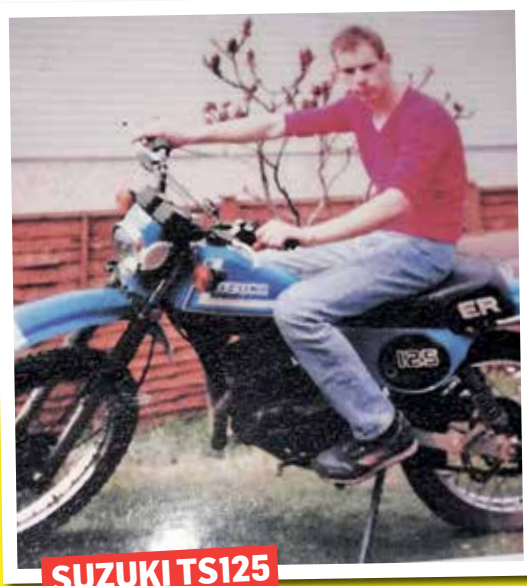




'BMW S1000RR'

My grandson Thomas Scott (aged two-and-a-half) making some adjustments to his S1000RR. **John O'Connor**



SUZUKI TS125

Me on my TS125 in Doncaster back in 1984. What a machine! **John Collinson**



FRANCIS BARNETT AND JAMES

My brother Michael and me on our Francis Barnett 150 and Villiers James 200. It was 1973 and in the days before crash helmets. **Kevin Bradbury**



YAMAHA RD250

My Yamaha was bought from Queens Park Motors in Manchester for £535 and thrashed to within an inch of its poor life. **Kerry Green**



TRIUMPH SPEED TWIN

Here I am in 1976. Belstaffs were £25 back then! **Derek Cowell**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

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



SUZUKI TS50X

My daughter Lottie has just turned 16 and this is her Suzuki TS50X. **Mark Barton**



TRIUMPH TIGER

It's 1965 and here I am as the proud owner of my first outfit. It's a 1954 Tiger 110 with a Busmar double sidecar for which I paid £25. **Peter Dunning**



ROYAL ENFIELD 500

This is actually my third bike, in 1968, after a Honda 50 and CL160. I currently ride a Moto Guzzi V7 III and Honda CB300R. **Jim Cox**

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Do I have to come clean on speeding?'

I had an email from my insurer telling me they would automatically renew my insurance on my Ninja 650R. But the premium was 25% more than I paid last year. This did not seem right as I have not had an accident or claim. If it was only a bit more I wouldn't have bothered but I went on to a comparison site and found much cheaper cover. They have questions on the website about the past five years which I don't ever recall my previous insurer asking. Speeding, points, accidents and so on. I had an SP50 four-and-a-half years ago and a non-fault claim two years ago when someone knocked my bike over in a car park when I was not with it. Surely speeding is only relevant after three years and I should not be penalised for the idiot who knocked my bike over?

Mark Taylor, Pontypridd

A Well done for not falling for auto-renewal tactics. Insurers rely on people's laziness and you will often find that auto-renewal quotes are much higher than fresh quotes from comparison websites. While speeding offences only 'count' from a criminal perspective for three years (but show on your licence

'Disclose all the info or they may not pay a claim'

for four) they are, to insurers, indicative of an insurance risk. Non-fault accidents are also relevant because statistics show that a driver involved in a non-fault accident is more likely to be involved in a further accident. I would disclose all relevant information requested to avoid risking the insurance being invalidated.

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



'I was in a world of shite a year ago'

Our man reflects on how far he's come over a difficult 12 months

I was thinking the other day about how things can change so much in a year. Look at me, I'm in a miles better situation than I was this time last year.

It's the small things, like you take walking for granted. When you can't walk, you can't even take a cup of tea from the kitchen to the front room without spilling half of it.

I was in a world of shite 12 months ago. I couldn't sleep, I wouldn't eat, I had no power, no energy, no strength and I was taking painkillers like they were

'I WAS TAKING PAINKILLERS LIKE THEY WERE SWEETS'

sweets. I was a bit of a split personality, I was narky, nasty and shouty to those around me when I needed them most... I couldn't drive, I couldn't do anything really.

Getting the cage off changed everything and it's been a slow and difficult year but look where I am now. Sure, I've got a limp, my leg is swollen and it's never going to be quite the same but it's not stopping me from doing anything I want to do. If I want to go out, I can go out. I can drive, I can ride bikes.

There are a lot of things that my wife Becky talks about from last year that I can't even



McGuinness wasn't exactly taking it easy when he did a parade lap at the 2018 TT

remember. I think I've tried to erase a lot of it from my memory; the light was on but nobody was home, it was a horrible time.

I guess I could have sat on my arse on the sofa and been miserable, but I did everything I could to keep doing things. I think that made me even more tired and even more grumpy, but it gave me what I needed to push on. I didn't give up.

I am really looking forward to 2019, to racing the Norton and to getting a few more race wins under my belt. In the meantime, I'm going to get stuck into a bit of turkey. Happy Christmas all!



Leaving hospital was just one step on the long and painful road to recovery

ASK McGUINNESS

What's the one race that got away?

Tony Pags



The 2004 Senior TT. I burnt the clutch out on the Yamaha R1 when I had a 40-second lead. The team had told me to take it easy on the clutch but I was too aggressive into and out of the pits. I should have won six races that year but I blew it. Doh!

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

NEXT WEEK FORMULA ONE DRIVERS DO DESERVE SOME RESPECT

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