Scottish Motorcycle Club

BikeBytes

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March 2004

Volume 5 Issue 3

WELCOME

We extend a very warm welcome this month to seven new Members - a record for this time of year - largely due to **Bob Crawley's** initiative in organising a Scottish Motorcycle Club Run on 7 March, on which many of his contacts wanted to go. The new Members are **Rod Bennett** and **Denise Mowat** from **Edinburgh** who ride a Honda CBR1100 Blackbird, XL1000 Varadero and Yamaha TW125, **Jonathan Douglas** who lives in **Kinross** and rides an Aprilia Mille R and Triumph Speed Triple, **Gordon Graham** from **Balfron Station** on a Honda ST1300 Pan European, **Ian Robinson** from **Selkirk**, **John Zarecki** from **Edinburgh** who rides a Yamaha FJ1200 and Honda CX500 Euro, and **Hugh Tasker** from **Selkirk** who rides a Yamaha FJR1300. It's good to have you in the Club and we look forward to seeing you at lots of Meetings and on lots of Runs over the coming years.

The total current membership is now 141 and the number of folk who have joined since the Scottish Motorcycle Club started is 202.

THE NEW COMMITTEE

Following February's AGM, we also welcome **David Jerome** as our new Chairperson, **Judy Broad** as our new Treasurer, **Stewart Bowman** as our new WebMaster, and **Norrie Millar** and **Neil Stewart** as new additions to the Committee. And we give thanks to retiring Committee Members **Ronnie Howat**, **Alan Graham** and **Tracy Macmillan**. At the AGM, I said thanks to them on your behalf, and especially to Alan Graham for his long and dedicated service to the Scottish Motorcycle Club and before that (nothing to do with us, of course) in Scottish HOC. However, there followed an extremely eloquent and moving tribute to Alan from Editor **Steve Middleton** that certainly brought a tear to my eye and did proper justice to Alan! Gosh, I wish I could speak like that!



Arthur, David and Judy – the Top 3

So, the current Committee (it's on the website) is:

David Jerome	Chairperson
Steve Middleton	Editor
Gordon Macmillan	Events Co-ordinator
Katharine Jackson	Meetings Secretary
Arthur Shepherd	Membership Secretary
Judy Broad	Treasurer
Stewart Bowman	WebMaster
Norrie Millar	
Neil Stewart	

All may be contacted by e-mail to members@smc2000.fsnet.co.uk and we are in the Contact List. David Jerome continues as BMF Representative and Norrie Millar is our MAG Representative.

Arthur Shepherd

MEMBERSHIP

It's time to renew your subscription and you will receive a Renewal Form in the post, if not already. Please check and if necessary correct the pre-printed data, tear the form off and send it to me with your cheque as soon as possible. You will receive your new Membership Card soon after. Here's looking forward to another season of fine Runs and Events in your fine company!

Arthur Shepherd



Run #1 2004 : Saqib, Peter, Steve, Hamish. Barbara. David. Tom: 29 Feb

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RUNS AND EVENTS

Gordon Macmillan's *Calendar of Events* for 2004 is rapidly taking shape and is looking good (see the Draft elsewhere in this issue and on the website). Already it includes **Bob Crawley's** Christmas Party as well as his Run to Galloway on 7 March! There are about twelve other Runs listed in the draft.

In addition, I'll be doing a **Berwick-on-Tweed and Northumberland Run** and a **Ten Lochs Run**, which I did last year on a Thursday in honour of and to fit in with the visit of Terry Warnock from the Netherlands. Not many folk can manage a Thursday Run, so this year it will be on a Sunday. More details later.

I'm also planning a trip to **Shetland** for the international **Simmer Dim Rally** 17-20 June. A visit there would involve a Run to Aberdeen on Wednesday, overnight sailing to Lerwick, shortish Run to the campsite for the weekend, return to Aberdeen on Sunday night and then a Run home on Monday. Shetland bikers organise and host this international annual event to celebrate the summer solstice when the Sun barely sinks below the horizon, as opposed to the winter darkness, and offer runs and visits to interesting places over the weekend. Or you can set off on your own, as there are so many places to see and things to do. Last time I went, I made my own way across the Zetland Mainland, Yell and Unst (two ferries!) to Haroldswick and called in at the RAF's most northerly UK Station. I persuaded them to date and stamp a postcard which I sent to my son, who was at one of the RAF's most southerly Stations at the time!

