

THE MAGAZINE OF THE RIDERS ASSOCIATION OF TRIUMPH

# TORQUE



No 15

Spring 2000

UK/International edition

## Hit the *Road*



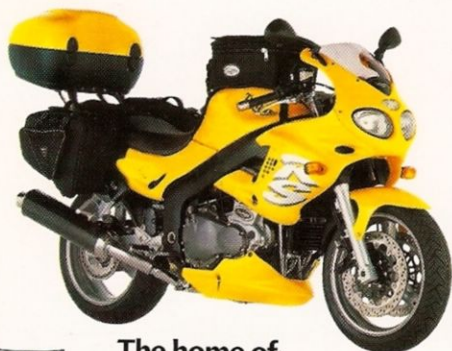
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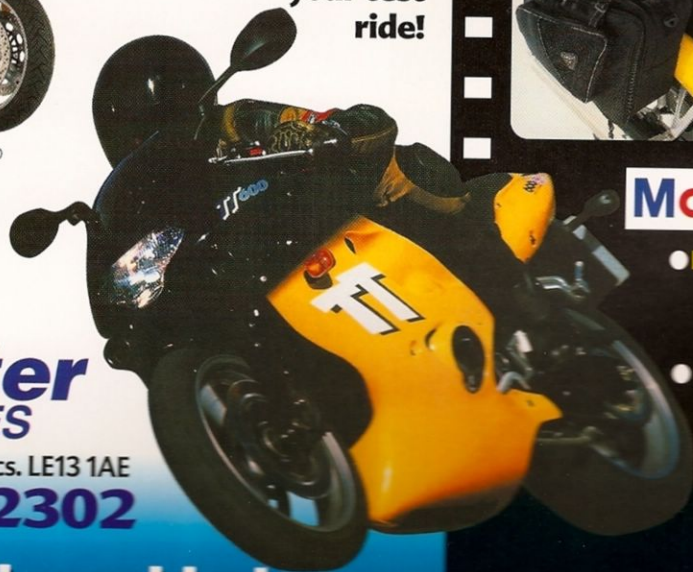
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If you have any questions regarding RAT activities and events in your country, please contact your national manager. If you have any questions or problems concerning your RAT membership, please contact International RAT Manager Neil Webster.



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TORQUE is published quarterly by the  
Riders Association of Triumph Ltd,  
PO Box 83, Hinckley, Leics.,  
England, LE10 3ZP  
and sent direct to all RAT members.  
Individual issues cost £3.75.

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# Up front

MEMBERSHIP of RAT is all about getting the most out of our Triumphs and the new season's programme unveiled in this issue of Torque provides some of the best excuses possible for doing just that.

The number of events we have organised is greater than ever before. We have touring weekends, Sunday rides, race track dates and local pack runs that cater for all tastes. Our geographical spread is also increasing. Wherever you live, we hope to have a RAT event within reach. If there isn't, let us know and we will try to plug the gap.

Of course many events are well worth travelling for. How about the chance to ride with friends at the classic Nurburgring circuit in Germany, to explore the island of Corsica or to discover the majestic Canadian Rockies? Or how about joining us for an exclusive members-only preview visit to the new Triumph factory? RAT membership opens the door to all the experiences and many, many more.

Free in this quarter's edition of Torque you will find a poster that will help you plan your year's riding. We have already entered some of the main dates, but there is space to enter those events being organised within your country or region that you would like to take part in.

The main events are described and listed in this edition of the magazine, but if you have access to the internet check out the club's website for full details of every event being organised for members – from international gatherings to local pack meetings and runs.

It's going to be a busy year, but I'm looking forward to it already.

**Neil Webster**  
International Manager, RAT

Check out the latest details on all RAT events worldwide by logging on to the club's website at [www.triumph.co.uk](http://www.triumph.co.uk). Click on the RAT icon to enter the club pages and use the passwords TORQUE and RAT891515 to enter the members-only section.



The next edition of Torque will be published on June 1.

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Based on a four cylinder Triumph 1200 motor, this engine now powers a Formula Three hillclimb race car. Reduced to 1178cc, supercharged and fed on methanol, it produces a massive 280bhp.

## Hitting the big 100k

**N**EW year, new landmark. Almost exactly nine years after production started at Triumph's Hinckley factory in January 1991, the 100,000th machine rolled off the production line in January of this year.

The machine, a Lucifer Orange Sprint RS, is destined for the Italian market, where Triumph distributor Numero Tre has plans to use it in a promotional role.

Annual production at the plant now stands at over 22,000 machines per year, with further expansion planned as the new Hinckley factory comes on stream over the next three years.

▼ RAT members will have the opportunity to become the first members of the public to see inside the new Triumph factory, when the club's 'Home Run' takes place on July 16. See 'What's Happening' for details.

# Wild thing

**T**AKE a look at something really wild! This is a supercharged four cylinder Triumph 1200 motor which is now housed in a hillclimb race car and produces 280 bhp running on methanol fuel.

It's the work of independent tuning specialist John Wilcox and has chalked up many victories over Formula One engined opposition in its two year history.

British-based Wilcox has also developed a range of tuning packages for Triumph motorcycle applications, including a 142 bhp upgrade kit for T595 and 955i models.

The kits include a modified cylinder head with larger valves and new Wilcox-produced camshafts and remachined pistons. A complete exhaust system, made to Wilcox's own specification in stainless steel, features tapered header pipes, balance pipes and a large bore three-into-one collector. It is supplied with a high level carbon race can.

Vernier cam pulleys allow accurate setting of the cam timing, while a modifier system enables corrections to the fuel and ignition settings to match the changes made to the engine.

The kits cost £1995 plus VAT, with an additional charge of £300 plus VAT if you want Wilcox to fit it to your bike.

Other Wilcox kits for Triumph engines include three stage tuning kits for the Thunderbird, Adventurer Legend and Tiger models, peaking in an output of 104 bhp (107 bhp for the Thunderbird Sport) and a 160 bhp conversion for models which produced 147 bhp in standard form (Daytona 1200 and early Trophy 1200s). A big bore 955cc conversion is also available for the Tiger.

For further information please see the Wilcox Competition Engines advertisement in Torque. It should be pointed out that the kits are not officially approved Triumph modifications and that any modification to your bike's engine from standard specification will invalidate your machine's warranty.

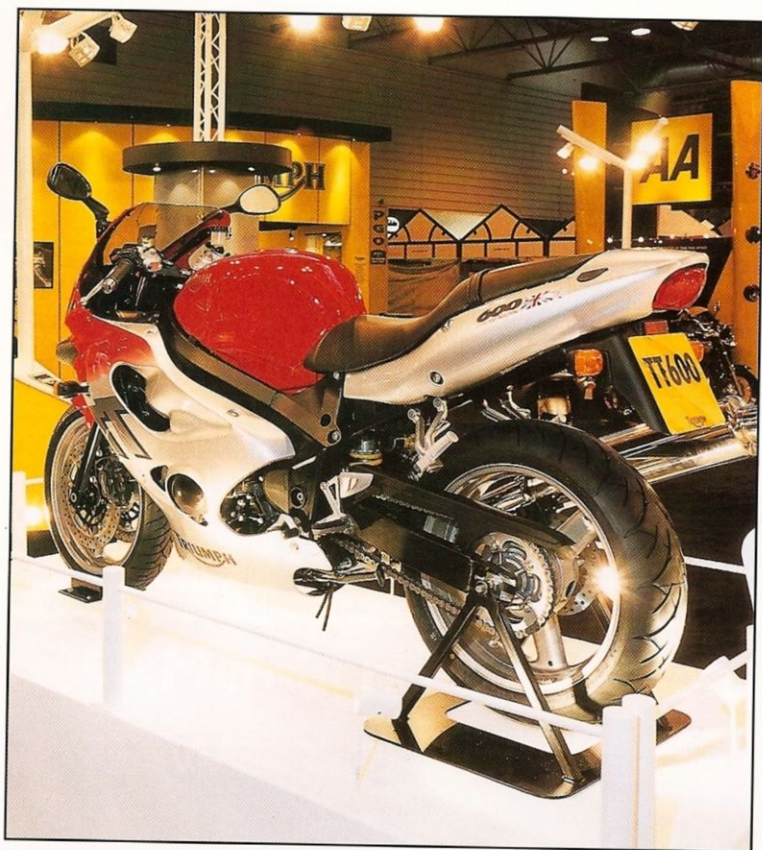


## Busy time at British show

**D**ESPITE slightly lower attendance figures at the 1999 UK International Motorcycle Show held at the NEC in Birmingham, Triumph had one of its busiest years to date. New models and updated stand livery ensured a continuous flow of Triumph fans and

first time visitors eager to catch sight of Triumph's latest model line-up.

"Interest in the TT600 and Sprint RS has been phenomenal, and we've been inundated with test ride requests," said UK sales and marketing manager Bruno Tagliaferri.



Triumph's new TT600 will be available in both red/silver and black/yellow colour schemes.

# New 600s start to roll

PRODUCTION of Triumph's new TT600 supersports machine got underway in January, with the all-new four cylinder sportster scheduled to make its first appearance in Triumph dealers' showrooms towards the end of March.

Available in black and yellow and red and silver colour schemes, the 110PS machine is Triumph's first move into the competitive 600cc supersports class and reflects a massive commitment by the company.

Innovative features include the use of fuel injection managed by the class-leading Sagem MC1000 electronic engine

management system, highly advanced piston design using a new temperature controlled forging process and a strong but lightweight aluminium perimeter beam frame which uses the engine as a structural member.

The machine has been displayed to the public at motorcycle exhibitions throughout the world since its launch at the International Motorcycle Show at Birmingham, England, in November and the response has been strong, with demand likely to be high as the riding season gets underway in the northern hemisphere.

## New men in the East

A NEW distributor has been appointed to handle Triumph sales in Singapore. Tiger Motors Singapore are based in Sam Leong Road and can be contacted on 65 392 4898 (email [tigermotors@pacific.net.sg](mailto:tigermotors@pacific.net.sg)).

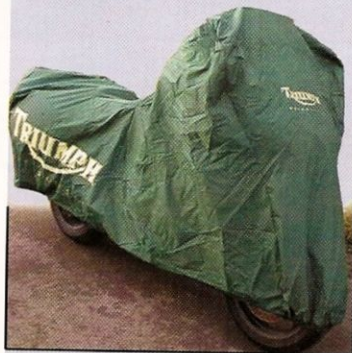
## Rave reviews for Sprint RS

THE new Sprint RS received rave reviews following its world press launch in Spain in December. Among the accolades from the world's press came a top rating from prestigious German magazine *Motorrad* who put it in first place when they tested it alongside the top selling competition from all the main manufacturers.

## Cover for tourers

OWNERS of fully-kitted touring machines will be interested in a new tailored dust cover just released by Triumph's accessories team.

The cover has expandable areas that will accommodate a Trophy or Sprint ST, even when fitted with a top box and panniers set and come in British Racing Green with the Triumph logo in gold.



Even fully equipped touring machines will be protected by the latest Triumph dust cover.

# Winter delights



Members in the Nîmes area of south west France have had a busy Winter's riding.

WINTER weather hasn't prevented the enthusiastic members of the Technic Moto pack from Nîmes in south-west France getting out on the road.

Forty bikes gathered for their Cote du Ventoux Run on November 28 and overcame slippery conditions to trace the tortuous route prepared by organiser Hervé Descamps and meet up for a feast of wild boar in the village of Brantes.

A more leisurely ride around the

base of Mont Ventoux and along the Toulourenc Valley occupied the afternoon, culminating in a visit to the wine cellars of member and Chateaufort-du-Pape wine maker Pierre Revoltier.

Conditions were worse for the Camargue Run planned for January 23, but temperatures below freezing and a strong wind didn't prevent 14 bikes from taking part. Their reward was superb sunny weather and the chance to sample the winter colours of the

Camargue marshlands.

A ferry crossing across the river Rhone led the group to a traditional January meal of sea urchins on the beach at Sausset les Pins.

The pack's programme has continued with a treasure hunt in the Cévennes hills in February. Their two-day 'Sur les Chemins des Corbières' event on March 25-26 promises to be a treat. See 'What's Happening' for more details.



