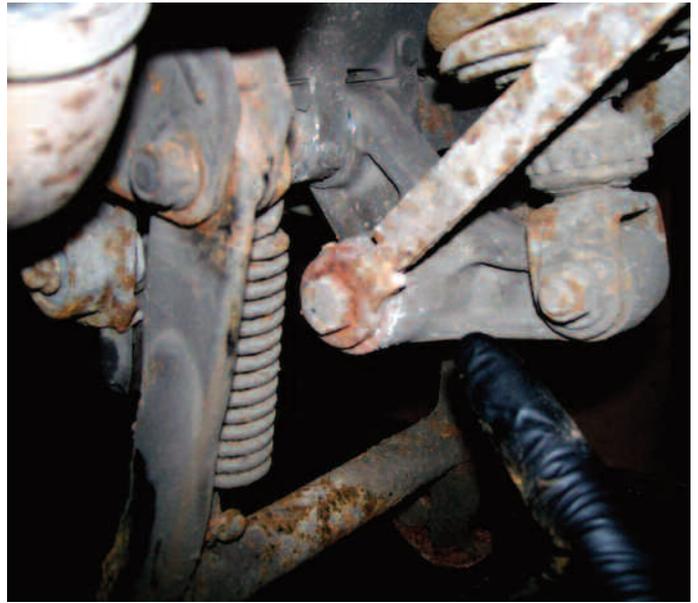


## RETURN OF THE KILLER LINKAGE!

ERNIE 'THE FASTEST SPANNER IN THE WEST'



Hi,  
Following our visit, Ernie said it may be a good idea to write a short article for the next newsletter regarding the importance of having these linkages serviced regularly. Feel free to edit or change any details if I've got any details or punctuation wrong!

### Return Of The Killer Linkage!

I've owned my 2002 FJR for a year now, and it was time for her first MOT. I'd had her serviced by a local independent garage when I first bought her, so wasn't expecting too many unpleasant surprises. Mmm, so there's corrosion on the suspension linkage... This all sounds very familiar! She passed the MOT with this as an advisory and as soon as I returned home I started trawling through the old newsletters for articles on linkages. Needless to say I didn't have to look too far! After calling and speaking to Ernie I decided I'd bite the bullet and take the 250 mile round trip to get my linkages serviced. £99 is a bargain really I thought, especially as it included headstock servicing as well!

Twas a cold and foggy morning when we started the trip down to see the guys at the FJR centre. We'd come as far as Bassett's Pole Near Tamworth when we heard the noise... "What was that?" My wife says over the comms. "No idea, but the back end feels a bit weird, maybe it's this piece of road" The traffic was heavy so we carried on and things seemed to be back to normal, putting the noise down to a stone hitting the underside of the bike. All appeared to be OK.

Upon arrival at the FJR centre we were greeted by a nice hot drink and a bunch of really decent guys. For those who haven't been, you'll be made extremely welcome! Ernie took my keys and put my bike on the ramp, unfortunately I'd only had 2 sips of my tea before Ernie called us out to the workshop to show us something. "Have a look at that linkage" Ernie said with quite an unusually serious look on his face. One of the two linkages had snapped clean off. "You're lucky you got here alive" Well, I'd discovered what the noise was earlier on in the journey that's for sure.

Much hammering, grinding and sweating later, Ernie had the old linkages and linkage arm off, finding everything completely seized which was bad news for my credit card! A simple £99 service had turned rather dramatically into nearly 6 times

that after adding in the Hyperpro heavy duty spring conversion as well as the parts needed just to get the bike roadworthy again.

Ernie did say that this was the first FJR he'd seen with the linkage broken on arrival, so the photos were taken by him after being amazed that it been ridden there!

I know these guys do harp on about these linkages but they do so for a very good reason. If I'd thought that I'd leave the MOT findings as they were not urgent, the whole back end would have dropped probably killing me and my wife. It's thanks to the guys at the club that I'm here to write this, and I'd say to any other club members that if you spend nothing else on your FJR this year, have your linkages serviced.... It's not much money and it just might save your life.

Hope this article is useable and we'd both like to thank you all for the work you did as it was like riding a completely different bike on the way back, and I'm sure you had a good laugh at my wife trying to get on after the work! She loved the ride as I did, but she wants know if you do an FJR fold down step!

Best Regards

Andy And Helen