



ScottishMotorcycleClub

BikeBytes

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September
2003

Volume 4 Issue 9

WELCOME

It's a big and very warm welcome this month to another four new Members: **Norrie Millar** lives in **East Calder** and rides what is probably the best bike in the world (nice colour too), a Honda NT650V Deauville, **Angelo Tirhas** from **Newbridge** rides a Yamaha TDM900, **Joan Leslie** from **Broxburn** rides a Suzuki GSX400R, and **Neil Johnston** from **South Queensferry** rides a BMW R1100S. We hope you'll have lots of fun and make lots of friends in the SMC. The total membership is now 126.

Arthur Shepherd



Ardnamurchan trip – Thatched Black House;
Janet Moss doing what she does best
SV1000 tested by Ed. Steve

RUNS AND EVENTS

There are **four additional** Events for you to enjoy this month and an **extra one** in October too. (There have been Newsflashes in the Members Area of the website where the Calendar of Events has been updated. Please make sure that your diaries and your kitchen, garage, and allotment potting shed notice boards are updated too.)

On **Sunday 7 September**, **Alex Rennie** is taking us to Alford for the **Grampian Motorcycle Convention**, departing from **Kinross Services at 9:30am**. If you want to know why you should be on this one, please reread page 2 of August's **BikeBytes**.



News that SMC Member **Terry Warnock** and his wife, **Rosalie**, from the **Netherlands** (known to many of us on European Tours) are coming to **Scotland** is confirmed. Two Runs have been arranged in honour of the occasion and, as Terry and Rosalie are staying in Oban, **Alan Hopper** and I have tried to fit in with

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that and make the two Runs complementary as well. So, if you come on both Runs, you won't cover the same route both days! These are the two Runs:

Old Art's Nine Lochs & Inverary Run on Thursday 11 September departs from **Stirling Services at 10am**. If you haven't previously managed a day Run mid-week, why not take the day off and join a smaller group for a day in spectacular scenery among the bens, glens and lochs - and meet Terry and Rosalie?

Alan Hopper's Glen Fruin & Loch Lomond Run on Sunday 13 September also departs from **Stirling Services at 10am** and will also offer a fabulous route and the chance to meet our far-flung friends!

On **Wednesday 24 September**, there will be a **Tubeless Repair Kit Demo** at **Strathearn Tyres, Crieff** starting at 7:30pm. Alternatively, meet at Stirling Services at 6:30pm for a ride-in. See the article on **Dealer Network** in this issue for details.

On **Saturday 27 September**, we are making a welcome return to **Autotrans Motorcycle Dyno Tuning Centre** in Linlithgow Bridge at the kind invitation of **Ewan Montgomery**, who will also be our **Guest Speaker** at the next Club Night Meeting on 10 September, by which time bookings for free dyno testing have to be in. Dyno testing normally costs £25 but will be free for Members who book in advance. You should already have received a Booking Form from me for this. The format will be the same as last time in May and you can review the reports which appeared in June's *BikeBytes*. If you can't find your Booking Form or reports, I can send you copies.

On **25 October**, **Alan Hopper's Italian Night Out** takes place in Edinburgh and you should also have received a Booking Form for this. If you and your guests would like to come, send him your deposit of £5 per person and your form as soon as possible but by 8 October at the very latest. Can't find your Form? Just ask me!

If you would like to suggest or plan an additional run (help would be available, if required), or if you can help on one of the existing runs, get in touch with **Jim Simpson** or **Alex Rennie** (or through me and I'll pass you on). Updates will appear in the Members Area of the website throughout the year as usual, with details in *BikeBytes*.

Arthur Shepherd

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

Jim Simpson and **Alex Rennie**, who have been such excellent **Events Co-ordinators** for a couple of years, announced at the last Club Night Meeting that they would like to stand down at the next AGM so that one or two other Members with fresh ideas can take a shot at co-ordinating the principal activity of

the Scottish Motorcycle Club, its Calendar of Events. This doesn't mean that you would have to organise all the Runs yourself because these are, of course, done by individual Members. But you would arrange the programme of Runs for the year and co-ordinate the individual Run Organisers' efforts, resulting in a detailed Calendar of Events with meeting times and places. Jim and Alex (as well as other Members) would help and can give you an idea of what is involved. Several Members have already indicated that they intend leading a Run next year, so you wouldn't be starting completely naked, as it were! If you think you would like to volunteer, please contact me.