There is traditionally a regular Norwegian contingent. It can be very cold and very windy but it's an amazing experience. It's not cheap but you get 30% off the fare and could combine it with a longer holiday, perhaps taking in a visit to wonderful but quite different Orkney.

The price of the ticket is £60 but this includes two live bands each night plus a disco, meals, camping and even drinks! You get a badge and a book of 25 tickets which are used for drinks and meals. The last time I was there, the volunteers manning the bar kept asking people to 'drink more beer!' because they were afraid there would be some left over! One of the bands playing was the now famous *Rock, Salt, Nails*. The Rally is held at Vidlin about 25 miles north of Lerwick (where the boat docks). There is a shop on the campsite for all those things which you forgot, and it also sells drink and all the usual things for a village shop.

The brand new state-of-the-art Aberdeen-Lerwick ferry costs just under £60 return (discounted) for rider and bike and cabins cost from £17 per person single (discounted). Although I asked for details some time ago, some of the above arrived only today. Nevertheless, this is a very popular rally and, as numbers are limited, it will be necessary to book very soon if you want to go. It would be very helpful to have an early indication of anyone who is interested in making this trip, so please contact me (see p1) if you are interested.

Thanks to everyone who has already volunteered to organise a Run. There are still some slots to fill, so contact Gordon on tel: 01506 495 256, mobile: 07715 137 419 or e-mail tandg@blueyonder.co.uk with your suggestions and offers of help - or for a chat about some of your ideas. New Members: please note!

Arthur Shepherd

CAROLE NASH INSURANCE

The Scottish Motorcycle Club has been enrolled into the Carole Nash Insurance Dealer Scheme. I contacted them recently and received a phone call yesterday to say we were in! We have been given a special free telephone number to call and a special reference number to quote when contacting them (see below). This means that you can speak directly to the company and, if you decide to take out a policy with them, SMC will receive a modest commission – which seems better than giving it to some other dealer (unless you happen to be a dealer, I suppose).

I can't make any personal recommendation (I'm not insured through them) but, according to the leaflets they have sent us, Carole Nash is the UK's Number One for bike insurance, having been made Personal Lines Broker of the Year at the British Insurance Awards 2003. They have also been voted the "most used broker" for two years running in RiDE Magazine's prestigious RiDER POWER awards.

They say they insure everything from scooters to superbikes, classic bikes to customs, as well as cars old and new, and all their policies include a whole range of added-value benefits such as free breakdown cover, free legal protection and a free Green Card. You can pay by credit card or in instalments. Their Travel Insurance is especially tailored for bikers (unlike some policies which exclude biking from cover) and even includes, for example, helmets and leathers as well as money and documents. You can choose between single-trip or annual policies.

Contact me (see p1) if you would like to receive a copy of the leaflet from which the above is taken. More information or a quotation is available on their website at www.carolenash.com or by telephoning 0800 083 4422 and quoting **SMC's unique dealer reference number 1882B.** Their office is open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm.

Feedback from SMC Members' personal experience is always interesting so, if you do decide to contact them to compare prices, cover, service, etc it could be useful information for the rest of us.

Arthur Shepherd

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CAROLE NASH SECURE

In addition to insurance, there is an extra service, Carole Nash Secure. This is an alarm-fitting service with extra benefits, they say! They fit the device at your address within ten working days of booking, and cover all parts, labour and fitting queries for the length of the manufacturer's warranty (three years in most cases). They say their most popular device is the Datatool System 3 (£209 + VAT) but they can also supply Category 1 immobilisers such as the Spyball 6527 and Taurus T3000, and Category 2 immobilisers such as the Laserline 921TM and Oxford GSI. Contact me (see p1) if you want more information.

Arthur Shepherd

ALVINS AND MOTO-CAL MERGE

According to an announcement just received, Alvins and Moto-Cal in Edinburgh have just completed a merger. It seems that they are combining Moto-Cal's expertise in servicing and after-sales care with Alvins' site and sales display. Alvins Moto-Cal will be the main dealers for Suzuki, Ducati, KTM, MZ, MV, Benelli but any new bike can be supplied, they say. There will be a new clothing and accessory department including Belstaff, Arai, Roof, Shark, KBC, Teknic, Alpinestars, Motrax, Kappa, and Oxford luggage. Amongst the various claims are:
7 technicians with a combined 140 years' worth of experience in the trade; courtesy bike when your bike is being serviced; MOTs while you wait, no appointment necessary; uplift and delivery service anywhere in Scotland! You can call them on 0131 258 5003. If you would like a copy of the full statement, contact me (see p1).

