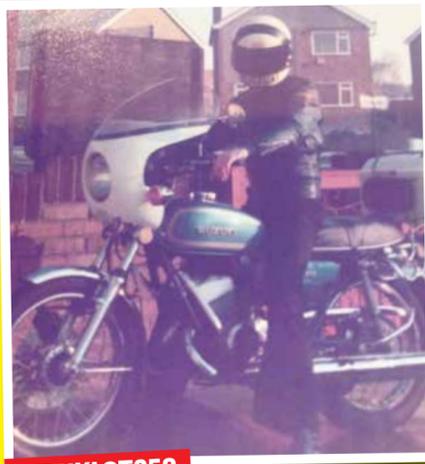


LIFE ON BIKES



BSA BANTAM
My father Roy Owen BEM on his BSA Bantam in 1958. He rode all over with my mother on the back. That's me with him. **Paul Owen**



SUZUKI GT250
Me at 17 on my 1978 GT250. I'm still riding stokers 43 years later. Great fun and the smell of two-stroke is fab. **Chris Brooks**



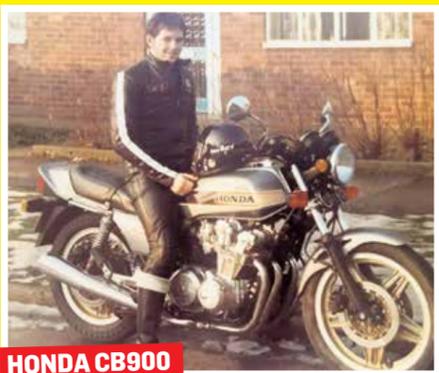
SUZUKI TS100
My first bike, aged 17 – a brand new 1980 Suzuki TS100 ER. I'm now 56 and ride a Honda CRF250L and a Yamaha MT-09 Tracer. **Stuart Maxey**



TOY MV
First of many, Sonny on his Pops Special MV Rocker! **Shaun Middlemore**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

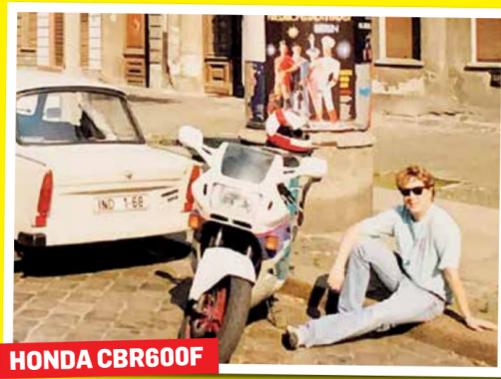
A blast down memory lane
Send your first bike pics to:
yourpics@motorcyclenews.com



HONDA CB900
My first bike was actually a Superdream but then I moved on to this CB900 in 1981. **Ian Speight**



ARIEL ARROW
My first 'racer'. This was at the Southern 100 in 1962. The bike was a two-stroke twin and I fell off on the next lap! **Neil Eatough**



HONDA CBR600F
Berlin 1989 the week after The Wall came down. I bought the CBR straight after passing my test on a borrowed 100cc Suzuki. **Philip Parsons**



YAMAHA MT125
My friend Stefan Matei is new to biking and loves everything about it. He is so passionate and lives and breathes his MT125. **Jackie**

MCN LAW Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Audi driver floored it as I went past'

I have received a letter from a firm of solicitors saying that I was responsible for their client's injuries after an accident and seeking compensation from me. They claim their car driver has whiplash injuries. I was following an Audi on my Yamaha VMAX and as I went to overtake when there was a clear straight ahead, the driver floored it. I think he was unhappy with me for going to overtake. This meant that the gap between me and the oncoming car was not as great as I thought. I just managed to get back onto my side of the road but the oncoming car swerved to avoid me and went into a hedge. I stopped but the Audi driver drove off. Do they have a claim?

V-Max, Coventry

A First off, you need to notify your insurer that you have received the letter of claim. The actions of the Audi driver seem to have contributed to this and could easily be regarded as dangerous driving if he deliberately accelerated

'You need to find witnesses to the accident'

to prevent your overtake. Witnesses may be able to identify him. If so, the claimant's solicitors could be redirected to his insurer. However, they are still likely to go for you, leaving you free to bring in the Audi driver as another Defendant. The MIB will not likely compensate the injured driver if you were partly to blame for the accident and will leave your insurer to do so, it being a fund of last resort.

Andrew Campbell
Solicitor and author of the MCN Law column for the last ten years
Visit www.bikelawyer.co.uk or email andrew@bikelawyer.co.uk or call 01446 794169



TT LEGEND JOHN MCGUINNESS IN MCN EVERY WEEK

McPINT



'All McPint wants for Christmas is...

...to see the kids open their presents and a top TT ride too please'

Honestly, I don't need Christmas presents... it's a different matter for the kids though. My daughter is nine and she's still a Santa believer so Becky and I will be sneaking around putting footprints in the snow and sprinkling reindeer dust. The best present for me is seeing her face in the morning. Christmas for me can be a bit of an anti-climax, everyone eats too much, there's Lego and empty boxes everywhere, but it is still special because it only happens once a year. The best present I ever had

'I CAME DOWN AND THERE WAS AN ITALJET WAITING FOR ME'

was when I was three. I came downstairs and there was an Italjet Bambino waiting for me. It was there with some of my dad's trophies next to it – I can still remember it so well. That was Christmas 1976!

As for the New Year it's all a bit unknown territory because usually I know exactly what I'm doing racing wise for the year ahead, but this year I don't. I don't want to make the wrong decision. It's a New Year, 2020, and my 30th year of racing, but I've got some big decisions to make. I honestly don't feel I've made many bad decisions along



McGuinness will be dusting off his favourite jumper

the way, from Honda, to Ducati, Yamaha, Honda and Norton they've all been proper deals.

The way I'm looking at it is that it's a clean sheet and I've shown by my pace on Birdy's BSB winning Ducati at Macau last month – it was the fastest I've ever been round there. Now I'm keen to not make any mistakes and mess up at the 11th hour and sign for the wrong team – not that I've actually got any options right now! There are still good bikes and teams out there that haven't confirmed their riders, so we'll just have to wait and see. Happy Christmas!



Christmas 1976 was a special one as John came down to find an Italjet Bambino

ASK MCGUINNESS

Do you feel you are still learning when it comes to the TT?



Peter Gabriel
Absolutely. Just the other day I was watching Hicky's onboard lap thinking about how I could pinch a tenth here and a tenth there around the course.

Send your questions to AskMcPint@motorcyclenews.com. Don't expect a serious answer.

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MCN ISSN 0027-1853, USPS 89701 is published weekly by Bauer Consumer Media Ltd, Media House, Peterborough Business Park, Lynch Wood, PE29 6EA, United Kingdom. The US annual subscription price is \$332.25. Air freight and mailing in the USA by agent named WH Shipping USA, 156-15, 16th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Jamaica, NY 11434, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Jamaica NY 11431. US Postmaster: Send address changes to (publication name), WH Shipping USA, 156-15, 16th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Jamaica, NY 11434, USA. Subscription records are maintained at Bauer Media, Subscriptions, Q25 Global, Tower House, Sovereign Park, Lathall Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 9EF, United Kingdom. Air Business Ltd is acting as our mailing agent.