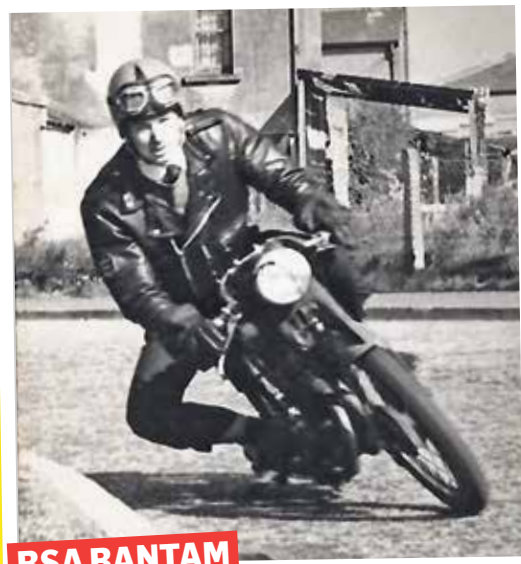




SUZUKI GP100

September 1985, touring the North Yorks Moors on my first bike: a Suzuki GP100. Happy days. **Carol Gawthorpe**



BSA BANTAM

This is me on my first bike, a D7 Bantam. I was 17 and the picture was taken on a roundabout in West Belfast. I'm now 67 and ride a Honda VFR800. **Gerry Sheeran**



ENFIELD CONSTELLATION

On my Uncle Colin's Royal Enfield Constellation in about 1962. This is where my love for bikes began and continues today. **Mick Corten**



TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE

This 1961 Triumph was my first custom bike and featured many handmade parts. The picture is from 1972. **Trev**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

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



BMW R1200GS

Mid-life crisis? Yes. New chapter? Definitely! **Andy Morrirt**



KID'S BIKE

Here's my brother Danny. It's pedal power but he is dreaming of being a TT rider. **Chris B**



PREMIER 500

This is a picture of my paternal grandparents taken in 1923. My dad is in the sidecar on his mother's knee. My research suggests that the bike is a Premier 500cc single from around 1911. **John Skelley**



ARIEL RED HUNTER

This was my dad Roger's first bike, his 1965 Ariel Red Hunter 500cc. He currently rides a Harley-Davidson Street 750. **Rob Blake**

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q Driver hit me and says I am to blame

I have an insurance claim resulting from what I thought was as straightforward an accident as you could imagine! But I have received a letter from my solicitor saying the guy who hit me is alleging I was to blame. This is what happened: I was approaching a junction and, because it was not clear for me to pull into the road, I stopped at the Give Way line. I got rear-ended by a car and came off injuring my neck and shoulder, luckily not too seriously. He is saying he thought I was going for it so he followed me but that I suddenly changed my mind, causing him to go into the back of me. How is this possibly my fault? I have read a column of yours in the past that talked about litigation risk but surely this is not such a case, is it? I always thought that if another road user hits you from behind then they are liable, simple as that. **Debbie Linton, email**

A Put simply, it is not your fault. Only very rarely will a victim of a rear-end collision be held to be blameworthy. This is not a case where you should consider any cut to your compensation either by way of contributory negligence (your bit of the

'The other driver is trying it on so pursue your 100%'

blame for the accident) or litigation risk (a discount reflecting the general risk of litigation). The other driver is 100% at fault. It would be different if you pulled out of the junction, realised it was not clear and reversed into him. Then it would be your fault. I expect he is just trying it on, so pursue 100%.

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 thought F1 guys were all wimps!'

MCN's main man has seen first-hand just how hard top drivers work

For a long time, I used to think F1 car racers were a bunch of wimps. But then I got quite pally with Mark Webber and realised his work ethic, his commitments and what he had to do to compete at the top level were second to none.

I used to think that car drivers just sat on their arses steering about a bit. But I remember going testing with Mark in Barcelona and it was a bloody intense day. They sure put the work in.

Holding on to those cars at 200mph for two hours is not

'I USED TO THINK THEY JUST SAT ON THEIR ARSES'

easy. They have to cope with hard braking and G-force, while having to be millimetre perfect with thousands of gear changes. They are good at what they do and they have to be!

Are they overpaid? Probably. I've met quite a few and some of them are alright, some of them are different, a lot of them are quite dull. They all have a lot of respect for bike racers though, they really appreciate what we do and recognise just how dangerous it is.

They are still racers though; if you made their car a little bit less safe and said it would be half-a-second quicker would they



Webber and McPint are both fans of going as fast as humanly possible

still get in the safer slow one? Of course they wouldn't! They want it just as much as we do.

I drove Gordon Shedden's touring car and I absolutely loved it. It wasn't easy, but it was bloody fun and I was quite quick. He went on my bike too and he wasn't slow either!

It's funny how you'll have a perception of something without knowing much about it. I thought car drivers were wet blankets and then I got to know a bit about what they do and I realise they are just as dedicated and determined as bike racers. So respect all round.



Turns out guys like Webber are actually putting quite a bit of effort in

ASK McGUINNESS

Is the new Norton actually any good?
Thomas Farlow



It's lovely. Smooth and beautiful. It's a hand-crafted, British-built work of art. It's powerful, it's got all the bells and whistles, top notch electronics and everything. It's a cool bike and it's come together really well. It's capable of a TT podium in the right conditions.

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

NEXT WEEK 'THEN I HIT A COW...' McPINT'S DAFTEST SCRAPES

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