

Ugly as sin or moving with the times? We say the latter

STAR LETTER

UK READERS WIN £50 WORTH OF PUTOLINE PRODUCTS

A BLIND MAN WRITES

★ I know you're all patriotic and 'Cool Britannia' and such, but the new Speed and Street Triples are simply grotesque. I reckon they've both fallen out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

The bug-eyed look used to be a bit different, but endearing. Like the late Marty Feldman. But putting the bug eyes on plastic stalks is a horror.

Then compounding the problem, is the red plastic on a grey bike. As Giorgetto Giugiaro said when he saw the first Triumph TR7, "Mama mia, they've done the same thing on both sides."

Triumph are becoming the Aston Martin of the bike world – same old, same old. I shouldn't be too surprised, you like it though; you all loved the H2 as well...

Lou Girardin

Lou – we think you're wrong, in fact you're winning star letter because you made us laugh so much. The Speed Triple is the trademark Hinckley Triumph and over the years they've done a great job of keeping it fresh without losing its visual identity. Its similar to what Porsche has achieved with the 911. As for the Kawasaki H2 – yeah, it ain't pretty,

▼ UK readers win £50 of Putoline potions and oil



but it's striking, there's nothing like it. In the flesh it's got presence and can't be mistaken for anything else out there. It's different and very cool – and I should know about these things, I'm a designer and own a beard. Maybe your glasses could do with some polish?
Si Russell (PB's Art Editor)

JOHN MCAVOY'S MUM WRITES

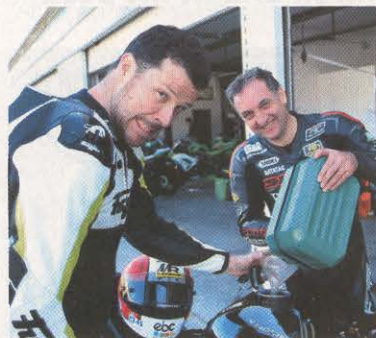
I thought I'd drop you a quick email as I went to the London bike show on Saturday. My highlight was meeting John McAvoy and having a chat for nearly 30 minutes.

I'm starting to get a bit of a trackday obsession and am using a 2004 R1, with a view to changing to something newer at some point this year. I had some options set in my mind but after speaking to John he totally changed what I thought I wanted. Now I will be looking for someone daft enough to want to sell their 2015 R1. I have a well used kidney I'm willing to throw in as part-ex! All of this because I went over and asked for a sticker, of which there were none.

It was nice to talk to someone who likes to talk about bikes as much as I do. It's not something I get to do very often; even my biking mates aren't as geeky as I am when it comes to talking about them in detail.

Mat Lane

Glad you like Johnny. I think he was on pint No5 by then... MW



▲ Johnny Mac: the people's friend



A BUELL OWNER, AND PROUD

I've just recently started reading PB, and passed my A licence in November, so I thought I'd tell you all about my relatively rare beast. It is my first ever bike and think I chose well... She is a 2009 Buell 1125R! That's 146bhp and 82lb.ft of torque from a 72° Rotax liquid-cooled V-twin.

She's got some interesting features: fuel in frame, slipper clutch, ram-air intakes and a massive single, rim-mounted front disc with an eight-piston caliper.

I get grief from my mates on more civilized Japanese bikes but as soon as I hit the starter I'm grinning from ear to ear! She handles well and is plenty quick enough, albeit a little, well... agricultural.

Elliott Cox

They're very decent motorcycles, Elliot, and with a little bit of tweaking you can make them really, really fly. Enjoy yourself! MW

▲ We reckon the Buell 1125R is a touch under-rated

WILL TRIUMPH MAKE A SUPERBIKE?

I read with interest the new additions and improvements to the Speed Triple. It seems with the introduction of a ram-air duct and various electronic rider aids, there is a Triumph superbike imminent and that the Speed Triple might be being used as a test mule. What do you reckon?

Neil Hacker

I'd be surprised if it happens – Triumph's range hasn't had big-bore sportsbikes in it for a long time. I hope I'm wrong, though – Triumph make class-leading bikes in almost every segment they enter. I reckon a British 1200cc three-cylinder sportsbike with loads of grunt and class-leading electronics would be heaven. Please do it, Mr Bloor! MW

HOW WILL SUTER DO AT THE IOM TT?

It was great meeting everyone at the recent London bike show – we spent a huge amount of time staring at the Suter on PB's stand. I'm writing with regards to the news that they'll race at

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