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BMF bounces back!

► More visitors, more stands and more trade at annual BMF show ► New organisers praised for pulling in crowds after years of dwindling attendances

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Manufacturers, traders and BMF bosses said the BMF Show in Peterborough was the best for years, with visitor numbers up on 2010.

The BMF's Jeff Stone said: "Everyone at the BMF felt it was a great show and the feedback we have received so far has been positive."

"This was the second time the Mulberry Group has run the show and this time they had a lot more time to get things sorted. I think that showed as any issues were sorted straight away. Early indications are showing visitor numbers are up on last year."

MCN reader Simon Folsten, 45, from St Neots, Cambs, went on Saturday and said: "The sun was out, the wind



The sun was out and the entire place was packed. I struggled to walk down the main drag

MCN READER SIMON FOLSTEN

was blowing and the entire place was packed. By lunchtime I was struggling to walk down the main drag, it was so crowded. It was great to see the BMF back to its best - last year was deserted by comparison."

BMW brought their official manufacturer display, and spokesman Scott Grimsdall said: "The manufacturer stands were a little way from the busiest area around the arena but it didn't seem to harm the number of people who were



Must be one of those new airbag suits



Main drag was packed on Saturday



Stunt action behind the main arena at the venue drew crowds



Harleys crowd into the East of England Showground

looking at the bikes. It was worthwhile us being there with the G650GS and K1600GT and K1600GTL attracting the most interest.

"Of course, with the show being outside we were able to let people hear what the K1600's six-cylinder engine sounds like and demonstrate how all the technology works."

Steve Gannicott, boss of George White, was impressed by how well run the show was. He commented: "Revenue

was a fair percentage up on last year and we were selling a lot of clearance and end-of-line items through to expensive riding gear.

"There was a bit more haggling by customers than in previous years. The show felt busier than it has done for a while and it appeared to be better run."

Adam Clayton of Hein Gericke added: "Despite the economic conditions we were pleasantly surprised by how well we did over the weekend. We sold a lot of

casual clothing but sales were good across the range. We were impressed."

One stallholder said on Saturday: "It's mad, totally rammed. We've already almost sold out of all our medium-size helmets. There's been a constant stream of people at the till all morning and we've not even had time to go to the loo or drink a cup of coffee!"



Coulon reversed a truck over a motorcyclist at French toll booth

MotoGP chief charged with manslaughter

Colin Edwards' MotoGP chief engineer and the technical brains behind Bradley Smith's Moto2 bike is facing an involuntary manslaughter charge following a fatal accident before last weekend's French Grand Prix.

Famed engineer Guy Coulon was reversing out of a toll booth en route to the Tech 3 Team's home race in Le Mans when he accidentally ran over and killed a 54-year-old motorcyclist.

Reports have said that the victim was dragged for 10 metres underneath the truck before Coulon was aware of the tragedy unfolding.

It is illegal to reverse out of a toll booth in France and Coulon spent two days in police custody before being released pending further enquiries.

He was present during the Le Mans Grand Prix weekend and continued to work with American Edwards.

He is now awaiting a date for his court appearance.

The truck, which was transporting Smith and Mike di Meglio's Moto2 bikes to Le Mans, remains impounded in Marseille.

It is understood that Coulon will be free to continue working with Tech 3 in the forthcoming MotoGP races, but he has had to surrender his driving licence to police.

In a bitter twist, MCN understands that the motorcyclist killed was riding to work only after his car was reversed into and written-off by a lorry three weeks ago.