## New pack in Montreal

MONTREAL Triumph dealer Motor Montreal Cycle are launching their own RAT pack to help further develop the club's programme in Canada. Contact Susan Stewart on [motomt1@total.net](mailto:motomt1@total.net) if you want to get involved.

# Barcelona blast

THE fledgling Barcelona pack had a tough time at their debut run in November. With forty people signed up to take part, organiser Simon Brampton was dismayed when snow started to fall during the morning.

Nineteen people braved the elements however and were rewarded when they left

the snow behind just ten minutes after the start. A dry, sunny but cold ride through twisty national park mountain roads culminated with a warming Catalan meal of spicy sausages and beans before the return trip.

Simon already has more events planned for this season. See 'What's happening' for more details.

# Canadian breakfast bash

MEMBERS in western Canada came together for a breakfast run to visit the Vancouver Motorcycle Show in January.

The British Columbia pack's 'Big Chill Breakfast' attracted 17 hardy souls for a pre-event get together and they were then treated to passes to the event by Triumph Canada's Chris Ellis.

Pack organiser Bill Jones has a busy schedule planned for the rest of the season, with a run every month between April and November. Contact him at [liam\\_jones@bc.sympatico.ca](mailto:liam_jones@bc.sympatico.ca) for more information.



## Cut price crossings

NEW routes have been added to the discount fares available to RAT members with ferry company Hoverspeed.

The hovercraft and Seacat company now offer cut price fares on the Dover-Calais, Folkestone-Boulogne, Newhaven-Dieppe and Dover-Ostend routes. Discounts from brochure prices are 30 per cent for motorcycle fares and 15 per cent for car fares.

For bookings from the UK call 08705 240241, from France call 0820 00 35 55 and from Belgium call 059 559911. Quote the code ST/TRB for standard return fares and EX/TRB for five-day return tickets. TRC for car fares.

Reduced fare ferry crossings are also available with P&O Stena Line and P&O North Sea Ferries. See the 'Deals on Wheels' section for more information.

## Deb takes the reins

MOVES are being made to develop the club's profile in Greece, with the appointment of a new co-ordinator for the country and an expanded activities programme.

Triumph Bike Tours organiser Deborah Stagonakis is now looking after the club's Greek activities and has already scheduled two events for later in the year. A treasure hunt will take place in the Attiki region around Athens on April 2 and there will be a weekend seaside rally on June 10-11.

If you want to take part or lend a hand organising more activities, contact Deb on 029 494905 (email [tritours@arafin.gr](mailto:tritours@arafin.gr))

## Members competition

Win a Triumph watch in our latest free to enter members' competition. Just answer the questions below and send your entry to RAT at PO Box 83, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 3ZP, England. Two runners-up will each receive a RAT polo shirt. The closing date is May 31.

### QUESTIONS

- ▼ 1. What production landmark have Triumph recently achieved?
- ▼ 2. Where is the Sierra Norte?
- ▼ 3. Where does the Elfstedentocht take place?

### ANSWERS

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....

Name: .....

Address .....

Membership No .....



## Competition winners

PAUL Turnbull from Ashington, England, was the winner of our Autumn Torque competition. He wins a Triple Connection waterproof suit. Ernesta del Sarto of Soncino, Italy, and Richard Burton of Athens, Greece, win runner-up prizes of

RAT polo shirts.

The answers were: The 'Mountains of Flanders' are Mont Noir, Rodeberg, Mount Kemmel and Mont Cassel. The 'RAT Riot' was held in California. The Sprint RS was launched at the Milan Show.

## RAT's the way to do it

PACK Leaders and Co-ordinators from as far afield as Edinburgh and Exeter recently attended two UK RAT seminars arranged by Club HQ.

UK club manager Lee Parslow invited dealers for a day focused on providing an even better service for members, from dealer based Pack Runs to members-only events such as the forthcoming RAT Home Run (see separate story).

"The structure is now in place to ensure that this season's programme is the most comprehensive offered so far by RAT, and that we will move on the next stage of our development," said Parslow. "With more and more dealers committing to RAT we can now offer extensive regional coverage and variety adding real value to club membership," he continued.

▼ To find your nearest RAT Pack call Club HQ on 01455 891515. If you're keen to start a pack from your dealership we would also like to hear from you.

## Competition winners

THE winners of the Summer and Autumn competitions were Eddie Sandell from Texas, Dirk Weduwen from Germany and Olivier Magnin from Switzerland who each won a Jack Lilley Racing print. Kirk Hilton from Stockport was the winner of the Triumph Ale souvenirs.

## Advice line

Members who have been involved in an accident can now take advantage of a free legal advice service.

Administered by Curtis and Parkinson solicitors of Nottingham, there will be three personal injury specialists and an accident helpline available 24 hours a day. For further information call 0115 956 3259.

# UK Riders Award Scheme

KENT based RAT Run regular Brian Goldsmith has won the top prize in this year's first UK Riders Award scheme.

As well as participating in many UK weekend RAT Runs, Brian also made the trek to Sweden for the Bikemeet event in June, completed the Lands End to John O'Groats Run and battled through the snow to record a third Beaujolais Run.

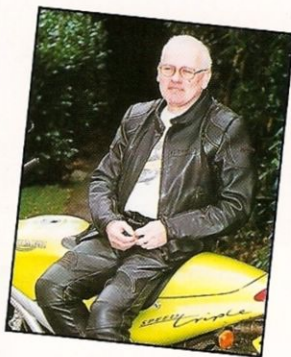
His effort qualified him for a Gold Award (eight events or over) and a place in the gold award winners' prize draw. His log book was first out of the hat, winning him a return Hoverspeed channel crossing for a bike and two people.

The Silver Award (five to seven stamps) prize draw was won by David

Boyden of Willenhall. He wins a Triumph

watch. Trevor Jones of Telford won a Triumph Techno backpack in the Bronze Award draw for members with between one and four qualifying stamps.

Stamps and log books for his year's scheme will be available exclusively at UK Members' Weekends (see 'What's Happening' for details), with a separate stamp for each day. There will again be gold (11 or more stamps), silver (seven to ten), and bronze (three to six) awards, with an end-of-season prize draw in all categories.



## Hot Wheels

FOLLOWING a horrific fire in August 1998, Somerset dealer Riders of Bridgwater unveiled their brand new showroom in November.

Incorporating groundbreaking architectural and design features, dominated by full height glazing, you can now view the full Triumph range in a near-to-outdoor environment.

Despite the fire, Riders were poised to complete one of the most successful year's trading in their 26-year history. Managing Director Phil Jessop said: "It's incredible but we even sold a bike the day after the fire!"

## Millennium men

TAKING Leicestershire dealer Len Manchester into the new century are two new faces at the Melton Mowbray outlet. Long-term owner Arnold Fletcher has retired and the business is now in the capable hands of Steve Upton and Rob Watcham.

Arnold has not disappeared completely, though, and will remain on hand as a consultant. He is also keen to raise the profile of the dealership's RAT Pack.

Both Rob and Arnold attended the recent RAT seminars (see separate story) so look out for more details soon.



Rob Watcham (left) and Steve Upton (right) pictured with Arnold Fletcher



# PACKchat

WITH the Y2K season ready to roll, here is your guide to local RAT action.

▼ In Leicestershire, Windy Corner are planning a busy year. Catch them at MIRA social club (on the A5, just north of Hinckley) on the first Wednesday of the month. Call Roger on 01455 842922 for more details.

▼ Welsh dealer, M&P meet at The Blue Anchor in Aberthaw on the third Monday of each month. Contact pack coordinator Arthur Jeffery on 01446 710196.

▼ For action in Exeter, you'll need to be at The Gypsy Hill Hotel on the first Tuesday of the month. Call Paul Witherford at Bridge Motorcycles on 01392 260200.

▼ Moving East, the Rafferty Newman pack choose the first Wednesday of each month to meet up. New for this year is a change of venue. You'll now find them at M. Kelley's restaurant on the A27 Fareham to Portsmouth Road. Call Chris Linney on 01329 232424 for action in Hampshire. UK club manager Lee Parslow will be joining them for their March meeting.

▼ Jack Lilley of Shepperton continue to meet at The Bleak House on the A320 near Woking and hold their meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. King RAT Robin Johnson is the

contact on 01932 224574.

▼ Tring dealer Market Motorcycles will resume their 'second Monday evening of the month' slot at The Coach and Horses in Newgate Street Village from 10 April. Their last Sunday lunch meeting will be 12 March. Give Nigel Lee a call on 01442 822599.

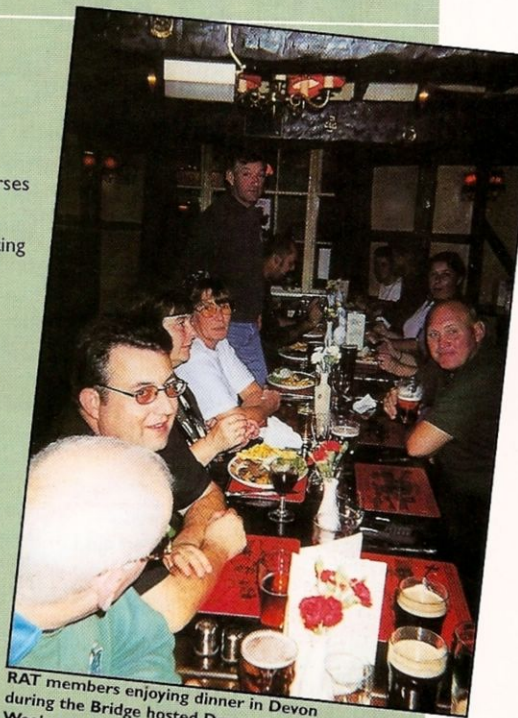
▼ Three Cross RATs have a packed calendar for this year. They meet every last Wednesday of the month at The Elm Tree in Ringwood. Nigel Baker is pack coordinator, working with Lee Wadwell at Three Cross. Give them a call 01202 824531.

▼ If you live in Shropshire, you need to be at The Pheasant Inn at Admaston on the first Tuesday of each month, where the Wylie and Holland pack meet. Call pack co-ordinator Bryan Adams on 01630 653236 for further details.

▼ For the Croydon area, Carl Rosner continue to meet up at The Haycutter, which can be found in Tanhouse Road, Oxted on the third Wednesday of each month. Joining them for their March meeting, to be held Wednesday 15, will be UK club manager Lee Parslow. Call Carl Rosner on 0181 657 0121.

▼ Miles Kingsport meet on the second Monday of the month at the Molescroft pub, Malton Road, Beverley. Call Dave Nicholson on 01482 323529.

▼ In Leeds, Eddy's now meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at The

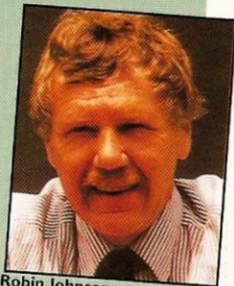


RAT members enjoying dinner in Devon during the Bridge hosted Devon Cream Weekend.

Old Red Lion, A64, York Road. Call Paul Armer on 0410 911016 for more details.

▼ Webbs of Lincoln are holding an event planning meeting on March 7 at the Bridge Inn at Saxilby, on the A57. Joining them will be UK club manager Lee Parslow. For further details, contact Peter Littlewood on 01522 528951.

▼ Club members in the North East can now look forward to RAT action in their area, as Newcastle dealers M&S are planning a series of runs for this year. As well as hosting the 'Route 66' regional run in June they will also stage pack runs as the season progresses. For more information call Gary Butler on 0191 232 7866.



Robin Johnson of Jack Lilley.

Breaking for lunch on the Wylie and Holland hosted Mountain Run

# Home Run

**R**AT members will have an exclusive opportunity to be the first public visitors to see inside the new Triumph factory when the club organises its first 'Home Run' on Sunday July 16.

Members will meet up at start points

all around the UK during the morning and ride into Hinckley to converge on the new factory site during the afternoon. Lunch will be available and there will be displays and activities as well as tours of the new plant.

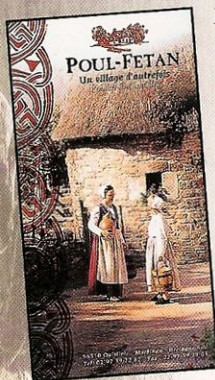
Riders must be members of the club,

although they can bring a guest as a passenger. Membership subscriptions will be available at all the start points.