Arthur Shepherd

FOR SALE

A friend and colleague at work is moving to a house without a garage and is having to sell his Kawasaki ZX9R E2. It's a UK model on an 02 plate and is in excellent condition. It is green, has a luggage rack, carbon hugger, fitted alarm, tinted screen, headlight covers and a non-standard end-can but the standard can is included. It has done 4000 miles and the price is £4700 ono. If you are interested, please telephone Brian on 01324 552 340 (or mobile: 07989 860 222) or me (see Contact List).

Jim Simpson

DEALER NETWORK

Our Network of Friendly Dealers is being extended by the addition of **Strathearn Tyres**, The Turret, Burrell Street, Crieff (tel 01764 655 904). For some very attractive prices on tyres, phone **Craig Allan**. They do both road and race tyres, of all makes, and are specialists exclusively for bikes. Their equipment is the proper machinery for bikes, not just adapted from car gear. You ride in and ride out. Craig is a biker and a fitter so he knows what he is talking about. Several Members have already benefited from good deals. Open 8:30am-5:30pm Mondays-Fridays and 9:00am-1pm on Saturdays.

Ronnie Howat has arranged for us to get a live demonstration in Crieff from Craig of how to use a **tubeless repair kit**, not an easy thing to get right, unless you've seen it done by an expert like Craig. This will be on **Wednesday 24 September** at 7:30pm at **Strathearn Tyres**. Burrell Street is in the centre of the town, off the main street and there is a motorcycle on the roof of the building! You can either meet there or meet Ronnie at 6:30pm at **Stirling Services** for a ride-in. No booking is required - just turn up and enjoy the evening. And if you want quotations or recommendations for tyres, etc then Craig will be happy to oblige. **Strathearn Tyres** were recommended to us by **Neil Stewart**.

Arthur Shepherd

VIDEO CLUB

Members can borrow a video from the SMC Video Club from one Club Night Meeting to the next without charge. There are currently 24 to choose from, including five recently presented by Dennis Temple and five new purchases. You can see the current list in the Members Area of the website, or you can receive a copy from Katharine Jackson or me. If you have some videos that you could lend or donate to the Video Club, or if there are some videos you think we should buy for the Video Club, please contact Katharine (see Contact List) or me.

Arthur Shepherd

NEXT MEETING

The **Guest Speaker** at the next Club Night Meeting is **Ewan Montgomery of Autotrans Motorcycle Dyno Tuning Centre**. Ewan was our Guest Speaker in April and was a hit because of his refreshing no-nonsense technical approach (see Steve's report in the May issue of *BikeBytes*) so we are delighted to welcome him back for another session. Ewan is also hosting our visit to Autotrans on 27 September for free dyno testing so he will be able to describe the technicalities of the procedures and answer questions. The Meeting is on **Wednesday 10 September 2003**, upstairs in the Black Bitch Tavern, 14 West Port, Linlithgow, and will start at 8pm.

Arthur Shepherd

FOR SALE**CB250 2000, W-REG. - 11,400-MILES - F.S.H.**

black, in quite good condition, new back tyre,

£1700 o.n.o

phone 01506 463132 mobile..07986872801

Gerry Scott – for Gloria**FORT WILLIAM RUN – SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST**

The weather looked promising as we all gathered at Stirling services. We had strict instructions to be tanked up and ready to roll at 09:30 hrs..

After a briefing by Neil Stewart, our leader, and Arthur (trailer) a party of some 23 set off West along the A811, then North from Balloch on the A82 through Arrochar (coffee) and Inveraray / Glen Aray arriving at Cruachan filling station at 12:30 for fuelling etc.. We continued onwards and upwards through some great scenery (if you had time to look) until arriving at Fort William at 14:00. We dispersed in various small groups for refreshments with instructions to return for departure at 15:00. I teamed up with Alex and after a walkabout ended up at

McTavish's – without my wallet! Sorry, Alex – it's a new bile, different system. Next time it's on me!

On the return journey South we made a quick stop for fuel in Glencoe on the A82 and again at the traditional Green Welly at Tyndrum. Continuing on we stopped at Kilmahog for tea at 17:15, but found the rooms closed. Seven of us continued to Stirling services for refreshments and a wind-down chat.

