



BikeBytes

Scottish Motorcycle Club

Volume 7 Issue 1

January 2006

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WELCOME

The New Year brings change and opportunities, as mentioned below.

Firstly, from Editor Steve – my wishes for a Happy New Year to all readers, and a new layout of the front page of [BikeBytes](#) – I hope you like it

Next, from Secretary Jim McKechnie, a notification of the **Annual General Meeting**. He will send a specific message to all current members notifying them officially of the AGM on **Wednesday 8th February** in the Black Bitch in Linlithgow at 8:00pm. Usual AGM business of Annual Reports, Election of Office Bearers, consideration of competent motions and setting the membership fees. Be there to set the Club fair for the coming year, and partake of the sarnies and refreshments.

Some of the Committee will not offer themselves for re-election this year so the Club will not just welcome but shall need nominations. David Jerome has already indicated he is not standing for **Chairman**, and I now wish to stand down from the **Editor's** post. I've had the pleasure of playing with words and imposing my concept of style on you since June 2001, but I'm finding the monthly discipline difficult to maintain. I'll offer full guidance and a DIY "idiot's guide" package to ease the take-over together with a "sitting by Mary" session as wanted.

Steve Middleton

CHAIRMAN'S WINTER WARMER RUN



George, Judy, Jerry, David at Killin

See that frost – that's *after* lunch! Report inside.

NEXT MEETING AND EVENTS

Club night meeting is on **Wednesday 11th January 2006** in the Black Bitch in Linlithgow at 8:00pm. Refreshments and sandwiches included. Bring back any SMC videos you have finished with, contribute any you no longer want at home, swap magazines.

Steve Middleton

CHRISTMAS DINNER PIX



These are the ones we'll let you see! A good night.



Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:

Jim McKechnie, 15 Stewart St., Burnbank, HAMILTON, ML3 0RH

Tel: 01698 824883 Mobile: 07801 968 885

E-mail: secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Club Website: <http://www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk>

TEST OF THE ZX6R 2005 MODEL,

I had to put the yellow peril (ZX6R '01 model) in for its service into C&J Wilson of Uphall so I kindly asked for a courtesy bike thinking I would get some old banger or even a scooter! But no, they (fools) were kind to give me the new ZX6R.

Dropping off my bike I was shown round to the back to pick up the new bike. Once shown the usual briefing, switches, handlebars etc. I had time to get used to the bike. For a start once sitting on the bike it felt a lot smaller and lighter almost toyish to feel, either that it was just my big ass making it feel like that! Once running and out of the 30 limit heading towards Linlithgow you could tell that this bike is totally different to its predecessors. A slight twist of the wrist and off she goes. It took a while to get used to the digital read-out jumping up and down so sticking to the law abiding speed limits to Linlithgow.



Back home to take some pictures and a cup of tea it was time to see what she could do! Heading over the back roads to Bo'ness and Grangemouth on some good twisty roads the bike was smooth on the throttle and up through the gears, and you only had to think "corner" and flick and you're round and away. The engine sound is definitely kwak with the induction intake noise. The engine sounds a bit rattley but the power delivery and response is smooth up the rev and gear range. The design is very stylish from the dash to the under-seat exhaust.

Taking the bike over the Kincardine Bridge up by the back of Knockhill and over the Forth Road Bridge and back home I could tell the difference. Now, before you start I like sports bikes for their performance, handling and looks but this machine was bursting every bone on my body. My back was aching, my wrists were sore and the only position seemed to be chin on the tank with a view of 50 ft in front of me. At least with the yellow peril I can either sit up and look around to see what is happening or bum up flat out and still be comfortable after a couple of hours instead of 20 min..

All in all it's a sleekie we beastie and fun to ride, its only downfall for me is the comfort. So I don't think I will be trading in the yellow peril just yet unless it was for a comfy armchair with slippers!

Peter Cook

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS COOLER

The word went out – meet Tuesday 27th for a run, prizes for competitions. That was enough for me – a run to clear the head, a run to keep the VFR active and me interested, and freebies too!

Anyway, I caught up the first three who had come from Livingston (Chair David Jerome on the Fazer thou', chief joker Jerry Dawe on his Multistrada and George Stephenson aboard the Triumph Tiger) as they approached the M9 exit ramp at Stirling services, then immediately left them again to get petrol. When I rejoined them in the café treasurer Judy Broad and her Fazer 600 had joined in. These doughty travellers were in need of sustenance after the gruelling 45 minutes aboard their steeds. I declined, since it was only that period since my breakfast! We nearly had another bike and two people in the ride, when Alan Gordon stopped by to say Hello but Sorry, since he had no tax on the 1200GS having done a SORN on it, so he and Moira had to go shopping instead.

