Triumph Stag buying checklist

Car: _____ Date: _____

Cold start test

- ☐ Engine stone cold on arrival: manifolds and top hose cold
- ☐ Oil pressure light on with ignition, out within a second or two of starting
- ☐ No timing chain rattle that persists once warm
- ☐ Idles 15 minutes or more; gauge climbs, settles and holds

Rust points

- ☐ Front valance and behind the headlights
- ☐ Inner and outer wings, arch lips, inner wing top seam
- ☐ Scuttle below the windscreen
- ☐ A-posts, base and join to the sill
- ☐ Inner and outer sills: tap test, look for fresh underseal
- ☐ Floors under the carpets, front and rear
- ☐ Boot floor, spare wheel well, rear valance seams
- ☐ Battery tray
- ☐ T-bar and hoop base
- ☐ Hard-top off: rear screen aperture and rear deck

Test drive

- ☐ Manual: overdrive engages in 3rd and 4th
- ☐ Manual: no whine that quietens with the clutch down; synchromesh
- ☐ Automatic: clean shifts up and down, kicks down
- ☐ No pronounced rear twitch on and off the power
- ☐ Every light, wiper, horn and heater blower works
- ☐ Both electric windows, full travel
- ☐ Soft-top present; raises and lowers

Engine and cooling

- ☐ Radiator hot top and bottom once warm (never open a hot cap)
- ☐ No steady bubbling in the expansion tank
- ☐ No creamy residue under the filler cap or on the dipstick
- ☐ Thermostat fitted: proper warm up, gauge holds steady
- ☐ No persistent tapping from the top of either head

Identity and paperwork

- ☐ V5C, commission plate and engine number agree
- ☐ Service history, invoices and any SOC history
- ☐ Original Triumph 3.0 V8, or conversion described and documented
- ☐ If converted: cooling, mounts, driveshafts and wiring done properly

Questions to ask the seller

- ☐ Has the car been run today before I arrived?
- ☐ Is the thermostat fitted?
- ☐ Is this the original engine? If not, what was fitted, and is it documented?
- ☐ What history, invoices and SOC history come with the car?
- ☐ Can the hard-top be removed so I can see under it?

Notes