.

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

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ITALJET 50

My brother Nick, on our shared Italjet 50cc. A great bike until it got nicked from my dad's mate's garage. **Lewis Baines**



MINI 'S1000RR'

Here is a picture of my grandson Oliver trying his first stunt. I reckon he'll go far in biking. **Mark Sluman**



SUZUKI GN400 RAT BIKE

Bought for £250 in 1992, this was my first road bike. Good luck identifying all the parts! **Richard Newland, MCN Editor**

My brother Louis on his first bike – a Z900RS – enjoying the sunshine on the Cat and Fiddle. **Nathan Colclough**



KAWASAKI Z900RS



YAMAHA FS1-DX

Me, back in 1985 on my ported FS1-DX at the age of 16. Check out that perm... **Mike East**



BMW K1200RS

I learned on a Honda CB72, then got a Norton Commando. I got my second wind at 50 and bought this BMW. **Dave Smith**



MOTO MORINI 3/2

Me collecting my 1979 Moto Morini 3/2 Sport from North Leicester Motorcycles. Really wish I'd kept it! **Jonathan**

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