



ENFIELD AND NSU

My first two bikes in 1961. The '47 Royal Enfield 125 Flying Flea replaced the '58 NSU Quickly. I'm now 74 and still riding an MT-07, CD200 and TLR200 for the trails. **Steve Pighills**



NSU QUICKLY

That's me around 12 years old in my school gear and leather/cork helmet. I'm still riding almost 50 years later. My current bike is a Ducati Monster 696. **Kevin O'Connell**



HONDA CB100N

I got this bike on my 17th birthday. I'm now 48 and never happier than when I'm touring, my current pride and joy is a 2008 Triumph Speed Triple. That's my Austin Allegro (another classic) in the background. **Julie Philpott**



TRIUMPH 6T

My first big bike after passing my test on a BSA Bantam. That's my niece and nephew, Laura and Mike on board. The bike was loaded for a trip to Scotland. **Dave Baddeley**



SUZUKI GT185

Outside my friend's house in 1977 at 17, with long hair and a great pair of flared jeans. My 1975 Suzuki GT185 was great until the engine seized! **Nigel Morris**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

A blast down memory lane

Send your first bike pics to: yourpics@motorcyclenews.com



CORGI SCOOTER

My father Cyril converted an ex-paratrooper Corgi scooter for my use in around 1974. Some 45 years on, we're still life-long motorcycle enthusiasts. **Alex Bentley**



NORTON ES2

Here's me in about 1966 on my dad's Norton ES2 and sidecar outfit. It was taken on holiday, probably in Devon or Cornwall. The family, plus dog, went everywhere on that Norton. **Michael Edmunds**



YAMAHA RD350LC

Getting wet in Welshpool on my LC in 1983. **Stephen Williams**

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q Can I claim from council for gritting my bike?

I was riding along an A-road in Derbyshire and keeping a safe distance from the truck in front when all of a sudden big orange lights lit up and it started chucking grit out of the back. Turns out it was a council gritter and my Vespa was in the eye of the storm. It was lucky I stayed on because I wasn't expecting it and got in a bit of a panic. When I got home, still shaking from the near miss, I found that the paintwork on the front of the 125 was damaged and needs restorative work. Can I claim the cost from the council?

Jonno, email

A Contact the council in writing and explain what happened. Request their gritting records from the evening in question to confirm that one of their vehicles was in the location. Whether or not you will succeed in claiming the cosmetic repair work is a conundrum. On one hand there is the argument that they are out to grit in the interests of road safety. On

'Whether you succeed is a real conundrum'

the other, if it had used the lights as an early warning and there had been an interval before it started spraying grit, you would have presumably had time to react and drop back so the bike would not have sustained the damage. I think you need to argue that they should have done this, or started spraying when they first set off, otherwise other road users have no chance to avoid the sudden onslaught.

Andrew Campbell

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

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McPINT



'Ana shows the lads how it's done'

Our man pays tribute to the first woman to win a world bike title

I think it's bloody brilliant what that Ana Carrasco has done this year. She has done an amazing job and is a proper trailblazer for bike racing on the world stage.

To become the first woman ever to win a world motorcycle title is impressive stuff. I really like the Supersport 300 championship that she won. The racing is absolutely wheel-to-wheel and really hard-fought so the girl had to earn that title. The series organiser even added a load of extra weight to her bike as a handicap to level the playing field.

'IN MY FIRST RACE IN 1990 I GOT BEATEN BY TWO GIRLS'

boys catch up with her. I watched the title decider at Magny Cours and Carrasco was under massive pressure from her rivals. She was at the back of the group and she just managed to pop herself into the points and nick the title. I've been beaten by girls before. I guess a lot of male racers don't expect them to be as good as the blokes, but that attitude is utter rubbish.

In my first race at Aintree in 1990 I got beaten by two girls. One was called Liz Skinner and the other Kate Parkinson. I remember that like it was yesterday. They both went on to



Carrasco did all this while also studying for a law degree

win quite a lot of big meetings in their racing careers.

It's so good to see women running at the front in motorcycle racing. Carrasco can clearly ride a bike well, she knows how to deal with the pressure and she's won a World Championship against a load of guys who probably thought she would be an also-ran.

It can't be easy for a woman in a championship full of blokes, that's for sure. Fair play to her I say. It'll be interesting to see what she does next, it would be good to watch her climb the ranks and go on to bigger things.



Series bosses may have added weight to her bike but that didn't stop Carrasco

ASK McGUINNESS

Can anyone manage a 136mph lap at the TT?

Ben Coleman

Anything is possible. I'm blown away by what happened this year. That place will always spin up something incredible. It's all about the weather; if the weather is good for the whole fortnight... then it's possible. I just hope it's me that does it!

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

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