The 11.30 departure time came, the food went and we left nearer (much nearer) to 12 noon. Dave had suggested I lead through Stirling town instead of skirting via the motorway, and unthinkingly I got stuck in – to the bl***y traffic! I had, without any pre-arrangement, to "drop off" Jerry at the second corner because we'd already got split, then there was a tail-back at the five-way roundabout near the shopping centre. We dutifully queued up, thankfully in a bunch, until my impatience got the better and I did the filtering thing – beautifully if I may say so - and timed my arrival at the front exactly with a rare gap in the circulating cars. The taxi on the left was not very impressed and sniffed closely at my number plate while I tried not to lean too far or fast (excuses:- new back tyre, wet salted roads, yellow stripe down back). Net result was me on my own, but I had shown the way and a brief pause at the side brought the others and we were off again. Later I was reminded that the Multistrada and Tiger both had panniers on, and didn't fit my gap. Dunno why they had them fitted, we were booked to eat out so they didn't need their sarnies, and with the weather we were already wearing all the gear!

Causewayhead and Bridge of Allan passed and the Big Lad was promoted to the front to take us to Killin via Callendar and Loch Lubnaig. I ended up at the back after being Dropped Off, but that was OK. George had earlier opined that the A roads would be fine and so they were, but the first one Dave took us on was a B, off the end of the M9 to Doune. It was OK, being well used and known from earlier runs.

The northward run was uneventful apart from some prune in a Honda Civic who insisted on overtaking Judy inside a 30 limit then immediately slowing to the speed of the queue. Dave did his bargain-spotter bit and noticed the fleeces at £10 in Callendar, we all

made some progress and had a good run all the way to Killin, particularly noticing the drop in temperature starting around Strathyre and continuing up Glen Ogle where the lochan at the top on the left was frozen over. We'd passed cars with kayaks on lower down – nutters. Cold: OK; Wet: maybe; sitting in the cold and wet – no no no no no!

A right at Lix Toll promised Killin and food, and the roadside was magical. All the trees and bushes were silver-white with frost and the sun was bright enough to make them look wonderful. We had earlier seen Ben Ledi in the sun straight ahead against a blue sky, and with a small puffy white cloud on top far a hat. Ahhh, pretty.

The far end of Killin is where the Coach House Hotel on the left gave us lunch – run by a former colleague of Chairman Dave, with Smith the dog and friendly locals – and a warm welcome. Recommended, but choose your parking spot to get tarmac not stones.

Some fuel, a snoop at the cut-price fleeces and other outdoor clothing in Callendar (where Judy peeled off towards Glasgow) and some queue-hopping along the road past the Safari Park into Stirling fed us onto the M9 and towards home. I got out the hose and attacked the salt – the morning will show if it came off in the dark.

Judy was only 0.4 miles off in guessing the run distance so won the main prize of a Routemaster map – we joked it was for the West Country and she had to go test it out – and also had the most extensive heated kit since her electric jacket had sleeves and so trumped the waistcoat-style versions of George and Dave. Those three spend part of lunchtime comparing their connector plugs! Jerry and I did the ruffy-tuffy biker impressions – we only had heated grips. You can see in the pic we favoured balaclavas too, and Judy had one of those pelmet do-dahs to seal between her neck and helmet.

I eventually got the sequence right putting on jacket, earplugs (tied onto the jacket), balaclava (over the 'plugs), neck warmer (zipped onto jacket) and helmet. I also used a wet sponge in a holder mounted on the fairing plus a violently red V-wipe thingy on my left thumb to remove visor crud, but that was a bit of a fankle – I was worried it would fall off. I also worried what drivers would think of a black and red hand raised in a "thank you" gesture. I envied Dave's gloves with a wipe blade built into the side of the thumb.

It was good to get out, and the conditions were no real problem. I'm amazed how few cars were out, since the sun shone and the slight splatter of frost and snow looked really good on the hills. Those frosted trees approaching Killin will remain in the memory – I'm annoyed I didn't stop for a piccie to share with you all.

Steve Middleton

CPR

The Resuscitation Council UK has released new guidelines for Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Some members have had training in this, and anyone interested in this technique should swat up on the new stuff.

After many years the CPR protocols have changed. It is now easier to remember and perform.

The main outline is that chest compressions now take priority over breathing in the early stages of an arrest. The old ratio of 15 compressions to 2 breaths has now changed to 30 to 2 and also, if you are unable or unwilling to give rescue breaths you don't have to, although combined chest compressions with rescue breaths is a better method of CPR.

