LIFE ON BIKES



This Kawasaki was my first road bike in 1985. I can still remember the number plate. Nick Moult



<u>YAMAHA YZ80</u> My son, John Parry in 1976 aged ten at Christmas on his first bike, a YZ80. He later went on to race at Brands Hatch! Vicky Parry

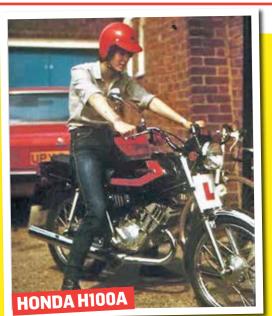


What a bike, I didn't know how lucky I was at the time. Simon Akker

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Me on my brand new Honda H100A in June 1982 when I was 17. It got nicked 12 months later. David Hardy



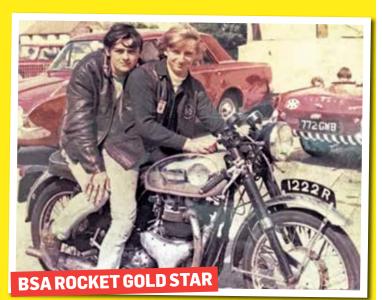
blast down memory lane Send your first bike pics to



My eldest son Ciaran having some fun off-road on his Kawasaki KX60. I Lewis



This Honda was my first bike, it took two years to pay it off. Andy Winter



My father-in-law Mick Sills outside the Ship at Skegness in 1966 on his 1963 Rocket Gold Star. Craig Ingram



My brother and sister in the late sixties. He is on his BSA 650 Super Road Rocket which is parked next to my BSA 500 A7. John Lucas

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recycle



'Who's to blame for muck crash?

I was riding along a rural road when I was confronted by debris being spewed over a hedge from a field to my left. I came off and ended up in the hedge on the other side of the road. To cut a long story short, we have got to a position where the farmer's insurer say they cannot identify whether the hedge cutting/mulching machinery belonged to the farm or a third party contractor so have directed me to claim against the Motor Insurers Bureau. But my solicitors say they cannot do that as the accident was contributed to by a vehicle on private land. Robin, email

This is an intriguing one A with many possible outcomes! The Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) used not to have to compensate if an accident happened on private land which they could try and argue in your case because although you were on the road, the farm vehicle was not.

However, they now have to compensate for private land accidents due to a UK court ruling in line with European Court decisions. The MIB has

'The farm's public liability could be in the frame'

permission to appeal the recent decision, so for the time being I would press the farmer to provide details of contractors that day to identify the vehicle and its insurer. Failing which. the farmer's public liability insurer could be in the frame. It is often the case that farmers use the same insurer so that may make it easier. Your fall-back position should be the MIB assuming the recent decision stands

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

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McPint says Leon Haslam is just what's needed to spice-up WSB

was well chuffed to see Leon get that World Superbike ride. I actually hink he's one of few men vho can fight with Jonathan Rea. He'll go in with loads of confidence and we already know he's got plenty of grit and balls.

I spoke with Jonathan about it at Goodwood and he was saying just how hard Leon digs in; he doesn't know any other way!

His only problem is he never tucks the front and slides it up the road, he's always over the bars having a f**king massive one! Fingers crossed he has an

'LEON'S NOT AFRAID OF BASHING A FEW FAIRINGS

injury free start to the year and we'll see how he does.

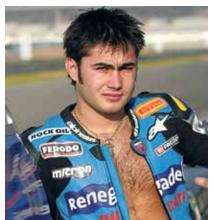
It'll be difficult for him to have a go at Jonny. Jonathan is class, utter class. You often wonder why World Superbike is boring, but from a racer's side Jonathan is so impressive, he hits every apex, every lap without fail. You're watching total perfection for lap after lap. Amazing.

I was looking at the stats in MCN and I was shocked to see that Leon's first full-time World Superbike season was 2004. He still looks like a kid! He's definitely the 'nearly-man'. He's been runner up before and has been runner-up in BSB.



He's a tenacious little fella too. He comes from a tough background and isn't afraid of bashing fairings, he's aggressive and I think that'll bring a new spin to it as he moves from British Superbikes where you have to be aggressive if you want to push yourself to the sharp end of the action.

Jonathan must want challenging too in World Superbikes too. He'll be thinking in the back of his mind that while winning is fantastic it can't continue, someone needs to put up a fight and it will be cracking for the fans to see a scrap.



Hard to believe Leon made his WSB debut in 2004. He wants to do up that zip though

ASK McGUINNESS

Is there any bike vou wouldn't ride?



Mervyn Moore

I definitely wouldn't ride a minimoto especially those cheap Chinese ones that fall apart the first time you ride them. I can't even get on the bastard things! They hurt my hips too much.



WEEK MCGUINNESS SHARES MORE RACING INSIGHTS