

# Bike Magazine

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## This is the next Steppe

What sort of images spring to mind when you look upon a 1970s MZ250? Poverty and desolation, perhaps? Downtrodden Eastern European peasants with fat-legged wives on the pillion? Penniless old men pottering along in trench coats and open face lids?

Not any more. Cue the crackle of highly (well, a bit) tuned engines, the smell of Castrol R (or Snetterton tea), the roar of the crowd. MZ are going racing – or rather, you lot are being invited to go racing in what must be the cheapest form of bikesport since Moped Mayhem.

A group of Herfordshire headbangers have formed the Formula Lightweight Racing Club, with the aim of ‘promoting close, economical and enjoyable racing’. They have picked on 250cc MZs as being the cheapest bikes they could think of that would do, and they’ve come up with a formula around which they plan to run a series of races.

Fancy modern tackle like the five-year-old ETZ250 is not allowed, and nor is anything else displaying either a disc brake or a fairing. Only the TS, ES and ETS models are allowed, in fact, none of which are still in production. Frames, swingarms and forks must be standard although tuning is allowed, whatever good you think it might do. Suitable tackle should be available for well under 100 notes.

Riders will need ACU licences and so on, we’re afraid, but it all sounds like good foolish fun and the ideal format for those planning to progress from moped racing.