QUICK KIT TESTS

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE LATEST PRODUCTS BY RiDE'S EXPERT TEAM

TXC RT-Race boot £230

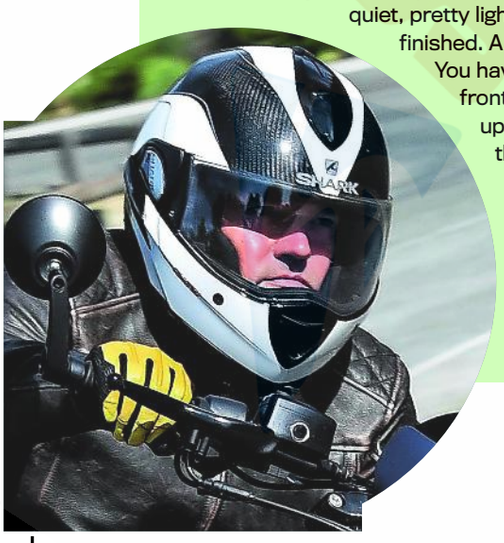
www.nevis.uk.com

I WAS INITIALLY a bit disappointed by this boot – purely because I'd mis-read the blurb. I'd thought it was two-part race tackle with a separate inner boot, but instead it's a one-piece boot with a lace/drawstring adjusted section behind the single zip, to ensure a really good, snug fit. It's a comfy boot to walk in and surprisingly non-squeaky (so far) despite the substantial plastic bracing and armour on the outside. More importantly, it's really good on the bike, with great feel and a grippy sole. It's a quality boot, well made and well-priced: I like it. **SIMON WEIR**

SHARK Evoline Pro Carbon helmet £439.99

www.nevis.uk.com

THIS IS MY first flip-front helmet and now I'm wishing I'd tried one ages ago. It's really handy to flip the front at tollbooths or in town (the flip goes all the way to the back of the lid) and just as easy to flip down again. It's fairly quiet, pretty light (1610g) and nicely finished. A few details annoy me. You have to put your hand in front of your face and push up from the top middle of the visor to raise it. To work the drop-down sun visor means fumbling for a slider on top of your head. But on balance, I'm very happy with it. **KEV RAYMOND**



Rev'It Akira Vintage jacket £489.99

www.revitsport.com

"WHAT DO YOU think to my new jacket?" I asked. Confused, "Isn't that an old jacket?" she replied... Beneath the vintage appearance are all the mod-cons of a top-of-the-range sports jacket: external armor on the shoulders and elbows; well placed stretch panels; a detachable thermal liner; and a connecting zip for a set of trousers. There's CE Level 2 armour at the shoulders, elbow and forearm, with a pocket for a back protector. It's made of vintage-effect perforated cowhide, with breathable material under the arms and a neoprene collar. At £490 it isn't cheap, but you could probably get away with pretending you've had it for ages. **LEE SKELLET**

Oxford AquaD three-pack £25

www.oxfordproducts.com

IF YOU HAVE my level of packing OCD, these small roll-top waterproof bags are genius. They come in 5L, 7L and 12L sizes, so even if outer luggage leaks, anything in these will stay dry. My micro-niggle is that you have to buy these three sizes in the one pack: it'd be good if they were also sold individually, as I'd get better use from three or four 7L bags. But for the paranoid packer, they're a good waterproofing measure. **SW**