On a personal note I am probably one of the newer members of the club and I have to say that I am very impressed with the organisation overall. It was a first for me to ride in a "convoy" of 23 bikers, especially as I have just changed my bike from a Hornet sport to a Deauville tourer only two weeks ago, and was still adapting to it! As an experiment I changed my position after each stop. In no. six place I found it quite fast but clear, in tenth more relaxing and easier, the hardest was in last-but-one position just in front of Arthur where I felt I was on a rather long piece of elastic that was constantly changing length!

Altogether if my map reading is correct, we covered two hundred and fifty miles. A marvellous run.

With many thanks to Neil and Arthur for the organisation and planning.

Norrie Millar

THE FORT WILLIAM RUN – second version.

I always seem to be the last to arrive at any run, I get up in plenty of time but seem to get caught up in a crisis just before I leave the house. This time I decided to put on a dark visor in case there was a chance of sunshine (unlikely on a SMC run but I was prepared to risk it), but the side pods of my helmet came off and there was a frantic hunt for the instruction book to get them back on. Anyway, 2nd last to arrive at 09:30 but not much chance for a chat. There was a good turnout for one of the last runs of the year. Jerry Dawe was showing off his shiny new panniers (or crash bungs) on his Multistrada.

The run to the first stop at Arrochar was a little frustrating with the group getting split up - a reminder of Arthur's riding tips would not have been out of place.

Because of the lack of guidance many of the group had to do a U turn just past Inveraray to get onto the A819 to Oban. The stop for petrol was amusing with the young lady in charge trying to provide an attended service for 15 or so bikes. After a while we were off again. At this stage of the day we had been overtaken by a few sports bikes, fair enough, but I was now being buzzed by an R1 who was all over the place and decided to do me on a tight left hander over a narrow bridge with double white lines. I was a little surprised to find RI was one of us.

I know that we don't want to be a club of boring old farts who smoke pipes and go on about how Frances

Barnett made the best bike ever, but there has to be some common sense. It must be frustrating for those at the front who have to stop, play top trumps, l-spy or monopoly, until the rest of the pack arrives.

The second group's arrival into Fort William was impressive with admiring glances from all the locals for the Deauville Duo.

Lunch in Fort William was a sort of "every man and woman for themselves" do, and I enjoyed the company of Jerry Scott and John Mallet at lunch, and served by a very stern young German lady who kept John on his toes.

During the day there were a number of unscheduled stops to get the group back together.

My GTS ran very well, but I had to put up with some unfair comments when filling up, from Mike with the GSX 1400 on how it runs on diesel and when am I getting a new proper bike.

I think that the run from Fort William to the Green Welly stop was fine, but the run to the finish at Kilmahog was a free for all again at the front of the party.

But it was a good long day, I left Stirling Services, late as usual, and arrived home at 19:00, with 280 miles added to the bike.

David Jerome

Ardnamurchan Weekend

They must have had such a good time no-one had any energy left to do a write-up!! Stewart Bowman as organiser sent four photos for BikeBytes – two are on the front page. Looks like they had good weather and food.

TEST RIDE – Suzuki SV1000S

I blagged a demo ride from Jim Allan's in Falkirk (thanks very much) back in July on the "big" SV in the S guise with clip-on 'bars and a fairing. I've been a fan of the SV650 for its light weight and simple but elegant engineering and styling, but felt that the power output was a bit low. Having been impressed by the V-Strom that uses the 1000cc V-twin engine (see my write-up in BikeBytes from some time last year) it seemed a perfect combination with the SV style. After asking myself if I really wanted the ride bad enough to justify the £1000 insurance excess, I got going. The getting going was a wake-up call – it seemed I had to keep leaning and leaning and leaning forwards until my hands found the 'bars!! Oh dear, I'm not used to this and while my maturity and grey hairs may reassure 'bike salesmen to let me have a go, they also equate to a preference for sitting a bit more upright. However I must say that despite my skinny frame and less than powerful arms my wrists did not complain, and I did not go fast enough for long enough for the wind to support my bodyweight.

I found the performance stunning and trod lightly with the right wrist (sorry, mixed metaphors, but you know what I mean –don't you?). It went round corners very well, braked with ease and gave me a pretty smooth ride and lots of confidence, and the fairing did its job very well and left my neck untroubled by the breeze.

