



Scottish Motorcycle Club

Bike Bytes

Volume 3 Issue 2

February 2002

WELCOME

We are very pleased to welcome another new member to the Scottish Motorcycle Club: **Ian McMillan** lives in **Bonnyrigg** and rides a Suzuki Bandit. We look forward to seeing you, Ian, at our regular monthly meetings and on many of our runs throughout the season - and many seasons after this one. We hope you enjoy your membership. One of the best ways for all members to do that is to join in and give the rest of us the benefit of your biking experience.

Talking about runs and joining in, don't forget that Jim Simpson and Alex Rennie (with Jim McKechnie) are putting together our Calendar of Events for 2002. If you would like to suggest events or runs, places to visit, or can help in any way, contact Jim Simpson as soon as you like, as requested in January's BikeBytes!

Arthur Shepherd

NEXT MEETINGS

At the next *Club Night Meeting on 13 February*, we will have a talk by John Gibb, who is a paramedic with the Scottish Ambulance Service and a biker. As John is a very busy chap and works weird hours, he can manage to fit us in only if he starts his presentation at **8pm**. Therefore, we shall start the meeting with John's talk so that he can leave for his next duty straight afterwards. Please arrive in plenty of time to be comfortably seated by 8pm. We'll continue later with a little Club business (which I don't expect to take very long) after a short break.



Above: some of the troops at Hamish's Loch Rannoch run.

Right: Jim Simpson with his and Alex Rennie's Harleys on a January run, and editor Steve & CBX750 at Rannoch.

The **March Club Night Meeting is the AGM**, as announced last month. If you would like to stand for any post or have points for discussion, get your letters in now! (For details, see the formal announcement.) If you can't manage to be there, you can appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf by completing a proxy form. We want to hear your views and to encourage you to take part. I started the Scottish Motorcycle Club so that a group of friends could go on runs together. That's why we joined and that's what we like doing. Obviously, this requires a bit of organising but we really do try to keep the formalities simple, between friends and to a minimum!

Arthur Shepherd

SMC WEBSITE

More and more people are getting access to the internet these days: at work, at libraries, at internet cafés, as well as at home. When you are not riding the roads on your bike, you can surf the internet on your PC or MAC! The SMC website has two areas: a **public area** for everyone and a **private area** intended for members only. The **public area**, which is orientated towards non-members seeking more information about the club before joining, can be found at www.smc2000.fsnet.co.uk and can be accessed by anyone who knows that web address (or URL). This URL appears on our notepaper, on posters displayed in dealers, as well as in BikeBytes. It can also be found by browsers searching for it by name or using certain keywords, such as for example "biker club Scottish touring runs". How successful they are depends on the search engine they use but the point is that this area is open to the public.



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It contains a **Welcome** page, an **Information** page with some further details about the club, a **Benefits** page which mentions BMF, MAG, discounts and good company, a **Diary** page with an extract from the Calendar of Events to give an idea of our runs, and a **Joining** form. Folk can also send us an e-mail directly from the website.

The **private area** on the other hand contains information intended for members only and the URL is not generally published. Every new or renewing member receives a welcome letter giving the address and it occasionally appears in BikeBytes as a reminder. It changes each year and is currently www.smc2000.fsnet.co.uk/saltire/main.htm. This URL is not so easy for searchers to find. The Members Area contains much more topical information because I try to keep it up to date. You won't find information that you wouldn't eventually receive through BikeBytes but you may see it sooner, it's always the latest version and it is a valuable and handy reference source to the most recent data.

The Members Area of the website has the following pages:

- Members Welcome** with newflashes (new events, meetings, discounts, changes or other news)
- Calendar of Events**, always the latest version with date, destination, meeting point and Organiser
- Discounts** with a note of BMF, MAG and Dealer discounts and their contact details
- Links** with lots of internet links to other websites (manufacturers, dealers, listings, magazines, organisations, reference, riding and suppliers) that you can click on to be taken to directly from the website
- Picture Gallery** with some photographs from some of our runs
- Video Club** with details of all our current biking videos available to members for hire free of charge
- Application Form** that you can print and give to a friend
- Committee Members**, always up to date and **Arthur's Tips on Riding in a Group**, a useful reminder of the club's guidelines for all club runs, which you can also print out and give to any guest rider you invite to join one of our runs.