Full details of the start points and the timing schedule will be announced in the Summer edition of Torque which is published on June 1.

## Around the World

### France



FRANCE offers a great choice of riding experiences for members this Spring, starting with the 'Chemin des Corbières' Run in south-west France over the weekend of March 25-26.

Organised by the active Technic Moto Pack in Nimes, the event

includes a treasure hunt and a guided ride and promises great riding and good food. Contact Hervé Descamps for more information on +33 466 8542 96 (herve.hdp@wanadoo.fr). Club Manager Neil Webster will be leading a group from the UK to take part. Call 01455 891515 (neil.webster@triumph.co.uk) for details.

In the north of the country, the French Spring Break weekend will be held in the Pas-de-Calais region on May 6-7. Based at the Chateau des Tourelles hotel at Le West, near Boulogne, rides will leave at 10.30am each morning. More information from Neil Webster at the above number, or call Allez France on 01903 748178 to book a package from the UK. To book direct with the hotel, call +33 328 385353.

There are also three one day rides

currently being planned. The 'Balade des Forêts de l'Avenois' takes place south of Lille on April 2, a 'Brittany Run' takes place on June 18 and the 'Normandy Run' will be held on July 2. Contact Neil Webster for more information if you want to join in.

### Greece

PUZZLES, prizes and lunch in a seaside tavern are on the menu at the Pericles Treasure Hunt being held on April 2 in the Attiki region around Athens. Clues and photos will lead riders round the route. Collect tokens on the way and exchange them for prizes at the finish.

There are still a few places left on the RAT Millenium Tour of Greece between May 6 and 14. The route covers the north of the country and bike hire can be included. More information in the Autumn 1999 edition of Torque

The Déjà Vu Rally will take place over the weekend of June 11-12. Two days of rides, with a party on Saturday night.

Contact Deb Stagonakis on +3 (0)2949 4905 or email tritours@arafin.gr for more information on RAT activities in Greece.

### Italy

TWO regional tours and a race track weekend are the highlights of the Italian RAT programme for

the season.

The Spring Rally will take place in Tuscany over the weekend of May 5-7 and the Autumn Rally will be held on the island of Corsica between September 29 and October 1. Both promise terrific riding and superb food, and a brilliant atmosphere.

If your taste is for track action, there will be a two-day circuit riding weekend at the Varano de' Melegari circuit 32 kilometres from Parma on June 3-4.

And don't forget the monthly 'Mini RAT' evening runs. These are held in Milan, Florence and Rome on the first Wednesday of every month.

Alessandra Gasperini has the details of all Italian RAT events on +39 02 935 82000.

### Spain

MEMBERS in Barcelona have a couple of early season runs planned. The 'Calcatoda Onion Run' starts from Triumph dealers British Bikes at 9.30am on March 12 and follows a twisty scenic route to Valls where a traditionally messy calcatoda meal promises to be great fun.

A longer run takes place over the weekend of April 8-9 when there is a run to Bilbao to visit the Art of the Motorcycle exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum. The ride leaves British Bikes at 7.30am on April 8 for the 620km ride to Bilbao.

As well as a visit to the museum

there will be a basque dinner on Saturday evening and a lunch stop in La Rioja on the return journey. Hotel accommodation can be arranged.

Contact Simon Brampton on +34 (0)93 280 5934, email [brampton@intercom.es](mailto:brampton@intercom.es) for more information.

## Germany

THE chance to ride the classic Nurburgring 'Nordschleife' circuit is a highlight of the year's programme in Germany.

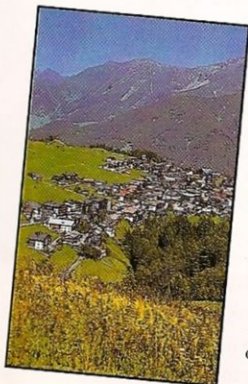
'RATs at the Ring' is part of a full weekend's riding in the Eiffel Mountains scheduled for the weekend of July 29-30. Even if you don't fancy the option of sampling the famous circuit, there will also be touring rides both days and a gala dinner on the Saturday night. Full details in the Summer edition of Torque, out early June.

The season will also include three weekend runs hosted by RAT Germany. Greet the Spring with the 'Dance in the May' Run to the Taunus Mountains near Frankfurt on April 30. We will be taking part in the evening's May Day celebrations at a hotel on the Feldberg and riding home on the Monday.

The spectacular Austrian Alps are the destination in July as our third Tirol Rally takes place in Serfaus on June 14-16.

For something completely different we head to the north east for a weekend in the Mecklenberger Lakes district on September 2-3. As usual superb scenery, excellent riding, good food and good company are guaranteed.

If your taste is for more traditional style biker rallies, dates for the diary include the Berlin Rally being hosted by the local RAT pack on May 26-28 and the St Michaelisdonn Rally north of Hamburg hosted by Triumph dealers Heller und Zolltau on June 16-18.



Contact Martin Driehaus on +49 6175 93360 for more information.

## Canada

CANADA'S Rocky Mountains will be the venue for a week-long RAT Run being held between May 28 and June 3.

Jointly organised by Triumph Canada and Rocky Mountain Motorcycle Holidays, the tour is based in Whistler and covers some highlights of British Columbia and Alberta.

You can either use your own bike or fly in and rent a Triumph from organiser Mike Ciebien. Contact him on (604) 938 0126 for more information.

## Sweden

OUR Swedish programme moves up a gear for this season, with three touring weekends and cut price entry to two track days in the schedule.

The Uppland Run takes place on May 20-21. Starting from Stockholm the route follows the Baltic coast north to Gävle for a Saturday night stop before looping back through the picturesque Bergslagen region on Sunday.

The opening of the Oresund Bridge between Sweden and Denmark is the venue for the second run, to be held over July 1 and 2. After riding over the bridge on its opening day and lunching in Denmark, the route returns to Sweden by ferry for an overnight stop near Kullensfyr. Sunday's ride visits the castles of Skåne.

The Borders Run on September 9-10 will see us head north from Göteborg up the coast to a stop near the Norwegian border, with a return route through the inland lakes on Sunday. It's hoped to combine this with a ride out from Oslo for Norwegian members.

Riders can take part on one or both days. All are welcome but there will be extra benefits for RAT members. Contact Krister Akerblom on +46 (0)8680 0725 for more information and hotel details.

For sport minded riders, we have arranged discount rates for RAT members at track days being run at the Anderstorp circuit by Stockholm Triumph dealer Crossroads on July 1-2 and August 12-13.

Instead of the normal rate of SKR500 per day, RAT members will pay just SKR400. Contact Elisabeth Nybergh on +46 (0)8680 0725.

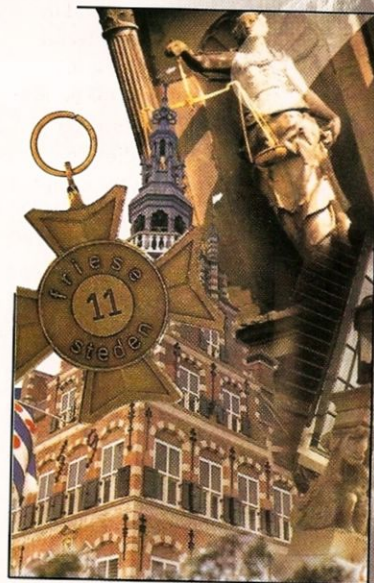
## Holland

FRIESLAND in north-west Holland plays host to the RAT 'Elfstedentocht' (11 Cities Tour) on May 7.

The tour follows the 240 kilometre route traced by the famous ice skating event and visits the 11 cities of the province in one day's riding.

The start is at the Sporthotel in Lemmer and all participants will be awarded the famous 'Eleven Cities Cross' as a mark of their achievement.

For information about entry and accommodation, contact Rene van Tienhoven at Benelux Triumph importers Greenib on +31 (0)71 305 1562 ([general@greenib.nl](mailto:general@greenib.nl)).



▼ Full details of these and all club events and meetings are featured on the RAT website. Go to [www.triumph.co.uk](http://www.triumph.co.uk), click on the RAT button and enter the passwords TORQUE and RAT891515.

# All systems GO...

**A**CTION packed' is the only way to describe the UK RAT programme for the coming season. With a two-day Members Weekend every month from March until October and a choice of Regional Runs throughout the country on just about every weekend, there has never been a better excuse for getting out on your Triumph.

Members Weekends are organised by RAT HQ. You can attend either or both days, as you wish. No

need to reserve a place, just turn up at the start. Whether you stay at the hotel we have chosen as the base for the event or make other arrangements is up to you but you should book any accommodation you need direct with the hotel. Regional Runs are each hosted by a local dealer pack and are one-day rides.

Many packs also organise their own local runs and will be coming together to join in the regional runs within their area.

## March

### Regional Runs

#### Scotland:

Borders Run, March 26. Hosted by Two Wheels, Edinburgh. Meet at Two Wheels for a 10.30am start. Neil Danskin, 0131 667 7305.

#### North:

Pateley Bridge Run, March 5. Hosted by Eddy's Motorcycles. The Old Red Lion, A64, Leeds, 10.30am. Paul Armer, 0410 911016.

#### East:

Bomber Base Blast, March 11 and 12. See main story.

#### West:

Cosford Museum Run, March 19. Station Hotel, Dudley, 10.30 am. Hosted by Speedway Motorcycles. Ride through Shropshire, with optional visit to Cosford RAF Museum in Shifnal, Shropshire, one of the largest aviation collections in the UK. Entry to Cosford is £5.50 per adult, £4.50 for senior citizens and £3.50 for children up to 16 years old. Malcolm Leddington, 01902 665337.

#### South East:

Pioneer Run, March 19. Hosted by Boyer Racing. The Posthouse Hotel, Bexley, 10.30am. Ride to Brighton to see the finish of the Pioneer Run for pre-1915 bikes. Colin Pavitt, 07971 590593.

#### South West:

Fleet Air Arm Run, March 26. Hosted by Three Cross RATs. Starts at the Sammy Miller Museum, New Milton, Hampshire, and heads for the Fleet Air Arm Museum, near Yeovil, where entry is optional. Nigel Baker, 01258 830091.



Visit picturesque Lincolnshire with us in March

## Bomber Base Blast

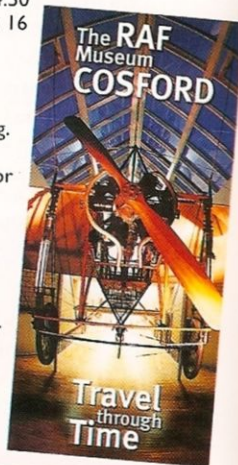
**T**HE main event for March is our Bomber Base Blast Members Weekend on March 11 and 12.

Starting from Lincoln Travel Inn at 10.30 am on Saturday 11, we'll be visiting notable sites such as the official 617 'Dambusters' Squadron memorial at Woodhall Spa and RAF Coningsby as well as exploring the wonderful scenery and terrific roads of this part of eastern England.

Saturday finishes at the Travel Inn at Huntingdon, where we'll enjoy a group dinner in the evening. Sunday's ride starts at 10.30 am from the same venue.

You will find the Lincoln Travel Inn at the junction of the B1188 and B1131. The Huntingdon Travel Inn is located on the A1/A14 junction.

You can make a reservation at either Travel Inn by phoning 0870 242 8000.



For details on all these events and future RAT Runs, be sure not to miss the summer edition of Torque, out on June 1. You can also check out the RAT website. Go to the Triumph site at [www.triumph.co.uk](http://www.triumph.co.uk) and use the passwords TORQUE and RAT891515 to get into the RAT members' section.

## April

### Smugglers Trail Regional Runs

WE head for the smugglers country of south east England during the weekend of April 15 and 16.

Starting from the Travel Inn at Dover West (there are two Travel Inns in Dover – we're meeting at Dover West, Folkestone Road) at 10.30 am, we'll ride the swooping Kent coastline into Sussex.

Saturday will finish in Hastings at the Travel Inn on the A21 in St Leonards-on-Sea, from where Sunday will begin with a ride into beautiful Kent. We'll be leaving Hastings on Sunday at 10.30 am.

