

Whilst most road traffic accidents are straightforward, others do turn upon the proper exploration of riding roadcraft or the capabilities of modern motorbikes, especially sportsbikes. In my view, there are very few Counsel who can bring any riding experience to bear upon the facts of a case when liability is in dispute and/or even understand riding concepts such as, lifesavers and counter steering.

I have been riding large capacity motorbikes for over 10 years. I attend track days.

My experience of the biking world provides me with a specialist insight into cases involving motorbikes. For example, the fact that a corner is taken aggressively by a rider leaning out of his seat does not mean he is speeding or negligent. If the rider is correctly positioned in the carriageway for a corner, his visibility will be increased.

Filtering through traffic is a common area of dispute between bikers and defendants. However, few Counsel would realise that a rider usually has a raised view above a typical car drivers position and further, a rider is able to look through the windscreens of the cars in front of him to assess the road conditions ahead.

Dark visors are often used to claim contributory negligence. In some cases this could be right but on bright sunny days, anything other than an illegal visor would reduce visibility to zero.

Finally, modern motorbikes have astonishing braking ability. They should ordinarily out brake a car despite only have two wheels. Drivers often drive too close behind motorbikes, running into them in an emergency. Conversely, if a car manages to brake and avoid an obstacle, a motorbike travelling behind it ought to do so as well.

Due to my interest in motorbikes and motorsport in general, I believe that I am uniquely placed to assist specialist Solicitors in the presentation of contested litigation. I am able to provide a realistic prospect of the merits of each case including any issues of contributory negligence and thereafter, consider a proper value. If you think that your clients may benefit from my assistance, please contact myself or my clerks at Chambers for further information ([clerk@stjohnsbldings.co.uk](mailto:clerk@stjohnsbldings.co.uk) and [andrew.lawson@Stjohnsbldings.co.uk](mailto:andrew.lawson@Stjohnsbldings.co.uk))