



BROUGGY'S BASICS

Hi *BRM* readers, welcome to my first column. I'll kick off with an introduction, so you'll have an idea of what I do and what I'll be covering – riding motorcycles – irrespective of your level of skill.

For around a third of my life I've been training motorcycle riders. Under the guidance of the widely acknowledged source of motorcycle rider training technology and California Superbike School founder, Mr Keith Code, it's been my privilege to travel the world working with riders of all skills levels from all walks of life. I've been fortunate enough to visit and ride over 40 different racetracks delivering Keith's ground-breaking rider training program. I've had riders with three weeks experience through to more than 30 years and riders who are professional racers competing in world championship series through to people that have never been on a racetrack before. I've trained pre-teens, people in their 80's and every age in between. Can you think of a better job? I certainly can't...

The interesting thing amongst all this is that whilst the above mentioned riders are sometimes in very different stages of life, and somewhat different in what they are wanting to accomplish on a motorcycle, they are often more the same than they are different. And, as riders at least, they deal with pretty much

the same issues. What does this mean? It means that as motorcycle riders we have a lot of shared experiences. Every single rider I know has made a number of the same errors, such as; going into a corner too fast; going into a corner too slow; entering a turn too early; entering a turn too late; getting on the gas too late; getting on the gas too early; making line corrections during a corner; running wide in a corner; and the list goes on...

What does this show about motorcycle riders? How is this information (the fact that pretty much every rider ever born has made the same mistakes) of value to you as you think about your riding? Firstly, it should make you feel like you're not alone. Secondly, it should make you realise that if you are having a particular issue with your riding, chances are someone else has had that exact same issue, and (this is a very big AND...) if they can fix that issue, so can you! As you watch the worlds best, you can be 100% confident that they have dealt with (and possibly continue to deal with) the same issues you have. So if, like me, you watch them in awe of what they can do on a motorcycle, you have to realise that they have and do overcome the very same things that you find difficult in your own riding.

Anyone that has either been out to one of the Superbike Schools, or has spoken to me about riding, or read any other material I've

written, will know of my penchant for making potentially complex things simple. Why? Anyone can expound on the complexities of something. In fact, some people seem to have made a career of overly complicating things. Why? I'm not really sure. Perhaps they feel like it makes them more intelligent. Perhaps it hides the fact that they don't really know what they're talking about...you know, the more they talk the less they say? How does that old saying go...“if you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them will bull!”

I want you to brace yourself and prepare for the truth about riding (can't help but think of that line so passionately delivered by Jack Nicholson in the movie *A Few Good Men* “You want the truth? You can't handle the truth!”) because the truth is – riding a motorcycle well is extremely simple. Sure, you can expand each element of riding up and scale each element down, but in the end, riding a corner successfully is made up of a few control actions. How you perform those control actions will largely determine the outcome of your corner. My purpose in the columns that will appear in future issues of *BRM*, is to point you in the right direction to improving your riding by introducing you to the simplicity of it. How will I do that? Ironically, by dealing with the complexities of it. Sound logical? Good! We'll begin getting into some detail in the next issue...

I don't know about you, but I love talking about riding. I like nothing better than getting together with a group of fellow motorcycle riders and talking about riding. Or maybe watching a MotoGP or WSBK race and making observations about what the riders are doing and discussing that with other riders. This is the stuff that gets me up in the morning. If you're in any way similar to me in that regard, we're gonna have some fun 'chats' through these pages. I can't wait!

Just one thought to leave you with – “very few people fail anything in life because they can't comprehend the complexity of it, they fail because they won't accept the simplicity of it.” That, my friends, is the sort of statement that will hereafter be referred to as a Brouggy, and this is but the first of many...