You'll find the Dover West Travel Inn on the B2011, signposted 'local services' from the A20

after junction 13 of the M20 (continue through the tunnel). Bookings for all Travel Inns are made by phoning 0870 242 8000.



Discover Smuggler's Country with us in April.

#### Scotland:

Fife Run, April 30. Hosted by Two Wheels, Edinburgh. Meet at Two Wheels. 10.30am start. Neil Danskin, 0131 667 7305.

#### North:

Blackpool Run, April 30. Hosted by Eddy's Motorcycles. The Old Red Lion, A64 York Road, Leeds, 10.30 am. Paul Armer, 0410 911016.

#### East:

Cotswolds Run, April 2. Hosted by Windy Corner. The Hinkley Knight, on the A5 near Hinkley just north of the M69 junction, 10.30am. Roger Winterburn, 01455 842922.

#### West:

Aberystwyth Run, April 9. Hosted by M&P Bridgend. The Little Chef, junction 33 M4 Cardiff West services. 10.30am. Arthur Jeffery, 01446 710196.

#### South East:

Smugglers Trail Weekend, April 15-16. See main story.

#### South West:

Wye Valley Run, April 30. Hosted by Fowlers of Swindon. The Prince of Wales, Wootton Bassett, Swindon, 10.30am Beverley Taylor, 01793 534985.

## May

### Regional Runs

#### Scotland:

Isle of Skye Adventure, May 27-28. See main story.

#### North:

Castle Howard Run, May 21. Hosted by Miles Kingsport. Redbeck Cafe (A614 Howden to Goole) 10.00am. Dave Nicholson, 01482 323529.

#### East/South East:

The Wash Run, May 21. Hosted by Market Motorcycles. Hemel Hempstead Posthouse, 10.30am. Nigel Lee, 01442 822599.

#### West:

Caernarfon Castle Run, May 14. Hosted by Wylie and Holland. The Pheasant Inn, Admaston, 10.30am. Bryan Adams, 01630 653236.

#### South West:

New Forest Camping Weekend, May 13-14, Sandy Balls Campsite, Hampshire. Hosted by Three Cross. RAT Runs on both days, starting from Sandy Balls at 10.30am. Camping available at the special rate of £7 per person per night on Friday May 12 and Saturday May 13. To book a pitch, phone Sandy Balls on 01425 653042. Further information, phone Nigel Baker on 01258 830091.

### Island adventure

SPRING Bank Holiday weekend sees us head north for the Western Isles Adventure, to the Isle of Skye on May 27 and 28.

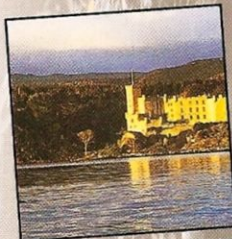
We'll set off from the Travel Inn at Fort William on Saturday at 10.30am and wind our way across fantastic Scottish countryside before traversing the Skye toll bridge onto this rugged isle.

With plenty of opportunities to absorb the scenery, we'll circumnavigate the island before finishing in Portree at The Portree Hotel, from where Sunday's ride will start at 10.30am.

On Sunday, we'll continue around Skye before returning to the mainland and our exploration of Scotland. Heading north, we'll follow Loch Ness to Inverness where our journey will end at the Haughdale Hotel.

Finishing both Saturday and Sunday in style, all members attending will have the option to join the RAT members' party evenings – the perfect end to a good ride.

For accommodation, phone 0870 242 8000 for Travel Inn reservations, 01478 612511 for The Portree Hotel and 01463 233065 for The Haughdale Hotel.



See wonderful Dunvegan Castle when you visit Skye

# Magical Man

GOING to the TT? Then join us on June 4 (Mad Sunday) for a RAT Run taking in several of the island's attractions.

We're starting from Brown's Cafe in Laxey, where we'll meet for breakfast from 8am. Leaving Laxey at 10am, we'll the ride north to see the Ramsey Sprint before heading to the Liverpool Arms, just outside Douglas on the Ramsey Road, for lunch. If you're on the island don't miss this.

## Regional Runs

### Scotland:

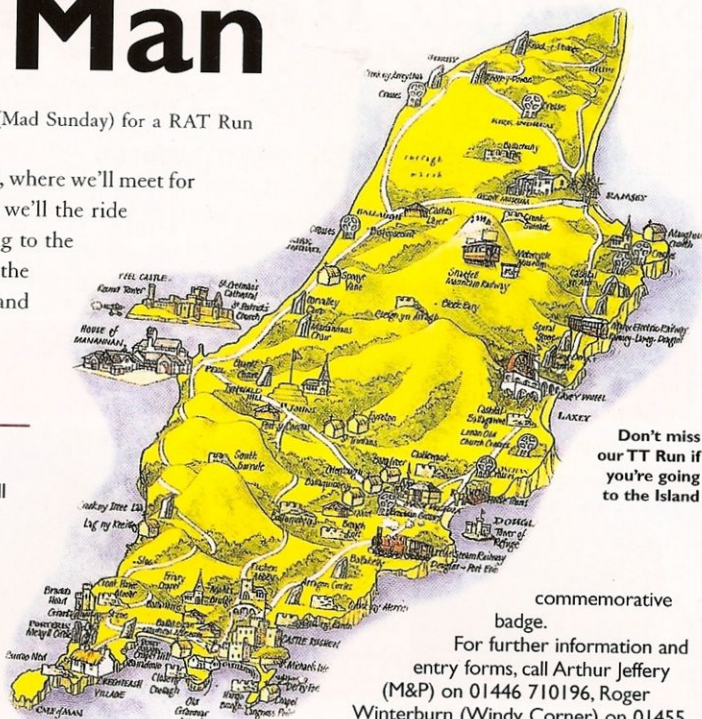
Scottish Run, June 25. Two Wheels of Edinburgh will host this run through the fantastic Scottish countryside. Neil Danskin, 0131 667 7305.

### North:

Route 66 Run. Hosted by M&S, Newcastle. Leave Scotch Corner Hotel (jct A1/A66) 10.30am. Gary Butler, 0191 232 7866.

### North/East/West:

Meriden Millennium Motorcycle Megaride, June 25. This event is being organised to support children's hospices across the UK. It's not organised by us, but there are three regional RAT Runs designed to link up with it. M&P of Bridgend will host a run from the west, meeting at the Little Chef, Junction 33, M4 Cardiff West services for a 10.30am start. Windy Corner will host a run from the East Midlands. Meet at the Hinckley Knight on the A5 near Hinckley, just north of the M69 junction. Eddy's Motorcycles will host a run from the North, starting from the Old Red Lion, York Road, Leeds, at 10.30am. There is a £5 entry fee for the event (payable in advance), which includes a metal



Don't miss our TT Run if you're going to the Island

commemorative badge.

For further information and entry forms, call Arthur Jeffery (M&P) on 01446 710196, Roger Winterburn (Windy Corner) on 01455 842922 or Paul Armer (Eddy's) on 0410 911016

### South East:

Essex Swing Run, June 18. Hosted by Ongar Motorcycles. Thurrock Services Car Park (M25), 10.30 am start. Finish with fish and chips in Southend. Ken Kirby, 01708 851812

### South West:

Bath Bash, June 4. Hosted by Three Cross. Leaving from Rowham services (westbound) on the M27 (just west of the M3 junction) at 10.30am. Finish with a ride round historic Bath on an open-topped bus! Nigel Baker, 01258 830091.

## RAT Run UK diary dates

Date	Title	Host	Date	Title	Host
March 5	Pateley Bridge Run	Eddy's	April 30	Wye Valley Run	Fowlers, Swindon
March 11-12	Bomber Base Blast	RAT HQ	April 30	Blackpool Run	Eddy's
March 19	Pioneer Run	Boyer Racing	April 30	Fife Run	Two Wheels
March 19	Cosford Museum Run	Speedway	May 5-7	French Spring Break	RAT HQ
March 26	Fleet Air Arm Museum Run	Three Cross	May 13/14	Sandy Balls Camping w/end	Three Cross
March 26	Scottish Borders Run	Two Wheels	May 14	Caernafon Castle Run	Wylie and Holland
April 2	Cotswolds Run	Windy Corner	May 21	Castle Howard Run	Miles Kingsport
April 9	Aberystwyth Run	M&P Bridgend	May 21	The Wash Run	Market Motorcycles
April 15-16	Smugglers Trail	RAT HQ	May 27-28	Western Isles Adventure	RAT HQ
Apr 29-May 2	Belgium Run	Boyer Racing	May 28	Isle of Skye Run	Two Wheels

# Track action

## Track day schedule

April 12	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
May 10	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
May 18	Mallory Park	Fowlers	£85	(normally £95)
June 7	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
June 21	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
June 27	Thruxton	Bridge	£80	(normally £120)
June 29	Mallory Park	Fowlers	£85	(normally £95)
July 5	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
July 11	Mallory Park	Fowlers	£85	(normally £95)
July 19	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
August 8	Mallory Park	Fowlers	£85	(normally £95)
August 9	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
August 23	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
September 6	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)
September 19	Mallory Park	Fowlers	£85	(normally £95)
September 27	Castle Combe	Fowlers	£85	(normally £90)

IF you have a taste for some track action, we have arranged discounts for RAT members at a range of track days to give you a wide choice of dates and circuits.

Triumph dealers Fowlers Motorcycles have a season-long schedule over 15 track dates to choose from. These events aren't exclusively Triumph, but they do offer cash savings for RAT members of up to 10 per cent.

For Mallory Park, call Barry Maunders at Fowlers on +44 (0)117 977 0466, and for Castle Combe, phone the circuit direct on +44 (0)1249 782417. Don't forget to quote your RAT membership number.

Exeter dealers Bridge Motorcycles are holding a track day with a difference at Thruxton on June 27. Limited to just 75 riders there will be expert tuition available from ex-Grand Prix rider Steve Parrish.

The cost to RAT members is £80 (usual price £120) and includes refreshments and at least one hour of circuit time, split into twenty-minute sessions. There will also be dedicated Triumph groups.

If you're interested, phone Bridge on 01392 260200 for further details.

## Coming up...

STILL want more? Well, how do these sound? In July we're visiting the Welsh Marches on the 22 and 23, when we'll ride through the English/Welsh border country. August 12-13 sees us return to the Lake District. 'Back by popular demand' should give you an idea on how enjoyable this will be!

A late summer trip to the Scottish Borders over the weekend of September 16-17 sees a repeat of last season's successful Border Raid and we head to the rugged Cornish coastline on October 14 and 15 to round off the season in style.

As well as the New Forest camping weekend already out-

lined, we've lined up two more camping weekends later in the year. On July 8-9 we're visiting Yorkshire 'Heartbeat' country and in September, we'll return to Anglesey.



Expect spectacular views when you join us in the Scottish Borders.

Date	Title	Host	Date	Title	Host
June 4	Isle of Man TT Run	RAT HQ	August 12-13	Lakes Weekend	RAT HQ
June 4	Bath Bash	Three Cross	August 19	Essextravaganza	Ongar Motorcycles
June 11	Route 66 Run	M&S	August 20	Baywatch Run	Three Cross
June 18	Essex Swing	Ongar Motorcycles	August 20	Severn Valley Run	Wylie and Holland
June 25	Meriden Mega Ride	M&P/W Corner/Eddy's	August 28	Scottish Run	Two Wheels
July 8/9	Heartbeat' camping w/end	Eddy's	Sept 16-17	Border Raid 2000	RAT HQ
July 16	RAT Home Run	RAT HQ	Sept 24	South East Coastal Run	Boyer Racing
July 22-23	Marches Madness	RAT HQ	Sept 24	Scottish Run	Two Wheels
July 27-Aug 14	Black Forest Run	Boyer Racing	Oct 1	Run to Gt North Bike Show	Eddy's
July 30	Scottish Run	Two Wheels	Oct 14-15	Cornish Coastal Caper	RAT HQ



Boyer RAT-packers abroad.



The fairy castle of Pierrefonds.

# Boyer in the Black Forest

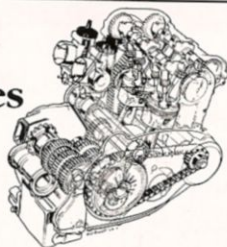
FOLLOWING a successful trip to Germany's Black Forest last year, London dealer Boyer Racing have decided to repeat the trip this Summer.