As the internet is not secure and as all members' details are confidential, and guarded and protected by the Membership Secretary (that's me!), no details of any member ever appear anywhere in the website, although people can e-

mail us and I will respond by e-mail, phone or letter, as required.

The SMC website is an additional benefit for members, and several members have commented favourably on it. If you have never seen it or haven't looked at it recently, try to find the opportunity to log on and see how useful it might be for you. I have quite a few exciting plans for it but, in the meantime, if you have any comments or suggestions, I'd like to hear from you. Contact details on page 1. Happy internet surfing! Oh, and happy biking too!

Arthur Shepherd

Crossword news

The winner of the December Crossword Competition (drawn at January's Club Night Meeting) was Alan Hopper, so congratulations to Alan. Members may like to know how the draw is organised. No-one sees the solutions except Arthur (and Sue who compiles them). Arthur receives all the entries during the month of the current competition and checks them against the solution. Just before the next Club Night Meeting, he shuffles all the correct entries received, so that they are not in any order, and allocates a number at random to each one. At the meeting, he asks one of the members to choose a number and that is the number of the winning entry!

Here is the solution to January's crossword.

1	J	E	H	O	V	A	H	5	G	6	M	7	A				
	O		A		I		8	I	N	E	D	I	B	L	E		
9	H	E	L	M	E	T	S		O		D		E				
	N		V		W			19	L	F	F	17	G	A	R	B	
14	S	T	E	V	E			O		15	F	I	E	S	T	A	
	U					16	R	A	P	I	D		H		R		
18	R	A	C	I	S	M						U		E	R		
	T		A							20	K	N	O	T	T	Y	
	E		R				21	T	H	R	E	E				S	
22	E	23	N	24	G	I	N	E		A		25	G	I	R	T	H
29	S	O	O	N			30	R	U	G		L		I	E		
	R		G							34	T	R	E	A	D	L	E
32	P	A	N	O	R	A	M	A				C		E		N	
	H		T							33	G	U	T	H	R	I	E

Eight correct entries have been received at the time of writing for the Crossword in January's BikeBytes, and the winner will be drawn at the next Club Night Meeting on 13 February 2002.

Maybe it's your turn to win this month – but you need to send in the solution to Arthur.

VIDEO CLUB

Remember to return videos you hold, and order the next one, at the club night.

FifthColumn

Stewart is off a'galavanting and offers his apologies for no contribution this month.

For Sale

Tracy MacMillan has her Revere for sale. As seen on many runs and weekends.

Honda Revere NTV600
(1991) H Reg Dark Blue
Taxed & Tested - All previous MOTs
20k Miles Well maintained
Summer use only & club runs!
£1500 OVNO
Contact: 01506 495256

HELP! – 1982 CB 900 fc DOHC

John Middleton is looking for promotional and sales literature for this bike, and help with his reconstruction and refurbishment.

Contact: mainman68@hotmail.com

(We Middletons seem to specialise in old 'uns – I think my 1984 CBX750 was the oldest bike on runs until John joined. Ed)

BUZZ OFF TOURS INFORMATION

Alan Hopper writes:

Ireland Trip (17-20 May). I now have the final prices and what I propose to do is give a 5% discount on the standard price to members of SMC.

I need to have 12 people to make it work at these prices. Interest to date has been well over that, however, so hopefully there will be no problem getting the numbers. Remember that this is not limited to SMC members only so if you have any non-member friends, they are more than welcome to join you. The discount for being a member could almost encourage them to join the club! I have summarised the prices below;

Based on 2 sharing a room, 1 m/c - £165pp less 5% discount = £156.75pp

Based on 2 sharing a room, 2 m/cs £185pp less 5% discount = £175.75pp

Single not sharing, 1 m/c - £209 less 5% discount = £198.55pp

Just to re-cap on the plan, we cross from Stranraer at 19.35 on the high speed ferry to Belfast and it is a short ride from Belfast up to our hotel.

