# **LIFE ON BIKES**



This was day after I passed my 33bhp test in 2009. A nearly mint 1996 ZXR400. Loved its speed and lightness. Matthew Shearer



ΥΑΜΑΗΑ ΥΒΙΟ

This is daughter Laura, 12, in 1994 on the Yam YB100 I passed my test on aged 40.25 years on I've a Bonnie T120. Ray Palfreyman



Technically this is actually my second bike – a Kawasaki ZRX – as sadly don't have a pic of my first, an old Z650! Sarah Kahlbaum

BIKES

NEWS

Senior Writer Dan S



My MZ ETZ125 I bought for £200 in 2008 at 18. I kept it 3 years, then gave it to my brother for his 17th. Mega. Samuel Turner



Here I am posing with my old air-cooled, two-stroke Suzuki GT550. They don't make them like that anymore. Peter Kelly



A blast down memory lane



How is that for a first bike? Why go small when you can have a Harley-Davidson Low Rider instead? What a machine. Charmaine Till



Here I am on my first bike back in 2003, which was this lovely Honda CBR600FX. I wish I still had it! Kathy Coats



Would love to be in MCN! This is my first bike – a second generation Suzuki SV650S – which I bought last year. George Dyer

EDITORIAL

ditor Richard M Deputy Editor E 1733-468084, emma.franklir Office Manager Alison Silcox 01733-468025 alison.silcox

**SPORT & FEATURES** ditor Michael Guy, 01733-4688 ichael ɑuv@m CONSUMER porter Applynow-

	DRODUCTION
	PRODUCTION
AndyCalton	Senior Production Editor Simon Brown
3-468010	
r Motorcycling	ART
-468031	Senior Art Editor Nick Lemon Senior Designer Simon Relph
rMotorcycling	Senior Designer Lee Laughto
11733-468091 abbs	Comor Decigner Lee Laagnee
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ycteriews.com	Online Editor Maria Martin
	Acting Online Editor Gareth E
Gibbons, qibbons@	ADVERTISING
yinnouz <i>ia</i>	Group Commercial Director
, itherland.	Gareth Ashman. 01733-36644
torcyclenews.com	Head of Online Advertising
rke.	RobFairburn, 01733-366455

Key Accounts Shaun Collir 01733-366453

	Dealer team Phil Martin, 01733-366368	LP003328, Academic House, 24-28 Oval Road, London NW17DT
ом	Classified Events Exec Samantha Creedon-Gray, 01733-366406 Classified Products Exec Tommy Holt, 01733-363213 MCN Services Max Garwood, 01733366405 Marketing Manager Sarah Norman	Subscription Queries To contact us about subscription orders, renewals, missing issues or any other subscription queries please email bauer @subscription.co.uk or callour UK number on 01858 438884, for overseas call + 441858 438884.
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I am new to riding and my partner insists I buy a high visibility waistcoat to go over my Kevlar armoured jacket. I am used to wearing one from my lessons. My search of the internet has led me to lots of forums and there is differing opinion as to the extent the high visibility clothing offers protection. My view is that anything that decreases the chance of an accident happening is worth it but if I have an accident and am not wearing high visibility can I be held to blame for the accident? Zoe Dent, email

#### 'It's a good thing -but not a legal requirement'

I agree that anything that helps in making you seen by other motorists and pedestrians and therefore reduces the chances of an accident must be a good thing.

It's obvious that hi-viz makes bikers more visible to other road users. High visibility clothing that complies with EN471 (a European standard for high visibility clothing) can offer more reaction time to drivers. This can make the difference between an accident occurring or not occurring.

Studies have shown you're better off wearing highvisibility clothing than not. A New Zealand case-control study reported in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) found that 1/3 of motorbike accidents might have been prevented by wearing high-visibility clothing. Were you to be involved in an accident and not wearing this style of clothing you could not be held partly to blame for this factor – it is not a legal requirement as opposed to, for example, wearing a helmet.

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

Visit www.bikelawyer.co.uk or mail andrew@bikelawyer.co.uk or call 01446 794169



# TT LEGEND JOHN McGUINNESS IN MCN EVERY WEEK 'I'm really excited to see Glenn Irwin'

But TT novice will be vulnerable when he makes his IoM debut

hink it's brilliant. He 100% has the 'minerals' to do it a bit like Plater, Brookes, licky. He's from the same nould – a quality BSB rider. He's been on the phone asking what it'll take for me to go over with him to take a look around and do a few laps – so fair play.

He knows what it takes but at this stage of his career he's vulnerable. Vulnerable as he has so much talent. He's got 9ft of talent with 1ft of experience and that doesn't line up in the middle for a year or two. But then after that he'll be away.

What Glenn has to be able

#### **'HE'S GOT 9FT OF TALENT** WITH 1FT OF **EXPERIENCE**

to do is take it on the chin when a rider like Mark Parrett comes past. Mark is a superexperienced racer who's been there, seen it and got the T-shirt. He's also a middleaged, overweight man who's not going to win a TT so when Glenn is doing his first laps with his novice bib on and Mark comes past, it'll frustrate him.

But I think it's easier coming in as a newcomer than when I started. Now they'll fly you in, put you up and you've got Milky Quayle and Johnny Barton to help you learn. In my first year there was a chalk board at the



start saying it was misty and wet under the trees and off you went.

Glenn has spoken to me about diet and how many chemicals are in chickens. Well he's not going to be worrying about chemicals in chicken when he's going down Bray Hill lock-to-lock with 24 litres of fuel onboard.

But he's preparing well: he's playing PS4, getting over there regularly, has ridden at the Classic. I sent him a few pictures to see if he knew where they were and he did. Some weren't easy so I was impressed. He just needs to go there and carve his own way, his own TT career.



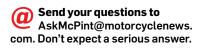
McGuinness is helping TT rookie Irwin with his Isle of Man preparations

### **ASK McGUINNESS**

Isitagood thingfor a **BSB**rider toraceat the TT?



Yes, People say it compromises short circuit racing, but that's bollocks, it makes riders stronger because they get more time on the bike.



## **VEEK MORE WISDOM FROM THE FAST MAN FROM MORECAMBE**