Leaving Dover on either July 27 or 28 (there are two departure dates) you'll spend 10 days touring this superb region of Europe, which will incorporate a four-day Alpine tour led by a Swiss guide and meeting up with a local German RAT pack.

"A twisty, scenic ride up a mountain left me with a smile a mile wide as we crossed the Swiss border," said Garry Harrison, describing last year's trip. The planned return date is August 6, leaving Calais for Dover. For details on availability and prices, call Bill Saker at Boyer Racing on 0181 854 8133.

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## Diary dates

March 11	Daytona Run and Party	USA
March 11-12	Bomber Base Blast	England
March 25-26	Sur le Chemin des Corbières	France
April 1	Seattle Warm-Up Run	USA
April 2	Balade des Forets de l'Avesnois	France
April 2	Treasure Hunt Run	Greece
April 15-16	Smugglers Trail Weekend	England
April 30	Taunus 'Tanz in den Mai' Run	Germany
May 5-7	Tuscany Rally	Italy
May 6	SonomaFest Run	USA
May 6-7	French Spring Break	France
May 6-14	Greek Millenium Tour	Greece
May 7	Elfstedentocht	Holland
May 13-14	Texas Pioneer Weekend	USA
May 20-21	Uppland Runt	Sweden
May 26-28	Berlin Rally	Germany
May 27-28	Western Isles Adventure	Scotland
May 28-June 3	RAT Ride in the Rockies	Canada
June 3-4	Varano Track Days	Italy
June 4	TT Run	Isle of Man
June 10-11	Déja Vu Weekend	Greece
June 16-18	St Michaelisdonn Rally	Germany
June 18	Brittany Run	France
June 30-July 2	Mount St Helens Run	USA
July 1-2	Oresund Bridge Run	Sweden/Denmark
July 2	Normandy Run	France
July 14-16	Tirol Rally	Austria
July 16	Home Run	England
July 22-23	Marches Madness Weekend	England
July 22-23	RATs at the BBC, Mi	USA
July 29-30	Nurgburgring Weekend	Germany
August 10-13	RAT-Meet at Oschersleben	Germany
August 12-13	Lakes Weekend	England
August 17-20	Oregon RAT Fest	USA
August 24-27	Rocky Mountain Weekend	USA
August 26-27	Galena Rally	USA
Sept 2-3	Mecklenberger Lakes Weekend	Germany
Sept 7-10	New England B&B Run	USA
Sept 9-10	Border Run	Sweden
Sept 16-17	Border Raid 2000	England/Scotland
Sept 22-24	California RAT Riot	USA
October 1-2	Corsica Rally	Italy/Corsica
October 7-8	SoCal Weekend	USA
October 14-15	Cornish Coastal Caper	England

These are just the main dates in the club calendar. There are many more regional and local events being organised. Contact your national RAT manager or see our website at [www.triumph.co.uk](http://www.triumph.co.uk) (passwords TORQUE and RAT891515) for more information.





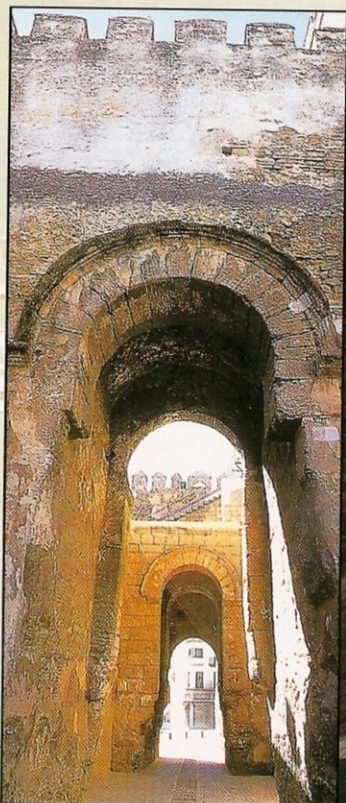
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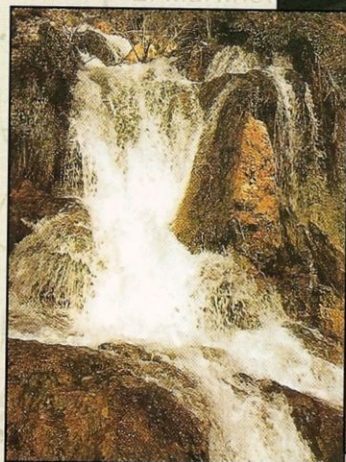
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El Martinet



# Wild times in *the Sierra Norte*

## El Cabril

cized name – sits on the eastern wing of the larger Sierra Morena. The rounded hills are swathed with woods and sliced through by numerous small rivers which over the centuries have carved a series of steep valleys.

The whole area teems with wildlife including wild cat, wild boar and deer, while domesticated black Iberian pigs nuzzle amongst the trees, silently developing the superb cured hams of which the region is justifiably proud.

This sparsely populated wild country is a magnet for walkers and mountain-bikers, but it should also be on the list of places to visit for the adventurous Triumph rider.

The climate makes year-round riding a real possibility, while the quiet, challenging roads are a treat.

Long stretches of fast, snaking, roller-coaster bends blend with tortuous mountain switchbacks and hairpins to provide hours of fun and a real test for even the most experienced rider. Add the fact that you are within easy reach of the Jerez race circuit and at the heart of beautiful historic Andalucia and the Sierra Norte becomes an ideal component in a tour of the region.

Following the advice of Seville Triumph dealer David Muniz we chose the Sierra Norte as the base for the European press launch of the Sprint RS in December. Leading a different group of journalists through the park every day proved an ideal way of getting to know the region – even if the weather did range from warm sunshine to thick fog and heavy rain over the week-long test period.

Our base for the tests was the ancient walled town of Carmona, 30 kilometres east of Seville. Carmona is a jewel. Thick, towering walls encircle the maze of narrow streets and lanes that were laid out in Roman times and even today the only access is through a handful of narrow gateways easily defended against marauding invaders.

At the heart of the old town lies the Parador – the old castle, now converted like many of its kind in Spain into a superb, atmospheric hotel. Perched on the lip of a dizzy precipice, the Parador boasts commanding views of the wide

flat floor of the Corbones valley – known as the Vega – far below. No armed force stood a chance of sneaking up on this stronghold.

Carmona lies about half an hour's ride south of the Sierra Norte. Skirt the Seville suburb of Brenes and head for Cantillana. An unlovely town in itself, Cantillana is the gateway to the Sierra Norte and just a couple of kilometres out of town, on the way north to El Pedroso, the road starts to twist and turn, dip and rise. For the next 35 kilometres the action is non-stop.

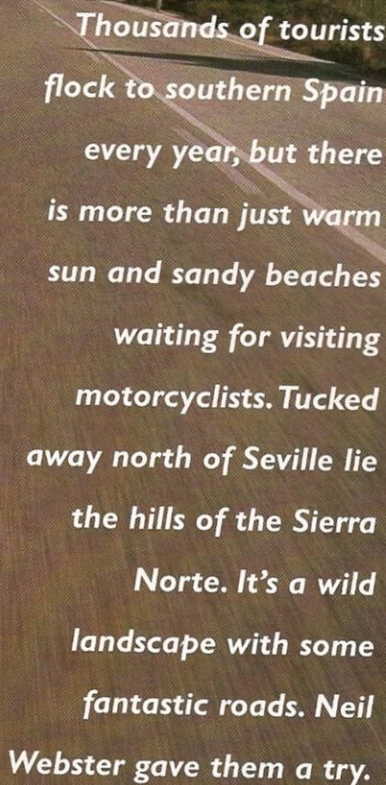
Hold the speed down the straight, snick the gearbox down a cog or two, heel into the turn and feed the power back in. The bends come at you one after another, some tighten up, demanding a wide entry and careful exit, others turn into long sweepers that make the most of the RS's rock steady handling and smooth power delivery.

Cross the bridge straddling the valley of the Viar river and you start to climb through a deep cutting in the brick red earth. Resist the temptation to back off and hold onto the throttle through the well surfaced sweeping bends and the wide, well surfaced road unrolls in your path. In a few minutes the crest is reached and you begin a helter-skelter descent through a sequence of quick but tricky off-camber downhill bends.

It's a breathtaking fairground ride that finally drops you, heart pounding and grinning like a fool, onto the long straight into El Pedroso and a much-needed coffee stop.

El Pedroso looks like it's fallen straight out of a Clint Eastwood film. A small, sleepy collection of whitewashed buildings clustered around the local train station, it was buzzing the first day we passed through to check out the route. The annual food fair was taking place and the town was full of people and lined with cafes and shops displaying and selling local delicacies. For the rest of the week it was virtually abandoned, with just a few locals gathering together in one of the two cafes opposite the station which seemed to rotate their opening hours.

Now the road starts to toughen up.



**Thousands of tourists flock to southern Spain every year, but there is more than just warm sun and sandy beaches waiting for visiting motorcyclists. Tucked away north of Seville lie the hills of the Sierra Norte. It's a wild landscape with some fantastic roads. Neil Webster gave them a try.**

**F**IELD mushrooms soaked in olive oil and studded with red peppers. A plate piled high with succulent lamb chops or salty grilled pork cutlets. All washed down with local red wine. Rugged food for rugged country and just the sort of treats that lie in wait in the little known Sierra Norte, near Seville in southern Spain.

A designated 'Natural Park', the 'Northern Sierra' – to give it its angli-

Take a right in El Pedroso and follow the fork towards Constantina. After the sharp drop down to the single track bridge that crosses the Hueznar river the speed starts to pick up for the dash to Constantina and the rugged heart of the Sierra Norte.

The triangle formed by the towns of Constantina, Las Navas de la Concepcion and Alanis is the most unexplored part of the region, but it is also home to one of the best roads for motorcycle tourists.

From Constantina, ignore the road south to Lora del Rio. It looks like a main road on the map, but it's more like a moto cross track in reality. The road north to the regional capital of Cazalla de la Sierra isn't much better but the town itself is worth a visit. The town square is flanked by a pretty 14th century church and is also home to a busy restaurant that serves excellent local delicacies and spills out into the square when the sun is shining. (I dare you to try the pigs' cheeks soaked in olive oil!)

But instead of heading straight for Cazalla, pick your way carefully around the cobbled one-way system that weaves its way through the steep and narrow streets of Constantina and take the right turn to Las Navas as you leave the village. What lays ahead is an exhausting 22 kilometre stretch of mountain-style twists and turns – double that if you choose to retrace your steps back to Constantina once you reach the other end, which most people seem to do.

The most amazing thing about this road is the surface. It is new and perfect – even in the wet weather we experienced some days. Quite why this road from one small hill town to another received such VIP treatment is a mystery (one theory was that a local big-wig must own a motorcycle – we won't go into that!) but the result is there for all two-wheel fans to enjoy.

Much of the road runs through woodland, the semi stripped trunks of the cork trees being especially memorable, with superb vistas of deep

wooded valleys and steep sided cliffs bursting into view from time to time.

Much, but not all, of the route is lined by metal Armco barriers, and the parts that aren't either lead to a steep drop or a rock wall, so it does demand respect, but get into your rhythm, relax and let the bike start to do the work and the result is motorcycling heaven. A road not to miss if you're ever in the area.

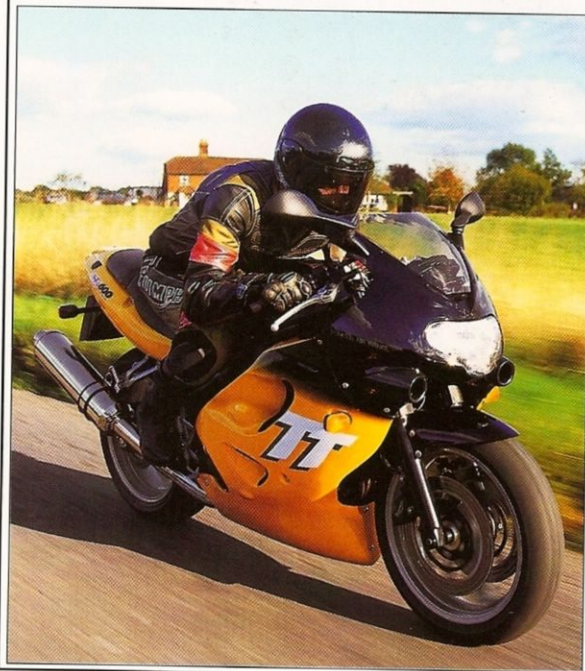
Another coffee in the Hostal de los Monteros in Las Navas and you are ready for a return blast to Constantina and perhaps on to Cazalla and the rest of the Sierra Norte before calling it a day and heading back to base.

