

KentMotors NEWS

Learn the tricks of the track



Factfile

Club MSV bike taster sessions run throughout the year. A 20 minute session on the Brands Hatch trackday taster sessions costs £20. One-to-one tuition costs an added £25. Car taster sessions cost £25 for 20 minutes. To book call 0870 850 5013, email info@clubmsv.co.uk or visit www.clubmsv.co.uk.

New track test days for beginners at Brand Hatch mean anyone can feel what it's like to race around Druids Bend like the pros. **Jim Yarwood** reports

Bike trackdays are nothing new. In fact a fair number of top-class current day racers first cut their teeth this way.

But for normal riders, being on the hallowed tarmac of Brands Hatch can be intimidating, especially if you find yourself being lapped and harangued by the faster riders in the group.

Well now that is a thing of the past. Club MSV have come up with taster sessions, where 20 minutes of track time will cost you £20. Newcomers can now tour around the track without the fear of budding Valentino Rossis hassling them off the circuit. They've also introduced novice-only trackdays for riders who have little or no experience of going around a racetrack.

I recently went up to Brands Hatch to attend one of these days and it's well worth the money. First there is signing-on and a noise test (105dB for bikes). After an informative briefing it's out onto the track.

Each session is 20 minutes and for the first three laps of your first outing you follow an instructor. He or she then shows you the correct lines to take around the short circuit, with no overtaking. After the three laps are completed you're



on your own but there's still no overtaking permitted on corners.

In my session there were 22 riders and we were split into two groups. One was for those who had no trackday experience and the other for those who had done it once or twice before. On balance the instructors got it absolutely right and by the end of the

day, most people in the novice group were lapping a good few seconds faster than their initial, nervous foray onto the Brands track.

Of course the best thing about these kind of days is there's no chance of getting nicked for speeding, no slippery man-hole covers to pitch you off, no traffic coming towards you and no nasty road junctions or

pedestrians. You can go as fast as you like and the men in blue aren't going to feel your collar.

But it isn't just about speed. The instructors are there to help you become a better, safer rider. During the day there's a number of informal get-togethers explaining how motorcycles behave under certain situations and how to correct or negate any problems.



For an additional £25 you can have one-to-one tuition where the instructor follows you round, noting how you're riding and where he thinks you could improve. It's well worth it if you can.

On the practical front, one or

two-piece zipped leathers must be worn and mirrors should be taped over or folded in. In terms of machinery almost anything goes provided it's legal. There were even a couple of Honda Teneres there and an original Yamaha Fazer 600.