Arthur Shepherd

NEXT MEETING

The next **Club Night Meeting** is on Wednesday **10 March 2004** *downstairs* in the Black Bitch Tavern, 14 West Port, Linlithgow, and will start at 8pm. *Downstairs* because towards the end of last year someone at the Black Bitch gave "***our"*** room to some bridge club for this month without checking with us. But our reservations for the second Wednesday of every month is definitely in their book for the whole of the rest of 2004.

Arthur Shepherd

FALKIRK WHEEL TRIP – 29 February

A usual with winter runs, a cold start but with glorious sunshine. *(See the pic on p1 – Ed)* Six riders and one pillion tackled Steve Middleton's run-around of Linlithgow's back roads with gusto. Saqib's R1 was looking very impressive with its smart number plate. After a couple of hours, including a coffee stop arranged by Steve's daughter Laura at Beecraigs, with fantastic views over the Forth Valley, it was on to lunch at the Westport Hotel.

At lunch we were joined by Alan's family and George and Lynne Warnock. Arthur and his wife Fiona met us at the wheel for the white-knuckle ride

The trip on the Wheel was great - it was like a mini Titanic with the boat cutting through the ice on the canal.

As with every event organised by Alan Hopper the whole day went very smoothly. I for one really enjoy Steve's runs, as he is such a good rider who is totally aware of what is going on around him and knows how to handle a bike.

This was a classic SMC run - three coffees, two chocolate biscuits, one big lunch and some really good company. *(The new Chair has got the priorities correct then! Ed.)*

David Jerome

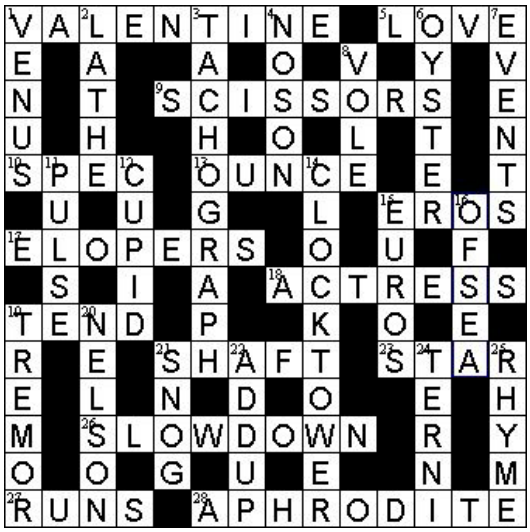
HEARD IN PASSING

"It's not the size that matters, but the shape of the curve that counts" Trace MacMillan at the second Dyno Do at AutoTrans last year (discussing the Africa Twin's power printout).

"This is the first time I've seen you without your leathers on" – Tom Barker to Steve Middleton at the AGM *(and just think, he was my Tail-end-Charlie on the run! Ed)*

Have you got any to embarrass your mates with? Send them to Steve to share the fun.

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



The January Prize Crossword Puzzle attracted thirteen entries, twelve of which were complete and correct. The lucky prize-winner (drawn at random from the twelve correct entries at the Club Night Meeting in February) was **George Cruden**.

Arthur Shepherd

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SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE SHOW 13/14 MARCH

For those going to the bike show and who may wish to meet up with other members and have a chat, a suggested meeting point is the IAM stand at 13:00 on each day.

David Jerome

SPANNER-WIELDERS RESOURCES

Those who like to get down and dirty under their beloved (bike, you fool, what did you think I was talking about?) might find this a useful resource – all 400 pages or so of it. Honda issues a Common Service Manual containing the routine repetitive activities and technical advice and instructions that apply to all bikes. It is available at www.honda4fun.com/man_officina/pdf_manuali/hcsm/hcsm_1.pdf - and …_2.pdf

This is an Italian site dedicated to the SOHC bikes, but the date on the Manual is 1988 and it is in English. Good reference material and explanations of how stuff works and should be fixed. I have burned it into a CD – about 7Mb total in the two PDF files

Steve Middleton

FEBRUARY'S GUEST SPEAKER

Roy Jackson, the Deputy Chair of the BMF Scotland gave us a very informative talk on protective clothing and the standards that apply and are frequently ignored by the manufacturers of motorcycle clothing.

