



Macauley Webb *My Lockdown Memories*



In March 2020 I was working as a mechanic for the Honda Racing team in BSB (British Superbike Racing). We were out testing in Spain when the COVID pandemic first arrived there. We knew it was serious when on the last day at the circuit the police arrived and advised us that if we wanted to get home we had to fly back as soon as possible.

We were given a police escort to a hotel and it was surreal. People were out on their balconies clapping and cheering at us and the streets were deserted. The hotel was practically empty and we were locked in there overnight. The following morning we went to the airport and all the shops were closed but we were able to get on a flight back to Heathrow. The flight was full - it was a mad scramble for people wanting to get home. Back at Heathrow everything seemed perfectly normal, even the shops were open, but we knew with certainty what was just around the corner.

The following week lockdown began here in the UK. We had one day at Louth to unpack the lorry, shut everything down and collect our luggage from the lorry. I was furloughed from work and I can honestly say that it was a very happy time for me personally. I was able to take stock of my life, spend time with my family and help them with all the jobs that needed doing at home. I painted all the outside sheds, garage doors and garden walls, made planters for the front of the house and restored the red letter box which was placed in the wall when my great, great grandparents took over the Post Office in 1937. We enjoyed the lovely weather and had family barbecues most nights. The downside was that I missed meeting up with mates and having a laugh with them.



Macauley's lockdown projects

In June 2020, we went back to work but followed government guidelines and worked accordingly. It was good to catch up with workmates. We managed a condensed race season. Later in the year I was offered a place with BMW Motorrad and moved to Guisborough, near Middlesbrough. This team compete in World Superbikes (WSB). As an elite sport we are allowed to travel abroad and this has not been without its challenges. A combination of COVID restrictions and Brexit has meant an awful lot of paperwork as we travel around the world. When flying to places the airports are quiet, efficient and well organised. I've had to drive a lot abroad too, transporting a van load of bikes and parts around Europe, not easy when we have to keep going across the channel and entering the EU.



Taking the motorcycle to 'scrutineering' before practice

In March, I sadly lost my granddad who lived in Sheffield. I had only seen him once last year in the garden of my grandparent's house there and then again on the day he died. We were restricted to 30 people at the crematorium. Having to social distance and wear face masks was awful. I had to leave the funeral immediately after and head to Calais en route to Spain but we were detained and eventually had to travel to Birmingham to obtain the necessary paperwork to proceed over the channel. We were delayed for 24 hours in the UK driving around for paperwork. There is so much hassle travelling abroad at the moment. Every few days I have to take lateral flow COVID tests and 72 hours before flying, both going and coming home, we need PCR tests. We have to carry so much documentation and complete passenger locator forms on all outbound and inbound journeys. We just have to crack on and get used to the new normal.



Outlton Park BSB Meeting

Macauley Webb, Age: 20

Main Street, North Muskham

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