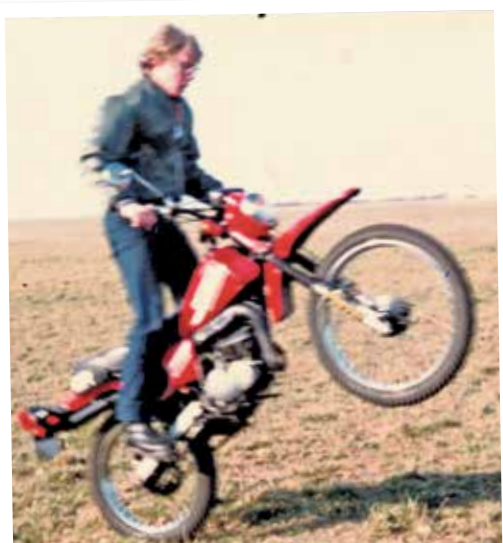




YAMAHA FS1-E

My first bike was a 1974 Purple Popsicle FS1-E. It's September 1979 and another 16-year-old is ready to take to the road. Where is J.L.X 224N now? **Andy How**



SUZUKI TS50ER

Me at 16 in 1981 messing around on my Suzuki TS50ER. I still haven't grown up. **Andy Cole**



SCOTT FLYING SQUIRREL

This is my dad Pete on his first bike; a 1948 Scott Flying Squirrel. He currently owns a 1948 Ariel VG 500. **Sue Borrell**



DUCATI HAILWOOD REP

Here is my daughter having her first bike experience on my Hailwood Replica in 1983. Yes, it is in the dining room. **Mike Harris**



BSA M21

Sitting on my M21 with sidecar in 1973. Some 45 years later, I'm still riding, and still have same hair! **Dougal Stewart**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

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



YAMAHA FJ1200

My first real bike, taken at Whitby in 1987. They were fun times and happy days. **Bryan Thompson**



BSA BANTAM

I got my first bike in 1975. It's a BSA Bantam and my sister is on the back in Glen Auldyn, Ramsey, Isle of Man. **Andrew Garner**



TRIUMPH DAYTONA 675

Here I am after passing my test and picking up my 2007 Daytona 675 on the same day. It doesn't get better than that. **Garry Pearson**

MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q 'Who's to blame for slippery spillage?'

I read in last month's press about a strange incident where there was a spillage of around a ton of chocolate on a road in Westönnen, Germany. A tank of the stuff in a factory spilled and poured into the street where it then solidified. It took 25 firefighters using shovels, hot water and blowtorches to clear it up. My mates and I were wondering what would be the case if we came off our bikes on something like this in the UK and needed to sue someone. Would we be able to? This is perhaps a strange thing to ask but it did get us thinking. **Paul Green, Birmingham**

A A strange question indeed. You would need to seek compensation from the owner of the factory who should carry insurance covering third party liability. Presumably the spill was due to poor maintenance or an employee forgetting to close the tap, leaving the factory liable to compensate. They may allege that the manufacturer of the tank is to blame for a defective product

'The factory owner should have insurance'

(if the tank was fairly new) and seek to bring them into the claim, or it may be that a visiting contractor did something that caused it. When writing a letter of claim to the factory owner you should ask for service/maintenance documents of the tank in the event the factory owner tried to blame someone else. The highways authority will be pleased to hear they would not be liable.

Andrew Campbell

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

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McPINT



'I'd race the Dakar with Guy Martin...'

...but only in a truck. Our man says the race is one hell of a challenge

The Dakar is unreal. The factory boys are there in their air-conditioned tents with a team of mechanics buzzing around like bees but it's the Malle Moto guys coming in four or five hours later that I can't get my head round. They're knackered, covered in sand and blood and then have to change tyres, get a pot noodle and kip down on their own in a tent. Then get up a couple of hours later and do it again. For TWO WEEKS! I speak to Sam Sunderland quite a bit, he's a nice lad and so,

'I THOUGHT ABOUT DOING DAKAR BUT HAD TO BOTTLE IT'

so dedicated. The race is 3000 miles long, there's different altitudes and the stories you hear about the conditions they face are incredible. So many things can catch them out.

I looked into doing it once, but not knowing what is around the corner must result in huge mental and physical pressure. And it's a bit like the TT, you only get one go at it so if you mess up it's over for another year.

These guys are full bore from start to finish. I don't know how they do it or where they get the strength from; the pain they must go through just cannot be imagined unless you've done it.

The bikes are beautiful, stunning bits of kit. It's a testament to the bike as well as the rider because they are flat out for hundreds of miles at a time. They must be f**ked by the finish, if they get there. Half the bikes didn't even finish this time.

You certainly respect those boys. I'd love to have a go, maybe in a truck. I could get Guy Martin driving and I could navigate! It



You'll never get around the Dakar in that old clunker



Tough guy Sam Sunderland battled through to third at this year's Dakar

ASK McGUINNESS

Do you ever watch Guy Martin's TV shows?

Billy Tebbutt



I watch the ones that involve engines. I'm a petrolhead and so he is and I think he's pretty funny and knows how to wield a spanner. That van one at the Nürburgring was mint, especially when he nearly caught fire!

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

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