My neck was troubled, however, by having to crane my head up to counteract the forward lean, and look down what seemed a long way to the clocks. The digital speedo was magic – you know you are doing 70 (or whatever!), not somewhere near it – and the tacho was very clear. BUT they were not on the periphery of my vision, I had to positively look down, which I found distracting and would worry me since there would be a tendency to ignore the clocks altogether – not a good idea on a bike as fast as this.

I found the engine to be apparently absent because there was little sensation of it doing anything, despite the rapidity with which other vehicles, the road and its furniture all seemed to go into reverse when the RHS grip was moved. I did not get this disconnected feeling on the V Strom and enjoyed its engine more – strange eh?

I got back somewhat disappointed – can't say I had really enjoyed the bike – maybe it is so competent that I had less work to do. I now wonder if the unfaired version with its higher 'bars would be better, fitted with an aftermarket screen or small fairing. Maybe that can be another run!

Steve Middleton

There should have been more test ride reports – **David Jerome** has three to submit, but you'll all have to wait 'til next month.

Here is the solution to August's Prize Crossword Puzzle.

1	H	O	N	D	A	S	4	O	C	T	A	N	E	
2	U	A		H			5	N		O	A			
3	M	E	A	L	T	I	6	P	A	V	E			
4	A	F		E			7	P	I					
5	N	A	I	11	C	L	12	I	P	P	I	N	G	
6	R	A	I		A	N	A							
7	A	M	A	Z	O	N	8	N	I	G	H	T	S	
8	S	Y	G		O	U	O							
9	T	U	B	E	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	S	12	
10	R	O				A	Q	T						
11	B	O	N	N		13	A	R	M	A	T	U	R	E
12	N	E		B		A			A		V			
13	A	G	I	S	T	S	14	S	H	E	L	V	E	

The July Prize Crossword Puzzle attracted ten entries, all of which were correct. The lucky prize-winner (drawn at random from the correct entries at the Club Night Meeting in August) was **Colin Stewart**.

Arthur Shepherd

Scottish Motorcycle Club

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 13th August 2003

1 Apologies

Ronnie & Mhairi Howat, Jim & Marilyn Simpson, Pauline Newton, John Mallet, Colin Currie, Tom Barker & Neil Stewart.

2 Minutes - Minutes from the previous meeting were not currently available but no one had any outstanding issues.

3 Introduction – Chairperson – Arthur Shepherd

A thank you to David Jerome and the team of helpers for the success of the clubs first attendance at the BMF show in Kelso. 4 members signed up on the day and 4 other enquires have resulted.

4 Finance – Alan Graham

Current balance at £1400. The new club banner cost £130 – a full report will be provided at the next meeting. A cheque for £94.93 was issued for the purchase of new video's for the club

5 Membership Secretary– Arthur Shepherd

Confirmed 11 new members. Current membership stands at 124.

6 Events Co-ordinator – Jim Simpson with Alex Rennie

Jim & Alex gave formal notification of their intention to resign at the end of the club year. Volunteers to take over are required now, as this is the time to start planning next years schedule. Arthur expressed the clubs appreciation for all their work to date. Feedback given from members on previous runs including the “end to end run”. Also a suggestion was put forward that the club have a social night out in October.

7 Newsletter/BikeBytes – Steve Middleton

Apologies to those who experienced problems with one of the photos on the front of the last edition.

8 Merchandise – Steve Middleton - Items ordered have been received and were available on the night for distribution.

9 Video Club – Katharine Jackson - Nothing to report in her absence. An order will be placed upon receipt of the cheque from Alan Graham. 5 videos were donated by Denis & Sue Temple.

10 Webmaster – Arthur Shepherd

There were 166 public enquires to the site with 153 to the members area. Several news flashes were posted along with postcards and new pictures. The calendar of events has been updated with new runs. A new Travel Section has been added to the links page in the member's area. Problems were experienced with the distribution of the last Bike Bytes – AOL were blocking the distribution of “unsolicited bulk email”. As an interim measure a copy is available on the web site.

11 BMF Representative – David Jerome - Update on this months campaign about VAT on helmets.

12 MAG Representative – Stewart Bowman - Nothing new to report in his absence.

13 Guest Speaker

Next month's guest will be Ewan Montgomery to speak about bike servicing and the mis-conception about having to use main dealers. Another Autotrans day has been offered for Saturday 27th September. Indication of interest will be sought at the next meeting. A visit from Strathearn Tyres in Crieff is being looked into. Forward any suggestions for future guest speakers to Ronnie Howat.