Whichever route you choose, you are guaranteed some brilliant riding, some fantastic food and the confirmation that the best roads aren't always the best known.

■ For further information go to:  
[www.andal.es/carmona](http://www.andal.es/carmona) and  
[www.parador.es](http://www.parador.es).

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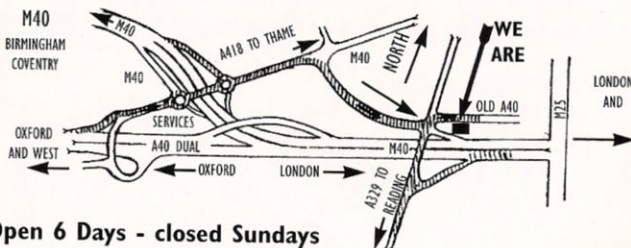
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# Letters

## Life's ambition

WE have owned our Sprint Executive since new. This past Summer we took a two week trip and travelled through British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Our final destination was Yellowstone National Park. It was something we had always wanted to do and finally, after 27 years of marriage and raising a family etc, our wish came true.

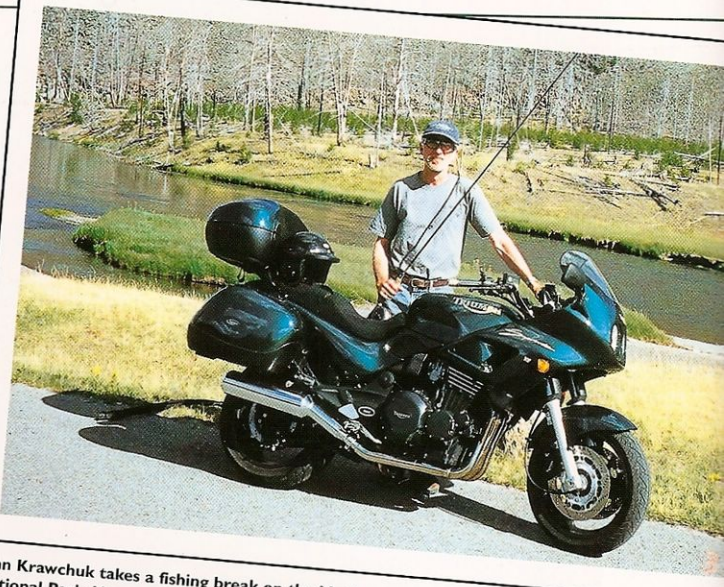
We tented and cooked our own meals and experienced all types of weather – from extreme heat to torrential downpours and lightening storms.

The bike was fantastic. During the intense heat it always remained cool and ran perfectly. It is very stable and a comfortable touring bike for two people.

We are already planning another trip for next Summer – to Sturgis.

**Johan and Coleen Krawchuk,  
British Columbia, Canada.**

*You'd better get in touch with Shaun Eidson then! NW*



**John Krawchuk takes a fishing break on the Madison River in the Yellowstone National Park. He reports he caught two fish that evening!**

## Rocky Mountain love affair

THIS past Summer I fell in love and serving as my cupid was Rocky Mountain Motorcycle Holidays operating out of Whistler, BC. They introduced me to the object of my affection, a 1998 Triumph Thunderbird.

The trip was filled with superlatives – wonderful people, great riding, gorgeous scenery, fantastic food and loads of fun. But let me tell you about my bike.

When I initially contacted Mike Ciebien at Rocky Mountain Holidays about fixing the trip, I was nervous about the thought of riding a Thunderbird which was bigger, heavier and more powerful than the 600cc Honda I usually rode.

Mike assured me that everything would be OK and after the first few minutes on the T-bird getting used to the different leg position, throttle, brakes etc, I felt my stomach unknit and a new feeling begin to take over – exhilaration! This bike could really go!

The roads in British Columbia and Alberta were a challenge for me, but with the help and encouragement of our motorcycling gurus, aka Ryan Brown and Bryan Reid, my confidence and ability grew daily.

The twists, the turns, the narrow winding roads – no problem. It was as if the bike had a life of its own, hugging the road, leaning into the curves, taking me along on the ride of my life. The only problem was staying near the speed limit! The bike is so solid it is impossible to believe you are going so fast.

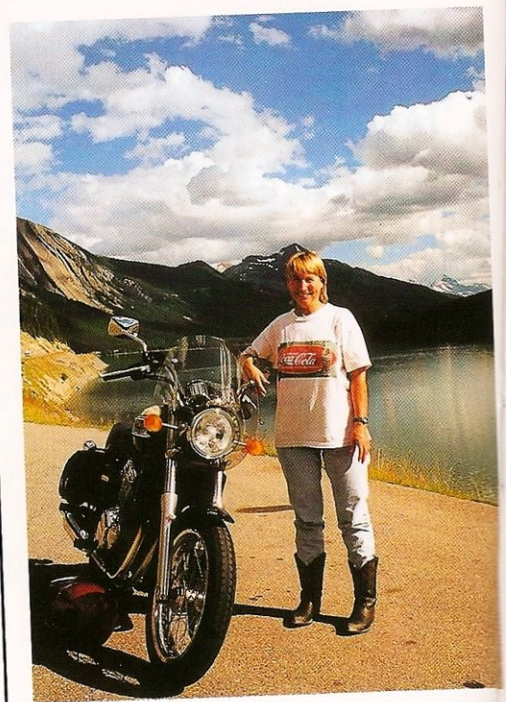
My husband's litany became "Slow down! Slow down!", but it was so much fun that the man who was used to his wife following along behind had to shake his head in wonder as this new woman flew by him on her T-bird. It became 'my' bike and I became very possessive as others in the party switched bikes to try the different models.

Halfway through the trip I began to worry about how I could ride anything other than a T-bird in future. I knew I couldn't and on getting home the first thing I did was to hit the web to find a Triumph dealer and a T-bird. Hermy's Motorcycles in Port Clinton, PA, finally made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

So now my 1999 T-bird and I are settling in for the long haul. The first glow of love hasn't worn off and my appreciation of this magnificent machine continues.

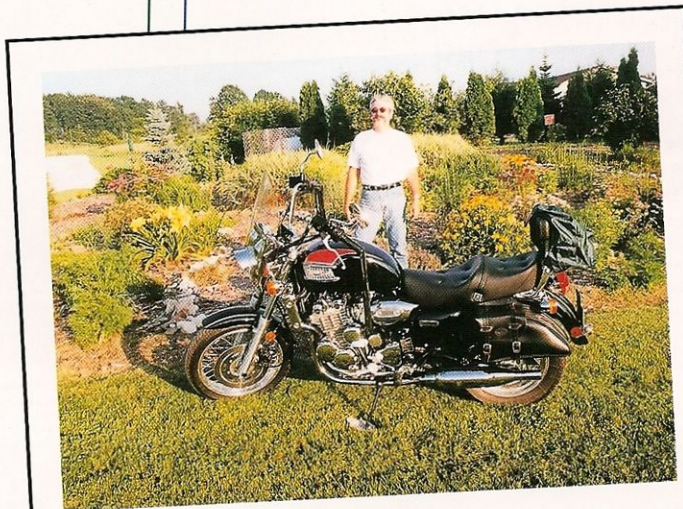
So for my fellow women bikers out there who are reluctant to try the bigger more powerful bikes, I say "You go, girl!"

**Judy Silver,  
Pennsylvania, USA.**



**A ride in the Rockies converted Judy Silver into a lifetime Thunderbird fan.**

# Show us yours



## Family favourite

THIS Thunderbird is my third Triumph and the whole family loves it (my nine year old daughter gets more rides than my wife!).

I ride the bike to work in Sheboggan, Wisconsin, until the snow flies and we take family rides near home in the 'Kettle Moraine' – wooded hills and valleys left behind by the glaciers. The roads are narrow and twisty – great for riding the T-bird.

**Frank Calco,**  
Wisconsin, USA.

Frank Calco's Thunderbird is a favourite with the whole family. Shame they can't all ride it at once.

## Parts supply

WHILE I agree that using official Triumph spare parts is the best policy when working on our bikes, what if the parts are not available from Triumph?

With reference to the section on testing the starter motor in the Triumph workshop manual for my '94 Trophy, the instructions are to change the brushes, brush plate or commutator if certain measurements are recorded, yet there are no parts numbers. Of course you can always buy a complete new starter motor!

What is Triumph's position on this?

**W Edwards, West Sussex, England.**

*Due to this problem being brought to our attention by Mr Edwards and other owners, Triumph have now made arrangements for a supply of these parts to be made available through our dealer network. NW*

## Sturgis meet

ARE any other Triumph riders planning to be at Sturgis, South Dakota, in August? If so, I will be there and would like to hook up with you. Call me on 713-303-0678, write to 3223 Beaver Glen, Kingwood, Texas 77339, or email me on shawn@flyshawn.com.

**Shawn Eidson, Texas, USA.**

## Beware of the deer

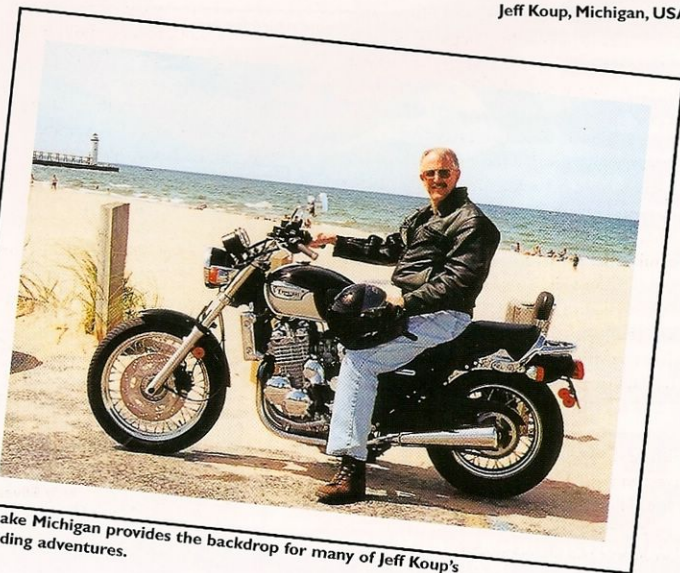
HERE I am with my 50th birthday present in Manistee on the shores of Lake Michigan. After a 12 year hiatus from motorcycling it's great to be back!

The Lake Michigan shoreline provides wonderful riding opportunities. It's easy to see half a dozen lakes and two or three lighthouses in a 100-mile loop. You just need to keep your eyes open for sand in the corners and deer in the woods!

My wife and I have been having a blast on the bike this Summer, touring the area around our vacation home in Pentwater, MI.

I can certainly attest to the high level of interest in Triumph, particularly among guys in my age bracket. The retro style evokes memories of the '60s and the acceleration makes me feel like a kid again.

**Jeff Koup, Michigan, USA.**



Lake Michigan provides the backdrop for many of Jeff Koup's riding adventures.

# Show us yours

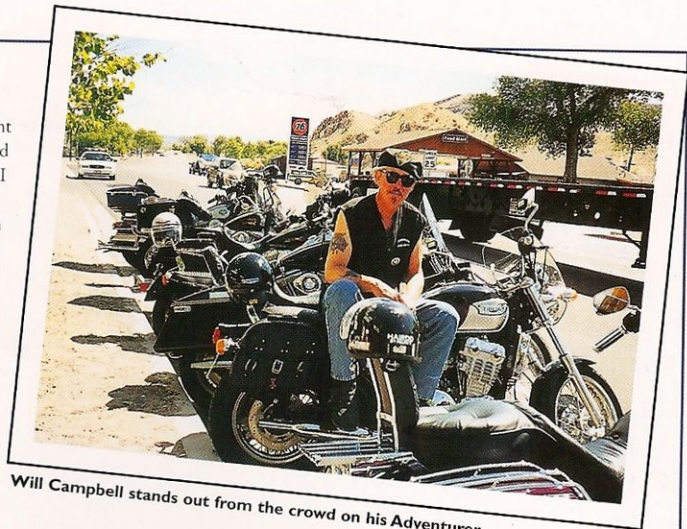
## Stand out from the crowd

AFTER being discharged from the Army in 1969 I bought my first... Harley-Davidson. Although lots of the guys had Nortons, BSAs and Triumphs I wanted a Harley because I felt I was different and Harleys were different back then.