He referred to the pioneering work of Dr Woods of Cambridge University in establishing valid standards and testing procedures for our gear. This work has been incorporated in the EU Personal Protective Equipment regulations, which require proven abilities in the clothing and its fittings if it is to be CE marked and described as protective. This rule is at least bent if not flouted by many of the well-known clothing manufacturers, and only a few are playing by the rules. The UK small manufacturers are doing well in meeting the standards and gaining certification. He mentioned RS leathers for clothing and gloves, Altberg, Oxtar and Hein Gerricke for boots., Protec and Knox for back protectors.

Despite the regulations existing and arguably being flouted (see the report and comments on the details of the standards, testing and a Buyers Guide plus negative comments on alleged rule-benders at **http://www.pva-ppe.org.uk/**) there is no enforcement by Trading Standards.

The definitive indicator of true CE equipment is a handbook with the garment detailing the specific items that have been passed/included/fitted and how to use and maintain them. Provision of this manual is a requirement of the regulations.

Other items of interest included the police Bikesafe programme being hived off to a private operator; and Euro-wide standardisation of licences for motorcycles/mopeds defining age/power/experience combinations that seem to restrict under-18s to 125cc/11Kw, and require three years post-test experience before an open capacity licence or wait until age 24 for Direct Access. The relaxations are Mopeds from age 14, and 125cc/11Kw from 16.

I may have got this detail a bit muddled, but it seems the current rules we are still getting used to regarding experience before full power will be more restricting and take longer. With my son currently lining up to do a Direct Access down in London I have mixed feelings about this. (He breezed his CBT in a morning but foolishly (in my penny-pinching view!) did not stay on to get more experience and practice for his money.)

Steve Middleton

THIS WEEKEND – 7 MARCH – BOB'S RUN

Bob Crawley leads one of his popular runs this Sunday from Abingdon services on the M74, departing at 9:30 with – in Bob's well-worn phrase – "Full tanks and empty bladders".

Get ready for some great scenery and good food and humour from Bob who knows the roads to the south of Abingdon pebble - by – pebble. He'll really blow away the winter cobwebs.

Be there – and write me a report!!

Steve Middleton

BUZZ OFF LATEST NEWS – CLOSING

Alan Hopper writes:

On Ireland, it's pretty much last chance now as I am closing it/finalising the hotel etc. For Northumberland, will be doing the same very soon. For Germany, still time but the sooner the better if anyone interested. Contact details were in the last edition.

CAMPING WEEKEND PROPOSAL

Ronnie Taylor writes:

Thinking of organising a weekend away under canvas (Tent) down to Keswick on the Sat 8th & Sun 9th of May, Leaving from the Dreghorn Services Edinburgh. Followed by a run around to Buttermere on the Sunday Morning before heading home. (Hopefully the weather should be decent then)

Will be a nice relaxed easy run, ideal for Newbie's, with a few beers in a local establishment in the evening of course!

How many of the Hardened Members would like to join in? Contact me so I can make the arrangements to let the campsite know: ronnie.taylor@virgin.net

Remembering you will need your own Tent, Sleeping Bag, Cooker etc! Further information will follow!

Ronnie Taylor

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IAN MUIR AT THE PALACE

He went down to the Palace and this is his story:

I went to the **New** LONDON motorcycle show, the one that used to be called the MCN Sports and Racing Bike show at the Alexandria Palace in London, on Thursday 5th. Feb. I took the wife as she was on holiday for a week and we went into London City centre for the afternoon to sightsee.

Well we set out to catch the red eye (easyjet 6.10 am) at Edinburgh, we arrived at Luton at an ungodly time of the morning where we jumped on the train to Kings Cross, Jumped onto the tube to get to Wood Green, on the Piccadilly line, where we caught the free (yippee) shuttle bus up to the Ally Pally to find that the damn place didn't open till 10 am!. (opens at 9 at weekends apparently)

We were there at 9.10 am so we just had a breakfast in the foyer and took some pictures. 10 am. came upon us and we were let in with the, by now, substantial crowd. First of all, let me tell you readers, the feeling you get when you are let loose at an event like this is one of sheer pleasure at the site of all that beautiful machinery and gear (the wife took the cheque book and visa card from me, boo hoo). I still managed to buy some items I was needing from the secret stash in the wallet.

