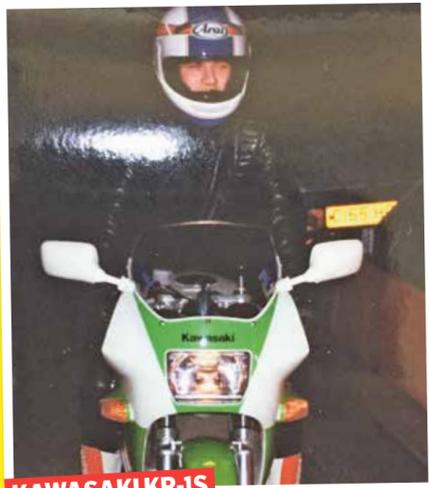




SUZUKI GT750
My first big bike was this Suzuki GT750 (pictured here complete with a Griffin helmet) when I was 18. **Des Connell**



KAWASAKI KR-1S
First day on my '93 KR-1S C3. I kept it until 2012! **Mark Macdonald**



YAMAHA DT50
1991: We lived in the middle of nowhere and all my mates got 50s at 16, just so that we could get out. The shell suit was cool back then... **Tim Bonham**



HONDA MB-50
Back in 1983 on my Honda MB-50 when I was 16... and oblivious to wearing safety gear other than a helmet. **Andrea**



YAMAHA R1
Here's me on my 2001 R1. Not bad for a first bike. **Jamie Hayes**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

A blast down memory lane
Send your first bike pics to:
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HONDA C90
My first bike wasn't a 50cc, or a 70cc... it was this beast of a Honda C90: the full power hand-me-down from my father. **Andy J**



KAWASAKI KH250
Here's me in 1982 giving it the beans on my KH250. It was great for traffic light burnouts, especially in the wet. **Simon Pallister**



HONDA SS50
Here's me on my Honda SS50. I actually got a Yamaha FS1-E at 16 after blowing up this SS50 too many times. **Mark Stanton**

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'What's the law on taking pillion?'

What are the rules on carrying a passenger on my bike and is there an age limit on being a pillion passenger? I ask because my wife is showing an interest, as is my daughter!
Allen Tunnock, Bath

A If you want to carry a passenger on your motorcycle, you must have a full licence for that class of motorcycle and the pillion must wear a legally-compliant helmet that fits properly. The pillion must also be capable of sitting astride a proper seat securely fixed to the motorcycle and be able to hold on effectively. Beyond this, the bike should be equipped with suitable footrests for the pillion's feet and they should be able to reach them. You need to make sure you are not exceeding the maximum weight for the motorcycle and that you comply with any adjustments that the manufacturer recommends in relation to carrying a pillion, such as increasing the pressure in the rear tyre. Also, do check that your insurance covers carrying

'There is no legal minimum age for your daughter'

a pillion passenger. In the case of your daughter, although there is no minimum legal age for her to ride as a pillion, she must wear a suitable helmet, she must be able to sit astride the motorcycle's seat with her feet on the footrests, and she must be able to hold on properly. It might also be a good idea to get an intercom radio system so you can hear each other over the noise of the bike.

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



'Can Lorenzo come back? It's doubtful'

McGuinness reckons the former world champ has lost his spark

It's been hard watching Lorenzo recently. Will he come back? Honestly, I don't think he can. He's lost that bit of killer instinct, which is what you need. But when you watch him now, it's like he doesn't really want it. I hope I'm wrong because watching him on a bike is like poetry. He hits all the apexes, he's so precise and he's not leg trailing or backing it in - he's an old-school, traditional fast f**ker, and during his career he's taken things to the next level. He's won five world titles, including three in MotoGP, and

'MARQUEZ IS ON THE CREST OF A WAVE... JORGE IS PADDLING OUT'

he's still the only man ever to beat Marquez to a title in the premier class. He's definitely got the minerals. But now he's scratching his head, thinking 'what have I got to do?' He needs a re-boot and to start again. But the problem is that when you miss races all your rivals are out there on track, on fire, and then you're expected to come back from an injury and drop straight back into it. People like Marquez are on the crest of a wave and Lorenzo is trying to paddle out and keeps getting slammed. And now MotoGP is incredibly



McPint says Jorge needs to re-spark his killer instinct

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close, which really doesn't help. If you're one or two tenths a lap off, you're nowhere. And that level of competitiveness, where the grid is separated by a second, was unheard of ten years ago. Now you could be riding an 'uncompetitive' Aprilia or KTM and be 18th. It's easy to watch the riders at the back and think 'look at that idiot' but in reality they're a few tenths off the greatest rider and bike in the world. All these guys are absolutely hanging out, but at the front there is currently one guy - Marquez - making everyone else look a bit average!



Valencia 2015: Jorge in much happier times, tearing the grid a new one on the M1

ASK McGUINNESS

You're good mates with Rutter. Would you ever ride for him in his team?
Dave Murphy

Funnily enough we've spoken about that over the years. Yeah, I think it could be good, my only reservation is whether actually being in the same team would affect our friendship.

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

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