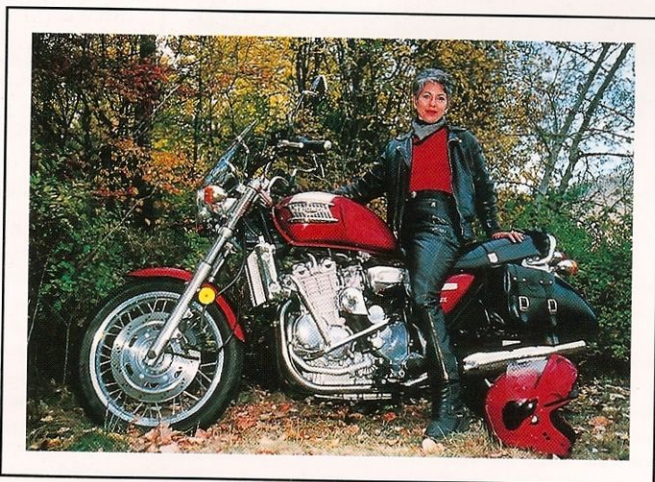
Thirty years later I have purchased my first Triumph – an Adventurer. As you can see from the enclosed photo, I look a lot different sitting on my Triumph in a row of Harleys. After extreme amounts of good natured razing, I explained how for a lot less money I'd got a lot more technology, handling and performance. I'm converted!!!

Special thanks to the crew at Orange County Triumph in Santa Ana, California. As Lee Jarvis said in a previous issue: "Hinckley rules!"

Will Campbell, California, USA.



Will Campbell stands out from the crowd on his Adventurer.



Fifties fun came in the form of a 1995 Thunderbird for Nancy Cranston.

## Fun at fifty

WHEN I turned 50 years old I decided I was old enough to ride a motorcycle and bought my pride and joy – 'Rosebud', a 1995 Thunderbird. What a joy. My only complaint is that it draws too much attention.

What a thrill it was riding with the 'Best of the Best' at the RAT rally in Oregon. Thanks to all you good role models and thanks to Betty and Mike Tingley in Missoula, MT, for making all this fun possible.

Nancy Cranston, Montana, USA.

## Better late than never

FOR the last 20 years I've been riding a Suzuki GS1000, which I'd tastefully customised with stainless steel everywhere. Then came the fateful day in August! While visiting my parents in Devon I was offered a test ride on a T509 Speed Triple and that was it! I just had to have one.

On my return home I visited my local Triumph dealer and brought a brand new 955i Speed Triple. I've already plastered it with every conceivable extra and myself from head to toe in Triumph gear.

The bike is absolutely stunning, makes such a glorious noise and is SO quick. It turns heads wherever we go. I only wish I'd discovered Triumphs years ago and am now looking forward to meeting other Triumph owners at RAT events next season.

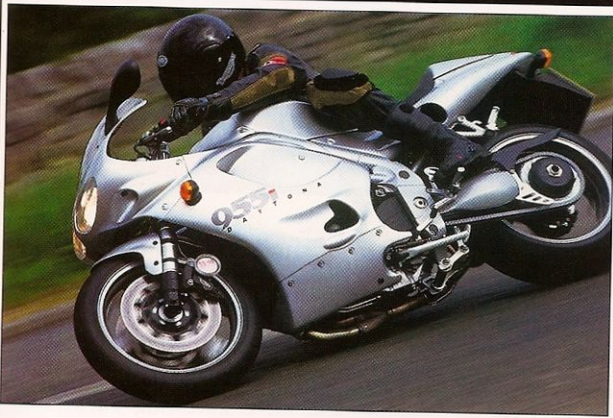
Clive Handel, Cambridge, England.



It took Clive Handel some time to discover Triumph, but there's no stopping him now.



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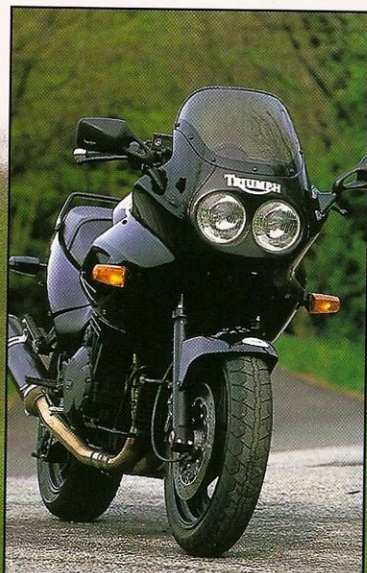
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# Mega *mania*

**An extra cylinder makes this Sprint something special. Alan Cathcart took a closer look.**



APPEARANCES can be deceptive. Take this Sprint as an example. From a distance it appears to be a standard early model. But take a closer look. That black paintwork wasn't available at the time and isn't that a custom made four-into-one exhaust system snaking down the left hand side? And that engine looks much wider than an early series Triumph triple should do.

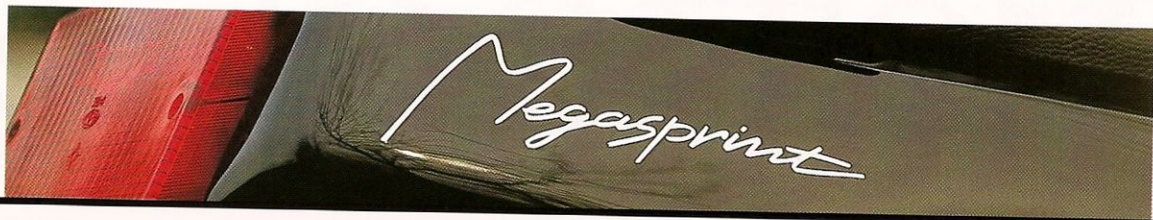
The answer lies in the neat sign-

written logo tucked away on the bike's tail end. This isn't a Sprint at all – it's the Megasprint!

The bike is the creation of Italian Triumph distributor Carlo Talamo and his engineering guru Alberto Poggi and is actually a hybrid of an early Sprint and a four-cylinder Daytona 1200.

The Daytona's engine, chassis and running gear are retained with the addition of a Sprint seat, fairing and handlebars and a specially made Italian





exhaust. The conversion is expertly carried out. In fact the only clue that it is a special is the gap between the fuel tank and the fairing that would be flush-fitting on an original 900.

The result is a machine that enjoys the best of both worlds. The Daytona's punchy power delivery is complemented by the upright, relaxed, semi-touring riding position, while the original machine's distinctive styling shows off the big

four cylinder engine.

Finished in black and with the four-into-one exhaust growling away, it's every inch a serious musclebike.

On the road it's actually very relaxing to ride. The engine is docile below 5000 rpm and not a lot more demanding when the revs start to rise and the upright riding position gives a greater sense of being in control.

The meeting of Sprint and Daytona is a seductive combination, even if Triumph's production schedule meant it was one they weren't able to realise themselves at the time. But if you're looking for ideas for your own 'wolf in sheep's clothing' the Megasprint might provide just the inspiration you're seeking. ■



# Making the b



WITH the TT600 due for release, Triumph has developed a comprehensive range of accessories for this motorcycle. The TT600 will have products available that will help transform the motorcycle to the specific needs of the rider. As with the motorcycle, attention to detail

and styling are vital for this range of accessories.

The silencer\* and seat cowl will emphasise the sports styling of the motorcycle. Touring options are also available, with the Throw-over Panniers (including panel protectors), Tank Bag and Top Rack.

Whatever your requirements there will be something available from the genuine Triumph accessory range to help customise your TT600.

All Triumph accessories are covered by warranty, and are available from your authorised Triumph dealer.

# est better



## The TT600 Accessory range:

### PART NUMBER

1. Silencer – Carbon Fibre Wrap\*

A9601009

2. Silencer – Stainless Steel\*

A9601016

3. Seat Cowl – Colour Co-ordinated

A9708031-#

4. Rear Hugger

A9748019

5. Grab Rail

A9758020

6. Top Rack

A9758018

7. Tank Bag

A9510023

8. Paddock Stand

A9758010

9. Sport Throw-over Panniers

A9518011

10. Carbon Fibre Tank Pad

A9728004

11. Alarm/Immobiliser

A9808025

12. Front Mudguard Extension

A9708030

*\*Note: This product does not conform to EPA noise standards. Use on motorcycles subject to EPA regulations constitutes tampering and is a violation of federal law. This product is designed for closed circuit competition use only.*

*This product is not available in some countries. Please consult country distributor for more information.*

*# (colour code – see dealer)*

# Ago's secret

## Triumph

RACING hero Giacomo Agostini is world famous for dominating the grand prix scene for a decade from the mid-sixties to mid-seventies, but few people know that Triumph played an important backroom role in his record breaking career.

The 15 times world champion never actually raced a bike from the British factory, but a road-going Trident helped him perfect his riding skills and master the relatively heavy multi-cylinder MV Agusta that he was racing in 1968 when the triple was introduced.

"During the early years of my career I spent many hours riding motorcycles away from the track as part of my training," he explained. "I needed to be on a bike as much as possible to develop the riding techniques that would help me beat the opposition on race day."

However, at that time the number of big bikes available in Italy was limited and he saw little of value to be gained from riding small capacity machines on the roads around his Northern Italian home near Brescia.

"I was under contract to an Italian company so there were some makes of motorcycles that I couldn't really be seen on," said Ago. "The ones that I could ride were all 125 or at best 250cc and their weight and performance characteristics bore no resemblance to those of the MV that I was racing."

Frustrated by the situation, Agostini turned his attention to the British market, and in particular Triumph.

"While I was racing in England I saw the three cylinder Triumph and decided

that it would be my ideal road bike," he said.

"I spoke to someone at the factory and arrangements were made for me to collect a Trident the next time I went to an English circuit."

A T150 was duly handed over to the Italian rider at Oulton Park. "It wasn't a gift, I had to pay for it, but at the right price," recalled Ago with a smile.

What happened after the hand-over proved too much for those in charge of editorial at Motor Cycle News at the time.

The delighted 'Mino' leapt aboard his new toy and produced a couple of high-speed demo laps without wearing a crash helmet. He was cheered on by his many fans who lined the Cheshire circuit, but it was frowns all round from the powers that be in charge of the meeting.

Alert top photographer of the time, Malcolm Carling, wasn't caught out by the unscheduled performance and snapped the Italian at speed with his hair blowing in the wind. The result of his quick thinking effort was however brushed aside when it arrived on the MCN subs desk.

"I have never been able to understand why it wasn't used, I considered it to be really newsworthy," commented the now-retired Malcolm.

Ago duly loaded the green tanked Trident into the MV transporter for the



trip back to Italy.

"I rode the Triumph a lot and there is no doubt that it was a great asset to me for the next five or six years while I was still racing for MV," said Agostini who claimed his first 350/500 championship double in 1968, to raise his tally of world titles to four.

The Trident still belongs to Ago



although it hasn't turned a wheel for the last ten years. It stands in the corner of the garage at his luxurious Lovere home on the banks of Lake d'Isco, in what he describes as a "rather sorry state."

"But I am planning to have it renovated," he assures with haste. "I had trouble with the engine one day and never rode it again."

Whether Ago, now aged 57 and about to launch into a peak viewing TV programme as the 'expert' in a grand prix review presentation, will ever get astride the triple again is debatable.

"I am getting a little old now, but I used to enjoy riding the Triumph so much that I might be tempted to give it a run when the engine is fixed and it looks

as good as new once again," said the man who won his last grand prix on a 500 MV at Nurburgring in 1976.

