

LIFE ON BIKES



HONDA CB400 SUPERDREAM

This is me on my Superdream in 1990, my first big bike. It was brilliant and we did many miles together. **Stephen Bird**



YAMAHA TY80

Aged 10 on my first bike, a Yamaha TY80. I loved it. 21 years on I'm still riding. But something a bit bigger: a CBR600F! **Al Williams**



YAMAHA PW50

My son Sean when he was five-years-old on his Yamaha PW50 back in July 1986. He now has a Kawasaki Ninja 600. **John O'Connor**



HONDA MINIBIKE

Me (front) on my first bike with my dad. 30 years later I managed to get that #1 back on my bike racing Thundersport. **Steve Taylor**



HONDA QR50

This is my four-year-old son George Barby taking a break from riding his 1983 Honda QR50. **James Barby**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

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



HONDA CB250K4

It's summer 1975 – check out the Doc Martens, flares and parka. I was an apprentice so had little money left for kit. **Mark Norris**



TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE T140 V

Not strictly my first bike – but my first proper bike. This was taken in 1979 at my 'in-laws-to-be'. Style was everything back then. **Chris Penn**



HONDA BENLEY CB92

Me at 17 in 1965 (I'm now 71) on my first legal bike – a Honda Benly. I now have a Triumph Adventurer, Vespa and MV Dragster RR/RC. **Geoff Cox**

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Can I claim for a crash on winter grit?'

On Saturday morning I had a low speed accident on a roundabout which had been heavily gritted because of winter weather. The front wheel went from under me half way around and I believe it was because of the grit causing me to lose control. Although it was dry, it was a bit frosty out. Would it be silly to try to claim any sort of compensation from the local authorities/council? I know it is not a road defect or diesel patch as such and if the grit wasn't there it would probably be a safety issue, so I am just wondering where I stand on this one.

James, Carlisle

A Unfortunately you are going to struggle to succeed with a claim against the local authority for this accident. The very reason the gritting vehicles are deployed is to protect road users from treacherous icy conditions. From a public policy perspective, judges are not going to allow such a claim to succeed because it could deter the gritting lorries from attempting to make the roads safe for fear of a claim

'Judges would not want to deter gritting lorries'

against them. That would be in nobody's interest, as we would all then risk driving on icy road surfaces during winter.

The only conceivable way you could succeed in this claim would be to argue that they were negligent in depositing too much grit – and I literally mean piles of the stuff – and I strongly suspect this was not the case. I am afraid I don't see much prospect of a successful compensation claim.

Andrew Campbell

Solicitor and author of the MCN Law column for the last ten years

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TT LEGEND JOHN McGUINNESS IN MCN EVERY WEEK

McPINT



'We pay our money, the riders should talk'

There's nothing worse than racers keeping schtum on the grid

I rate the TV coverage we get for MotoGP, but the one thing that does my head in is the grid walk because the riders just ignore the microphones. We pay our subs to BT Sport etc and it's only right that the riders do the courtesy of chatting. In fact, they should be told they have to speak. It should be Mir and Viñales one week, Rossi and Bagnaia the next etc, etc. The riders are sitting there like gods (and don't get me wrong they are gods) but bloody hell there are millions of fans watching, wondering what's going on, what they're thinking – so it should be in each rider's

'WHEN A RIDER SPEAKS ON THE GRID IT'S FROM THE HEART'

contract that they have to talk.

They do obviously chat at other times, but getting to them on the grid is the money shot. It'll make no difference to their result – they're not psyching themselves up – they're not there singing to themselves about how they're going to win.

When a rider speaks on the grid it comes from the heart. Sure they can bulls*** their way through an interview in a garage after a session, but on the grid it's raw; it's different.

It's strips a rider down, because at the end of the day it doesn't matter who you are,



Crutchlow shares a few words but not all stars oblige

when you're sitting on the grid, you're s***** yourself. You can feel the tension and it's then that you'll get the killer quote.

It never bothered me being interviewed. You're probably on the grid for ten minutes and it's 30s of your time. I'm not saying every TV company gets to do it, but the main players. It's also important to get someone decent to do the grid walk, someone the riders respect, so Neil Hodgson or Simon Crafar.

Dorna should put it in each rider's contract, so TV just rock up and say "Hi Mr Rossi, what've you got to say?" Easy....



We all want to know what is really going through riders' minds on the GP grid

ASK McGUINNESS

Do you have any rituals before you go racing?



Craig Peters
Yeah I wear 'Daddy socks' and I drop a penny down my leathers – a penny that one of the kids has had to find so it's not just any old coin from my pocket. It's something I've done for years.

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

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