For full details please visit <http://www.resus.org.uk> click on What's New, then click on Resuscitation Guidelines 2005, then Adult Basic Life Support. When I visited black bars appeared across the web pages, but the links worked and got me to the PDF with the details in. There are several detailed differences from what I was taught about two years ago, so go see and relearn / revise.

Steve Middleton

DECEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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| 11 | C | O | L | D | T | U | R | K | E | Y | I | L | E | X |
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| 28 | O | E | T | E | S | E | E | E | C | | | | | |
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| 29 | T | E | D | D | Y | D | I | S | C | R | E | D | I | T |

complete word = WASSAILING

Above is the Solution to December's Prize Crossword compiled by John Moss' Mum, which attracted two entries, both of which were complete and correct. The lucky prize-winner will be drawn at random at the Club Night Meeting in January.

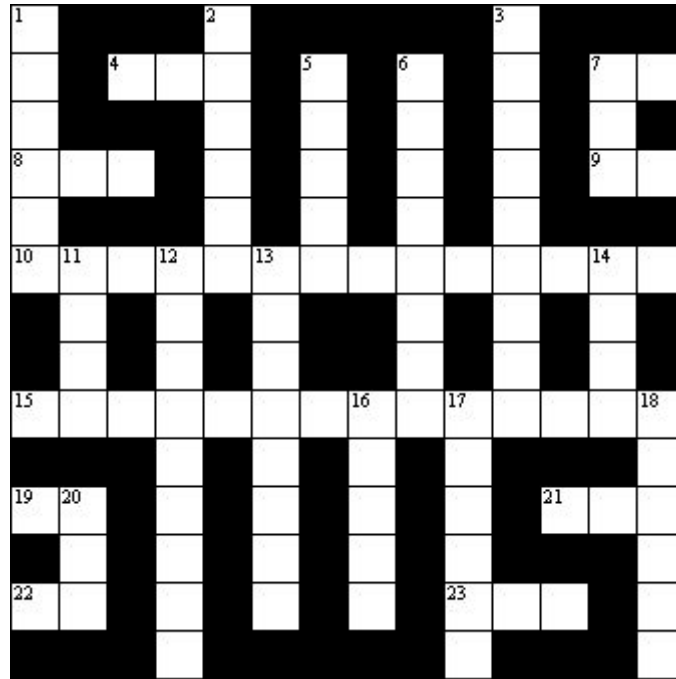
Arthur Shepherd

2005 ARTICLE LISTING

A full listing of articles in 2005 [BikeBytes](#) Volume 6 is attached to hard copies. This is also on the Club website with PDF copies of the whole Volume, and was included in December's electronic copy.



January prize crossword



January Crossword and Clues compiled by Arthur Shepherd.

There are several references to Scotland's National Bard in this month's Crossword, as well as biking bits!

ACROSS

- 4 Shire of Burns' birth (3)
- 7 UK oil company (1, 1)
- 8 Estimated time of arrival (1, 1, 1)
- 9 Compass bearing of 315 degrees (1, 1)
- 10 Two-position components allowing you to flick between two functions or states (14)
- 15 The joining together of bones (medical) (14 or 5-9)
- 19 Brilliant two-cylinder configuration, as used in probably best bike in world (and others) (1, 1)
- 21 A beefy hug, kiss and hug, warming for bikers (and others) at this time of year (3)
- 22 Motoring rescue service (1, 1)
- 23 Need to watch out for this skidworthy, cold and colourless or white stuff at this time of year (3)

DOWN

- 1 (and 5 Down and 16 Down) 25th (6, 5, 5)
- 2 Small stones or coarse sand to watch out for on the roads at this time of year (6)
- 3 The cover over the part that converts linear to rotary motion in an engine (9)
- 5 see 1 Down
- 6 Single-reed woodwind instrument (8)
- 7 Mountain (Scots) (3)
- 11 Nocturnal birds of prey with big heads, small faces, large eyes and ears! (4)
- 12 Robbie told us how the rashes develop (5, 4)
- 13 Power of seeing, on which we depend so much (8)
- 14 Small case for needles, toothpicks, etc (from the French) (4)
- 16 see 1 Down
- 17 Auld -----, Satan, Nick or Cloutie ('Address to the Devil') (6)
- 18 'The halesome parritch, chief o' -----'s food'; our country (6)
- 20 Ane mair 'n ane (3)

Write your name here:

Send the completed puzzle (or your best attempt if you can't quite finish it) before the end of the month for entry into the £10 prize draw to:

Arthur Shepherd, 41 The Gallolee, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 9QL