"That's a long time ago but I have remained involved with racing ever since, and that Trident still brings back happy memories of my championship years," he added. ■

John Brown

## Excelerator One Piece & Two Piece Sport Suit

The Excelerator range of sport suits will make you stand out from the crowd. Stunning looks and bold Triumph branding adds to an array of features. Made from supple 1.2mm cowhide this suit features Kevlar® abrasion panels, Kevlar® double stitching, 3M® night reflective piping and hard-cupped inserts (shoulder, elbow & knee. Dual density back insert included); making this a must for the serious sports rider.

**Colours: Black/Red**

**Sizes: Men's 38 – 52**

Available in both one piece and two piece options



# MAKE A STATEMENT



## Mainline Two Piece Sport Suit

Triumph's Mainline Two Piece Sport Suit features bold styling and striking looks, making it as eye-catching as it is well designed. The gunmetal grey leather complements the vivid red or yellow colour options. This suit also features 1.2mm cowhide, full Triumph logo on the back, double impact seam stitching and hard-cupped inserts (shoulder, elbow & knee. Dual density back insert included).

**Colours:** Gunmetal Grey/Red  
Gunmetal Grey/Yellow

**Sizes:** Men's 38 – 52

Available in two piece option only



# ENT!

Triumph has released a range of 'off the peg' one piece and two piece sport suits for the year 2000. These suits offer comfort and fit as well as radical styling, to rival the best on the market.

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## DESIGN

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### What the press say.....

Ride magazine - "The handling is deemed excellent and the brakes 'wonderful' by the vast majority of owners."

Motor Cycle News - "This set-up is one of the best in the business and does a superb job of bringing the 955i down from high speeds."

Motor Cycle News - Five out of five! \*\*\*\*\* for the braking system.

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# Deals on wheels

## In Brief...

### Insurance and financial -

**Company:** Fernet Insurance Brokers Ltd.  
**Product:** Motorcycle and general insurance.  
**Offer:** 15% discount on 'TriumphCare' cover, special arrangements on other cover.  
**Contact:** Fernet on 01708 768613.  
*Applies to UK only.*

**Company:** RAC.  
**Product:** Breakdown assistance.

**Offer:** 10% discount on RAC membership. Members already with TriumphCare Assistance RAC cover can save 50% on full RAC membership for close family members. This includes FREE Joint Cover for the TriumphCare holder and covers you and your family for breakdowns with any vehicle.  
**Contact:** The RAC on 01454 209006. For TriumphCare holders; 0800 716976, quoting ref. MC0012, for other members  
*Applies to UK only.*

Membership of RAT entitles you to a range of discount benefits with a number of partner companies. To take advantage of these offers please contact the partner direct, quoting the codes listed below. Using the services and facilities offered will enable us to renew and improve the benefits for future seasons, so please support our partners whenever you have the chance. Please note that many services, particularly hotels and ferry crossings, require advance booking with a central reservations office in order to access the discounts available. Individual check-in clerks are unlikely to have information relating to the discount arrangements available and may not be able to offer the discount rate.

**Company:** Protecta Insurance.  
**Product:** Motorcycle insurance in New Zealand.  
**Offer:** Preferential rates for RAT members.  
**Contact:** (09) 377-6872.  
Fax (09) 379-6779.  
*Applies to New Zealand only.*

### Sea crossings -

**Company:** Hoverspeed.  
**Product:** Hovercraft and SeaCat crossings, Dover-Calais, Folkestone-Boulogne, Newhaven-Dieppe and Dover-Ostend.  
**Offer:** 30% discount on motorcycle fares. 15% discount on fares for a car and up to five persons on all routes.  
**Contact:** 08705 240241 (UK); 0820 00 3555 for crossings starting from France; 059 559911 for crossings starting from Ostend.  
Quote code ST/TRB for standard return fares and EX/TRB for 5-Day returns. TRC for car fares.

**Company:** P&O Stena Line.  
**Product:** Ferry crossings, Dover-Calais.  
**Offer:** 30% discount.  
**Contact:** +44 (0)87 0600 0600 quoting ref: TMS 50531 Retail Promotions.

**Company:** Stena Line.  
**Product:** Ferry crossings between Harwich-Hook of Holland, Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire, Fishguard-Rosslare, Stranraer-Belfast and various Scandinavian routes (information on request).  
**Offer:** Special fares on Harwich-Hook routes depending on date and time of travel (call for details), 20% off published brochure fares on Irish routes and 10% off published prices on Scandinavian routes. Discounts subject to availability.  
**Contact:** +44 (0)990 204402 stating account number BC047. For Irish Sea reservations also quote Reduction Code

**RAT:** For Scandinavian reservations also quote Reduction Code RST.

**Company:** P&O North Sea Ferries.  
**Product:** Ferry crossings between the Hull and Rotterdam or Zeebrugge.  
**Offer:** 10% discount.  
**Contact:** 01482 377 177 in the UK, 0181 255 555 in Holland, 050 543 430 in Belgium, quoting the 'Riders Association of Triumph' and your membership number.

### Hotel accommodation -

**Company:** Campanile/Clarine/Bleu Marine Group.  
**Product:** Hotel accommodation in over 450 hotels throughout Europe.  
**Offer:** 5% discount at all Campanile hotels in Europe and 10% at Clarine (except Nevers and Courbevoie) and Bleu Marine hotels in France.  
**Contact:** Central reservations on +33 1.64.62.46.36, or the hotel direct, quoting client code F42 500. UK 0181 569 6969; NL 033 455 6566; Belgium 02 627 7007. You can also book on the internet at [www.campanile.fr](http://www.campanile.fr) using the client code and password RIDERSASS.

**Company:** Best Western New Zealand.  
**Product:** Hotel and motel accommodation in New Zealand.  
**Offer:** 10% discount on production of RAT membership card.  
**Contact:** +46 (0)9 520-5418.  
Fax +46 (0)9 520-5413.

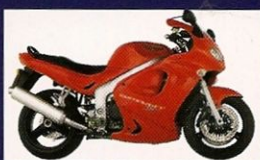
### Solicitors -

**Company:** Curtis and Parkinson  
**Product:** Solicitors  
**Offer:** Free legal advice for RAT members  
**Contact:** 0115 956 3259

## FERNET Insurance Brokers



- Discount for RAT membership
- Security discounts
- No claims discounts
- FREE accessory cover
- Optional low mileage discount
- FREE European cover
- FREE legal protection
- FREE uninsured loss recovery
- Age of bike discounts



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INSURANCE

**CAP**

Green £10.00  
Two tone £15.00

**NOW £5.00**

**BELT BUCKLE** (Green) £15.00  
**PIN BADGE** (Green) £5.00

**NOW £2.50**

**LAST FEW NOW £7.50**

**WALLET**

Price £6.00 (Green)

**NOW £4.00**

# RAT REGALIA REDUCTIONS

To make space for our new range of RAT Regalia we are offering many items at half price - order now, whilst stocks last.

**FINAL CHANCE** *Whilst Stocks Last*

*Now you can buy direct from us!*

**BINDERS** **NOW £4.00**

**TORQUE BACK ISSUES** **NOW £1.50**

**Way out West**

**Binders £7.45 (Green) Back Issues £3.00**

**T-SHIRT**

Price £10.00

**AVAILABLE IN SIZES - SMALL & MEDIUM ONLY**

**NOW £7.50**

**SWEATSHIRT**

Price £25.00 (L, XL, XXL)

**AVAILABLE IN BLUE & BLACK ONLY**

All sizes available - XXL £1 extra

**NOW £15.00**

**LAST FEW NOW £12.00**

**POLO SHIRT**

Price £18.00  
AVAILABLE IN BLUE OR BLACK ONLY  
All sizes available  
- XXL £1 extra

**KEYFOBS**

**Bonded Keyfob NOW £2.00**

**LIGHTER**

Prices  
Bonded Keyfob £4.00  
Acrylic key ring £1.50  
Lighter £2.00

**NOW £50.00**

**JACKET**

Price ~~£100.00~~ (Black/ M, L, XL, XXL)

**LAST FEW NOW £10.00**

**TANKARD**

Price £15.00

**NOW £4.00**

**PEN**

Rollerball pen £5.00  
**LAST FEW**  
Baron pen £1.50

**NOW £2.00**

**COASTER**

Price £3.00

**NOW £2.00**

**FRIDGE MAGNET**

Price £3.00

# RAT REGALIA ORDER FORM

Please send me the following items

	Price	P/packing	Size	Colour	Quantity	Total price
Green Cap	£5.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Two tone cap	£5.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Sweatshirt (blue)	£15.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Sweatshirt (black)	£15.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Polo shirt (blue)	£12.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Polo shirt (black)	£12.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Jacket	£50.00	£.....			.....	£.....
T-shirt (small logo white)	£7.50	£.....	S or M only		.....	£.....
T-shirt (small logo green)	£7.50	£.....	S or M only		.....	£.....
T-shirt (large logo white)	£7.50	£.....	S or M only		.....	£.....
Mug	<b>SOLD OUT</b>					
Mouse mat	<b>SOLD OUT</b>					
Acrylic key ring	£1.50	£.....			.....	£.....
Lighter	£2.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Bonded key fob	£2.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Leather bonded coaster	£2.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Pennant (shield)	<b>LAST FEW</b> £15.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Baron pen	<b>LAST FEW</b> £1.50	£.....			.....	£.....
Rollerball pen	£4.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Hip flask	<b>LAST FEW</b> £10.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Fridge magnet	£2.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Tankard	<b>LAST FEW</b> £10.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Driving licence wallet	£10.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Wallet	£4.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Belt buckle	<b>LAST FEW</b> £7.50	£.....			.....	£.....
Pin badge	£2.50	£.....			.....	£.....
Binder	£4.00	£.....			.....	£.....
Back issues	£1.50	£.....			.....	£.....

Issues req: .....

Total amount £.....

**Postage and Packing** (to include recorded delivery & insurance where possible)

Orders up to total value £15 (UK £1.00, Europe £2.50 States £3.00, Rest £4.50)  
Order up to total value £50 (UK £2.00, Europe £3.50, States £4.00 Rest £5.00)  
Orders £50 and over (UK £4.00, Europe £5.00, States £6.00 Rest £8.00)  
Please allow 28 days for delivery.

**How to pay**

- By credit card Visa  M/card  Access  Delta  Eurocard

Number ..... Expiry date .....

Signature .....

- By cheque: Payable to RAT Direct (cheques drawn on UK banks only)

Make your order

- By post to RAT Direct, PO Box 70, Ruislip, HA4 9YH, England.
- By e-mail to ratdirect@btinternet.com
- By phoning +44 (0)181 582 0433, or fax +44 (0)181 582 0434

**My details**

Name ..... Address .....

..... Post code ..... Country .....

Daytime telephone/fax/e-mail .....

**SOLD OUT**

**MOUSE MAT**

See next edition of Torque for new design

**LAST FEW NOW £10.00**

**FLASK**

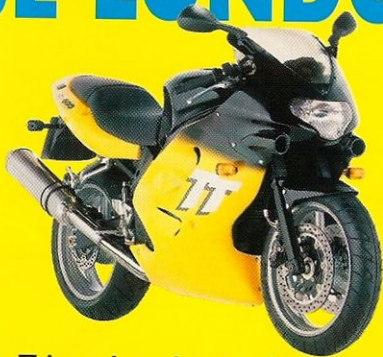
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**WALLET**

Driving licence wallet £12.00

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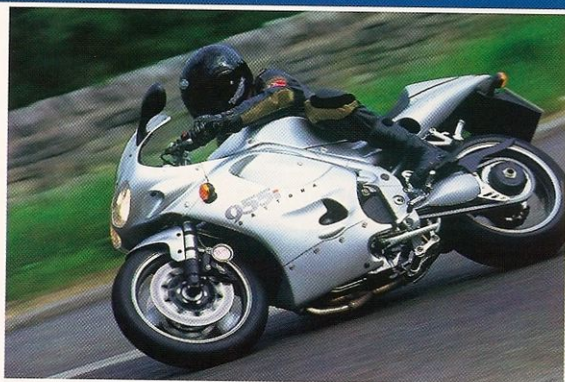
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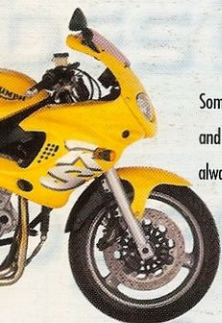
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