



DUCATI 250

My first bike in 1981. It's a 1964 250 Ducati and the picture was taken outside my folks' place in Crewe. **Dave Ellis**



HOME-BREW SCOOT

My first bike ride in the early 70s with my dad Robbie Sillence. He doesn't ride any more but still buys MCN every week. **Karen Harris**



TRIUMPH TIGER CUB

Aged 16 on my dad's Triumph. I couldn't wait to get my own bike. **Micky Beckett**



TRITON 750

Me aged 20 with my storming 750 Triton – the bike was the MCN Special of the Year back in 1974. **James Forster**



YAMAHA RD250E

This was such a great machine back in 1981. **Neil Stephen**



TRIUMPH T21

My dad on his Triumph, we think this was around 1964. **Dan Robinson**



HONDA XL125S

I bought this beauty in 1983. I wish I had kept it (along with the Belstaff and long hair!). **Wayne Hinchliff**



VELOCETTE

Me, my Velocette, my youngest son and his first bike (cobbed up by me). My wife, as per usual, cut off the top of my head! **Dave Morris**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BIKE

A blast down memory lane
Send your first bike pics to:
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MCN LAW

Your tricky legal questions answered

Q Will my wife still get her whiplash compensation?

I heard on the news that there are changes coming in to lower compensation for injuries in road traffic accidents. My wife was on her bike a couple of weeks ago and got rear-ended while waiting at traffic lights. She's going through a claim for whiplash as a result. Will the change in the law wreck her chances of getting a payout?
Andrew Reed, email

A This is to do with the Government cracking down on a perceived 'compensation culture' – when in fact the Government are wrong about there being a 'culture' because their own official figures show the biggest sources of cases, motor claims, fell by 17% this year to around 650,000. It was the fifth year-on-year fall.

The legislation itself is still in draft format, but is expected to come into force in 2019. It will cap the amount someone can claim for a minor whiplash injury. This will reduce the average whiplash payout from £1850 to a maximum amount of £425. It will also ban

'The law will cap payouts for minor whiplash'

insurance companies from settling claims before a medical report is obtained, known as a 'pre-med settlement'.

The good news for bikers is the draft legislation excludes them from the whiplash reform. Your wife (and anyone injured before the legislation is implemented) will fall under the current rules, so she will receive more compensation than someone injured later.

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



'Bradley needs to make his move'

The curly-haired wonder has to keep his eyes on the world stage

I like Bradley Ray. He's impressed me this year. But is it already too late for him though? It depends what his aspirations are. Does he want to be BSB champion? WSB champion? MotoGP champion? If he wants to make it in MotoGP, he needs to make that move as soon as possible. Where he goes next is key. He's too tall for Moto2, I think. He'd have to go straight to MotoGP if he went that way!

It's hard for young British racers. The timing has to be right and there are only a few select teams you want to be in at World Superbike level as there's only a



McGuinness reckons Bradley is too tall for Moto2. So MotoGP or WSB it is then

'HE'S PROPER QUIRKY AND I LOVE THAT'

handful with bikes good enough. If you're not on the Kawasaki or Ducati, would you want to be in WSB at the minute?

I guess the racing is closer this year, but the other teams still have a way to go if they are going to catch up.

Bradley has to go somewhere, but he's young so he can always come back if he needs to. He's been brilliant for British Superbikes. He's proper quirky and I love that. His team boss Stuart Hicken is steering him along, and it's working. I liked working with Stuart, he is fair, straight and gets the best out of his riders. He got the best out of me in 2004 that's for sure I won

three TTs that year).

But the youngster has to tread his path carefully and make the right choices because there's he might only one chance. That being said, there's nothing wrong with BSB. You can earn good money there! I'd sooner be on a competitive BSB bike than getting smoked in WSB.

People have done it before from BSB: check out Cal Crutchlow! He was winning BSB races and then he won WSS and went to MotoGP. Sam Lowes is another. It's possible but he has to move up as soon as the opportunity arrives.



It's more fun on a fast BSB bike than getting smoked on a slow one in WSB

ASK McGUINNESS

Who are your biking heroes?
Phil Morton



Joey was my ultimate hero. I still can't believe how good he was and how he managed to take those three epic TT wins in 2000 as a little, grey-haired old man. And those blokes who dress up as Elvis and ride 1200 miles for charity. I admire people like them. Proper bikers with big hearts.

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

NEXT WEEK HOW BIKE RACERS BOUNCE BACK FROM INJURY