14 AOCB

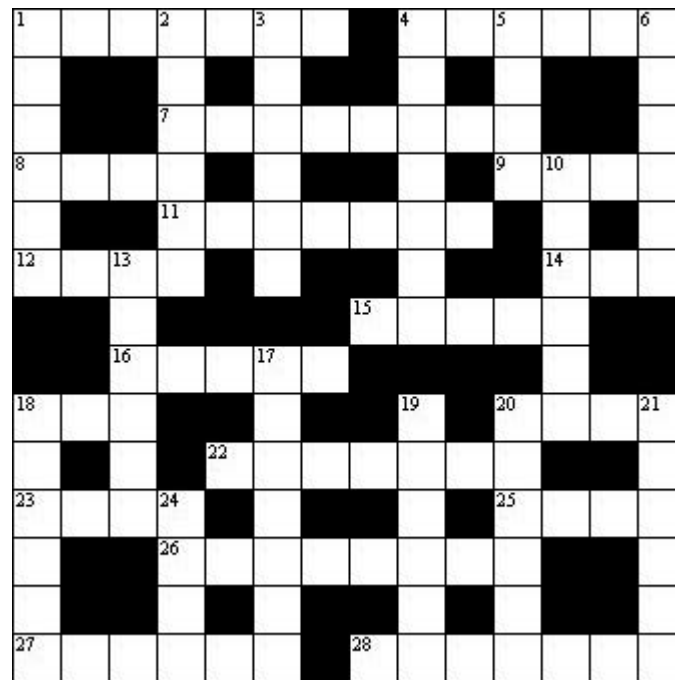
Crossword - There were 10 correct entries and the winner was Colin Stewart

A video prepared by Alan Graham of the BMF show in Kelso was shown and refreshments were provided. Both were extremely well received.

Next meeting – Wednesday 10th September



September prize crossword



Crossword and clues compiled by Arthur Shepherd. You'll find several places from this year's Runs in the answers to this month's Puzzle. You may need the Calendar of Events and your maps! Arthur

Across

- 1 Short name for town on Old Art's KOSB Run north of 16 Across but south of the Border (7)
- 4 Loch stretching from Mull to beyond Corran Ferry (6)
- 7 A TV evening without a programme like Friends, The Good Life, My Family, etc (2, 3-3)
- 8 and 11 Across Lochaber town near Ben Nevis and Glen More (4, 7)
- 9 Robbie Shepherd's place on B9119 half way between Alford's Grampian Motorcycle Convention and Aberdeen (4)
- 11 *see 8 Across*
- 12 A dealer's bike to try (4)
- 14 Climbing evergreen (3)
- 15 Organisers do one or more before a Run (5)
- 16 Border river (5)
- 18 Aberdeen sits on it (3)
- 20 Mystery space vehicles (4)
- 22 Several Runs go to this Region, famous for rugby and KOSB (7)
- 23 Loch of Scotland's famous hump-back (4)
- 25 Loch that apparently makes money! (4)
- 26 Damaged beyond economic repair, total loss (5-3)
- 27 London station for Glasgow (6)
- 28 Wrong cornering position, or working without being connected to the internet (3-4)

Down

- 1 Made more powerful, potent or stronger, apparently with added meat! (6)
- 2 To gain in a contest not just one prize but an extra one (3, 3)
- 3 Edinburgh and Stirling each have one popular with visitors (6)
- 4 Narrow stretch of water 23 miles long by Cruachan Hydro Power Station (4, 3)
- 5 Everyone has one, usually two or three, and sometimes more (4)
- 6 To do with the ground, muddy, genuine, course (6)
- 10 Perthshire burgh in Strath Earn, handy for the Sma' Glen (6)
- 13 Establishments providing accommodation especially for bikers/drivers (6)
- 17 A strong feeling - but it's not movement on the internet! (7)
- 18 City of Discovery (6)
- 19 What we all do as a Run starts (3, 3)
- 20 Serviceable, serving a purpose, advantageous (6)
- 21 The engine of a Dominator rather than a Deauville, Tiger, VFR or Gold Wing (6)
- 24 To hit a fly smartly (4)

Write your name here:

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

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