

Extract From

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From: "Wendy Doughty" <wdoughty5@bigpond.com>

Subject: RE: Nice Article - Amazing Grace- NOW the modern day 'Lone Ranger' EXPOSED

To: "'Bevelheads'" <bevelheads@micapeak.com>

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Giuliano Maoggi, I'll take that compliment Rick and put it in my bag of tricks, I'll put you out of your misery there Diego and own up, I am the Sport rider, referred to in this article 'Amazing Grace':-)))))))).

I first heard mention of some sort of article, when a couple of months ago, a bus driver on Victoria Road, yelled out something about an magazine article about the Sport and I, one afternoon on my way home from work. I couldn't hear him very well, but I thought the bus driver, must have been on something. Anyway, for the last month or two, the odd bloke or two on a Duke will pull up next to me, give me the thumbs up, and try to communicate something about an article, of which, I hadn't seen. Because the article was written about a 'bloke I don't know" and I hadn't participated in any of the writing of the story, I knew nothing about the article, and thought all these people, must have had, a case of mistaken identity.

It wasn't until a week or so ago, that someone also sent me a copy of the article, did it all become much clearer. I had been, unbeknown to me, become immortalised in print, and what a great article it was, if I do say so myself:-))))

Just a couple of misconceptions about the article though, as it was very 'one' sided, his side `-)), but I don't want to spoil the mystique and myth, for you guys, or tarnish my rep, but I feel he got a few things wrong. He got most of it right, the gracefulness and all that shit, I will take that, but just I didn't think anyone was watching:-) Just goes to show, obviously, I was wrong:-)

To Miquel, you gotta get a roundcase, perfect commuter bike, the Sport is the one most preferred for the peak hour traffic (very slimming), smooth, and just good all round. Forget those squarecases for traffic, no good, as you say, too lumpy. I have been riding only Ducati's for 34 years, mostly Sports, and I don't mind riding in traffic (depends what you are used to), but this Boris fellow, seems to have slightly over glorified the days events.

I see it like this, when I run into this fellow (Boris), he is right, there is no communication, but have any of you guys tried having a conversation on a Duke. There is usually a fair bit of YELLING going on between the two full faced helmeted riders, but generally, the NOISE is that LOUD, that you hardly ever understand each other, so generally I don't bother, just a nod or two as mentioned.

Lets also make it clear now we are not racing, or I am not anyway, until the article I thought I/we were just making our normal run of the mill, ride home in peak hour traffic, albeit quite quickly. So all I want to do after work, is get home, possibly, as quick as possible. So the traffic lights, in my book, are just lights, and not the starting grid that he has them as.

He is wrong in part, in that he does always get the lead at the lights, not because as he says 'modern bikes are fast', they probably are, he is probably right, I don't know, but, I always LET him lead off, because he is a little bit slow, so as to get a bit of a head start on things and I won't be having to wait for him. It only takes me a couple of seconds to realise AGAIN, he is slow and he would be better off following me, so I round him up, on his shitboxes, and away we go.

Speed is in my book, is not excessive, but saying that, I haven't had time to look at the speedo in the last 20 odd years, never did trust them Veglia's anyway. I also don't believe the riding is dangerous, time will tell Gene, but I am trying to prove your saying wrong, but it is take, another 30 odd years, to prove my case.

Then there is the bit about keeping me 'in sight for 10-15km', I am always waiting for the SLOW bugger. He always, as he says, gets blocked or stuck(he is usually very unlucky too), whereas I usually get through but I always give him plenty of room, leave as much room for him as possible, try to suck him through gaps with me, and generally trying to impart, a few of my skills on him. He is learning, but he is still quite slow.

Anyway, now he has written the article, and I have seen it, it will change our relationship a bit now. I certainly won't be giving him the luxury of leading from the lights anymore, no more waiting for him, if we are racing, no more concessions to him, he will hear an angry Italian all right, but it is all going to be long distance for him now. GAME ON, just joking, but I don't think I will make contact with the author, I would like to keep our special relationship going, and any mention of the article, would change everything.

I saw him last week riding along, and the article has been out for a couple of months now, but I only just saw it, so as far as he is concerned, I haven't mentioned it to him, mine and his riding etiquette has not changed, so I assume he thinks I haven't seen the article, so our weekly rides will continue and our friendship will remain.

"RESPECT BROTHER, RESPECT"

Justin aka "the graceful superfish":-))))))

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