



● **GEARS Tactics** is finally hitting the Xbox and, to celebrate, the main hero Gabe Diaz will be in Gears 5 as a multiplayer character. Gears 5 players who own Tactics

on Xbox or PC can get Diaz from November 17. If you have an Xbox Game Pass, you don't need to buy Tactics and Diaz can be unlocked by playing the Gears Tactics tutorial.



● **WHAT'S** not to love about the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles joining Smite: Battleground Of The Gods? Each turtle will be a skin for a god — and they do more than just

change the appearance. The crossover follows the link-up with Avatar: The Last Airbender a while back. Out as part of a premium battle pass in SMITE in November.



# No easy rider

**It is no secret that Milestone are the magicians of motorsport gaming, but they are riding into town with another two-wheeled classic.**

We have previously had their MXGP off-road series and Moto GP but RIDE offers something different.

This is really a bike version of what Gran Turismo is to cars. The Italians have revved up the sim experience.

RIDE 4 is the latest instalment and it has taken the foundations of the previous games and added a mixed bag of ideas that boost the experience in places and hold it back in others. It doesn't muck about — bar a handful of text panels at the start you climb aboard a bike and work it out as you are going along.

The tutorial is like going 12 rounds with Anthony Joshua. It is brutal. Forget any hope of arcade fun — and that's just a tutorial that shows you the basics. If you want to complete it, you even have to set a time on a hot lap.

RIDE is a sim so it's not as easy as dropping the throttle as you hit a corner at 100mph. Do that and you'll be spitting up kitten litter for a

## RIDE 4

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £49.99

week. Series fans will lap it all up and blast through it. Newcomers may find their enthusiasm severely tested. Oh, and there is no skipping the tutorial. You have been warned.

It's a real shame that this gatekeeper mechanic is here because it prevents you getting stuck into the action.

There's a real biker's dream to enjoy. There is a Gran Turismo licence system in the career. No licence, no race — so you have to put in the hard yards.

They make the tutorial look like a

piece of cake. Outwith the career, there is actually a lack of content options apart from a handful of custom quick-race modes and the online excitement. Your enjoyment of that will depend on your connection speed and the level of those you'll race.

But the bikes look amazing — they are highly detailed with tons of makes and models including the likes of the Ducati Panigale V4 R, Suzuki Hayabusa and even the new Harley Davidson Livewire.

That is the stock version of the electric bike Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman used in telly show The Long Way Up.

They are all backed up by a solid selection of tracks such as Suzuka in Japan, Brands Hatch and Phillip Island in Australia. Even UK tracks like Oulton Park and Cadwell Park pop up and the new weather system helps to keep things fresh and even more challenging.

RIDE 4 is a biker's game for bikers. It is tough and unforgiving — and it knows it.

There is real depth, but you'll have to give a pound of flesh to be good enough to enjoy it.

★★★★

**RIDE 4 is getting a season pass for £32.99. You get over 60 new bikes and 140 extra events. The European and Japanese Bikes packs are already available and part of the pass, BUT they cost £2.49 each. Why not just put them in the game at launch?**



● **RARE** have created a tribute to guitarist Eddie Van Halen in Sea Of Thieves. They set Van Halen's hit 'Jump' to a movie that shows the sun setting and getting and captures all the instruments you

can play in-game. They tweeted: "A tribute to our current Sea Of Thieves style to a man whose talent and fun-loving spirit has had a huge influence on many members of the Rare family." See it at @RareLtd.



## TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

- 1: FIFA 21
- 2: Star Wars: Squadrons
- 3: Crash Bandicoot 4: It's About Time
- 4: Animal Crossing: New Horizons
- 5: Super Mario 3D All-Stars

● **SCOTTISH** gaming giant Rockstar Games splashed the cash as the Edinburgh-based firm bought Crackdown 2 developer Ruffian Games. The acquisition comes with a rebrand, with Ruffian Games now called Rockstar Dundee, according to Companies House. Ruffian was

working on a number of undisclosed "upcoming titles" for Rockstar last year so the buyout now makes a fair bit of sense. Ruffian — aka Rockstar Dundee — will be the tenth studio under the Rockstar banner following Rockstar North, Rockstar Leeds, Rockstar New York and Rockstar India.



## NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

### HELLRIPPER

**WHO:** James McBain.  
**WHERE:** Aberdeen/Fort William.  
**FOR FANS OF:** Metallica, Motorhead, Darkthrone.

**JIM SAYS:** One-man metal machine James McBain comes flying out of the traps with his explosive new Hellripper album The Affair Of The Poisons.

It's the 25-year-old Aberdeenian's first long-player for the legendary Peaceville label which has brought us the likes of Paradise Lost, Autopsy and Cradle Of Filth.

As the Hellripper name may suggest, the Fort William-based musician tears through the record with frantic playing coupled with dark growling vocals. His skilled musicianship is key to the overall sound as he creates a captivating mix of black metal, thrash metal, speed metal and punk.

It's more than noise for the sake of noise. Hellripper has tunes bursting to get out.

James said: "I write and record all of the music on the records. I play every instrument and get some friends to perform a guest spot on some songs, usually backing vocals or guitar solos."

"I record everything at home and handle the mixing myself too, but I usually send the music away to someone else to handle the mastering, as it helps to get an outsider's perspective on the tracks."

Hellripper was initially formed as a side-project to another band but soon took over. James explained: "I had to start a solo project out of necessity as I was really interested in playing speed/thrash metal but didn't know anyone at the time that shared a similar interest in the style."

"Over the past few years, it has grown considerably and is now my main focus. It helps that I prefer working alone and recording music on my own."

Hellripper first emerged in 2014 with the release of his EP The Manifestation Of Evil, with further acclaim for his 2017 debut album Coagulating Darkness, and the EP Black Arts & Alchemy.

While he's making his name in the extreme metal field, James is open to other genres. He revealed: "I am a big fan of many styles of music, whether it be some form of metal or not. Most of what I like is guitar-based however."

"I have another project called Lock Howl, which is more influenced by goth and post-punk music."

Hellripper's tour has been cancelled due to the pandemic, but as a solo artist he's been able to get on with writing new music.

He said: "I can't really complain as everybody is in the same boat, and there are bands and people that have had it much worse than I."

When he does tour there is a live band. He added: "I've had a few of my friends help me out over the last couple of years which has been great. Hopefully we will be able to play some bigger shows when the situation has improved a bit."

**MORE:** hellripper.com

● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio, Sundays from 2-4pm.

amazingeradio.com  
jimgellatly.com

▶ Watch video of Hellripper at [thescottishsun.co.uk](http://thescottishsun.co.uk)