We should be there between half nine and ten. Next day, those not going to the NW200 races get a chance to see the Antrim Coast, Giant's Causeway etc and we all meet up in another hotel on the outskirts of Strabane for dinner. The following day, we go across the border to Donegal returning to our Strabane base for dinner. We return on the Monday 12.20 high speed crossing from Belfast. The price includes the ferry crossings and the accommodation which is of a good standard and will be B&B the first night and DB&B the following 2 nights.

I will be in touch very soon with a booking form for those who have sent the pro forma to me. Anyone else interested can send me the pro forma printed elsewhere in this newsletter or just give me a call on 0141-639 7900.

Scotland Tour (9–14 June) The Italian group for whom I am organising this one have asked me to do some changes and to shorten it by 2 days. I am just working on this now but anyone else interested can send me the pro forma in the usual way. It is likely to start on the same day, Sunday 9 June (probably from Hull) coming up via the Borders to Edinburgh for 2 nights, then a day via Stirling and the Trossachs to Inverary for an overnight stop before continuing up around Glencoe and the west side of Loch Ness to Inverness. Another overnight stop there before heading south to the Borders area for a night there and then the following day, Friday 14th, to Hull via Hadrian's Wall. What I was thinking about was to offer the possibility outside of the Italian

group either for the whole tour or perhaps just for 3 nights starting with us from when we leave Edinburgh on the Tuesday until the Hadrian's Wall part on the Friday assuming no-one would be interested in finishing up in Hull! I have amended the pro forma this month to take account of this should you be interested on a 3 night basis.

Again I will be in touch soon with those who have expressed interest in this tour including those who have kindly volunteered to come along on day runs to help keep these unruly Italians in line.

Italy (September). Encouraging interest so far. I had hoped to be out with prices by now but getting accommodation in Munich for the return journey has proved difficult in view of Oktoberfest being on. Difficult that is assuming we don't want to pay £100 a night! Other possibilities for staying slightly outside are under investigation where there can still be the opportunity to get into the city without bike if preferred. I am working hard on finalising this - it's the only outstanding bit now - so hopefully more soon and, of course, I will be in touch direct with those who have sent the form to me.

Alan adds: That's it, Steve, but could you amend the pro forma to show Scotland Tour as 9-14 June and split between whole programme and 3 night part only. *(I'm afraid I could not include the pro-forma again – look at back copies of Bike Bytes to see what Alan means and use the form there. Ed)*

Snippets from France

We had a visit from French friends Thierry and Stéphanie at the start of February. They run a Pan European and live SW of Paris. Recently on a cold day the fully-equipped bike, with ABS, TCS & CBS (you do know what they all mean, don't you?!) kept them all right side up on a bit of *verglas* when the TCS cut in and straightened up the bike. Anyone else got any stories of technology giving a helping hand?

In a copy of MOTO magazine they left for me I found a couple of interesting items.

Italy will introduce in January 2003 a new speed limit of 150km/h on three-lane motorways – 110 in the rain. The comment is made that with 130 in France and no limit in Germany there is not much evidence of a European Union of speed limits.

In 2001 their biggest selling bike was the Honda 125 Varadero, and over 125 the top four were 600 Bandit, 600 Fazer, 600 Hornet and SV 650. Next was the 1200 Bandit. Top super-sport was the R6 in 9th place just ahead of the GSXR1000

An article on avoiding contact with wildlife mentioned using a stick-on whistle, sold in hypermarkets, on the front of the bike that makes ultrasound to move them aside. I wonder if it has the ability to ward off Scottish sheep (or midges?)! A run with us all so equipped would deafen the local dogs – either that or call them all to heel!

The adverts show that Nolan has a new flip-front helmet on the market – N100E.

A website at www.cardy.fr has space for parts fiches, but none was in position when I visited recently. Another site at something like www.motofiches.com reports that Honda is getting stroppy and threatening legal action if theirs are not removed pronto – and they have stripped them out. Other makes are still present though.

Steve Middleton

DRAFT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

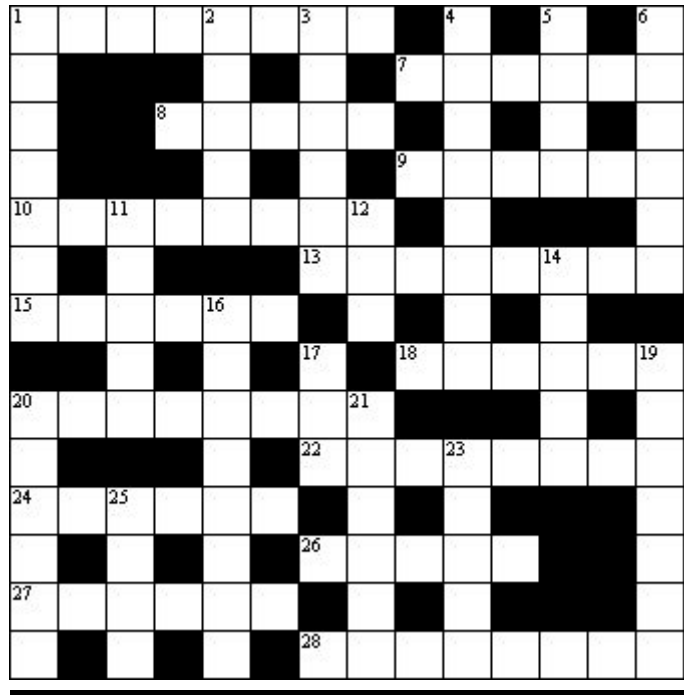
Offers to organise a run to Jim Simpson or Alex Rennie
G'wan, g'wan, g'wan – you can do it!

Date	Quarter	Meeting pt/Destination/Departure	Organiser
Sunday 14 April	NW	Stirling	Jim Simpson_ - Alex Rennie
Sunday 28 April	SW		
Fri 3 May to Mon 6 May		S.M.C.-----T.T	John Branney
Sunday 12 May	NE		
Fri 17-Mon 20 May		Ireland weekend Northwest 200	Contact Alan Hopper
Sunday 9 June	SE		
Friday 14 June	NE	Kinross- Chip Shop run	Colin Stewart
Sunday 23 June	NW		
Friday 5 July			
Sunday 7 July	SW		
Sunday 14 July		Kelso Bikefest	
Sunday 21 July	SE		
Friday 26 July			
Sunday 4 August	NE		
Sunday 18 August	NW		
Saturday 14-Sun-26-Sept		Italy/Germanany tour	Contact Alan Hopper
Sunday 15 September	SW		
Sunday 6 October	NE		

Jim has yet to check for clashes with major sport events. If you know of any potential problems tell him.
--- and put yourself down to organise one of the runs.



February prize crossword puzzle



Crossword and clues all prepared by Sue Temple

You may find some Scottish place names in the solutions to this month's Crossword

Across

- 1. On time, without delay (8)
- 7. A fierce woman, or a model of Yamaha (6)
- 8. Citizens of Eire (5)
- 9. Scottish cap (6)
- 10. Motorcycle dress (8)
- 13. Ancient Scottish town with a castle on a rock, just off the M9 (8)
- 15. SW Scottish/NW English Firth (6)
- 18. Grinned (6)
- 20. One who has to give his approval before you can pass your test (8)
- 22. Any of us who pays dues to government coffers (8)
- 24. Brushes (6)
- 26. Savoury jelly (5)
- 27. Set of steps leading to an upper floor (6)
- 28. Berwickshire fishing town, just south of St Abb's Head (8)

Down

- 1. Borders town on the River Tweed, west of Innerleithen (7)
- 2. Scottish city on the River Tay, an early capital of Scotland (5)
- 3. *Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation s* (6)
- 4. Metric measurement of weight (8)
- 5. Village on the southern side of the Firth mentioned in *19 Down* (4)
- 6. If you were a German, the first day of your working week (6)
- 11. Clackmannanshire town (5)
- 12. Pig's home (3)
- 14. Inner Hebridean Island next door to Jura (5)
- 16. Winter holiday capital of Scotland (8)
- 17. Stream of water, gas, or flame (3)
- 19. East coast Firth, and Village with an ancient cathedral.(7)
- 20. To carve or decorate in relief (6)
- 21. Town in the Isle of Man (6)
- 23. Transparent body for refracting light (5)
- 25. Port and resort on the Firth of Lorne (4)

Write your name here:

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Send the completed puzzle before the end of the month for entry into the £10 prize draw to:

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