The bikes were stunning, even the MZ stand was impressive as was the KTM stand. I was particularly interested in the Ducati that Steve Hislop rode to the 2002 BSB championship with. It was supposed to have been rebuilt by the Monstermob Ducati squad EXACTLY as Steve rode it that year but I was disappointed to see it had a No.2 plate on and not as pictured in the Motorcycle news with a No.1 plate as it should have been. But apart from that the show was, as it has been in the past, **excellent.**

The show stopper for me came when we approached the MV stand, (drool drool drool) which was stuck away in a corner for some reason. The MV in blue and silver, in my eyes, was enough to make a grown man weak at the knees.



Even my better half said "that's really nice isn't it, What is it?" WHAT IS IT? I replied I mean WHAT IS IT? Good grief woman I spluttered nearly in tears, this is motorcycling's finest offering and you ask What is it?

After the blood pressure came down a bit we had some lunch, said goodbye to the, by this time, very busy show and headed back to the city centre via a few tubes. If anyone is visiting London intending to do the sightseeing bit then I think the best way is to buy a Day Rover ticket which covers all the zones and includes travel on London Transport. Once we arrived at Piccadilly Circus we gathered our sense of direction together and headed for the London Eye.



This attraction has to be on your list of things to do and see. Very tight security to get on this one. Bag searches etc. why, they even check each vacated pod with mirrors to make sure no-one has left any devices on the interior air conditioning unit on the roof before the next party gets on.(25 people to a pod).You walk on and off when it is in motion as it is quite slow and takes 40 minutes for your "Flight" as they call it.

We covered that and visited The Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Trafalgar square, Piccadilly circus, and Covent garden. By this time we had to start retracing our steps to head back to Luton for the 8.50pm flight home.We had an extra hour to wait because of delays caused by the thunderstorm around Edinburgh on Thursday night. We eventually got home to Dunfermline just after midnight and boy were we knackered. It's just as well we had no work to go to the next day.

So that was my day out and very enjoyable it was. Till we meet again, safe biking if you're out and about, see you all soon,

Ian Muir FZR1000.

SCOTTISH BIKE SHOW – REPORT NEEDED

If you go, gimme a report for the April BikeBytes. Submit to the address at the bottom of page 2 (and others)

Steve Middleton

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Scottish Motorcycle Club

Calendar of Events for 2004

Date	Event / Meeting Point	Organiser
Monday 5 January	Glasgow Pint Night	Alan Hopper
Wednesday 28 January	Edinburgh Pint Night	Alan Hopper
Sunday 29 February	Pre-Falkirk Wheel Visit Depart West Port Parking Spaces, Linlithgow, 10:00hrs	Steve Middleton
Sunday 29 February	Falkirk Wheel Visit Booking Required	Alan Hopper
March	Arbroath Smokies Run Details tbc	Jerry Dawe
Sunday 7 March	2000 Acres of Sky Run to Galloway Depart Abington Services, 09:30hrs	Bob Crawley
# Sat-Sun 13–14 March - Scottish Motorcycle Show@ Ingliston, 09:00-17:00hrs		
Sunday 4 April	Central Belt Start Point Run Stirling Services, time tbc	Jim Simpson
# 30 April – 3 May – Dublin Trip – Buzz Off		
May	Moffat Run Details tbc	Jerry Dawe
Sat-Sun 8-9 May	Keswick Weekend Camp Booking Required. Depart Dreghorn Services, time tbc	Ronnie Taylor
# 11-16 May – NW200 Trip – Bike Ecosse		
Sunday 23 May	Central Belt Start Point Run Details tbc	Steve Middleton
Tuesday 25 May	East Belt Start Point Run Dreghorn Services, details tbc	Jim Simpson
# 21-30 May – Germany Trip – Bike Ecosse		
# 12-13 June – Northumberland Trip – Buzz Off		
Friday 18 June	Colin's Chip Shop Run Kinross services, 19:00hrs	Colin Stewart
Sunday 18 July	BMF Kelso Bikefest 10:00-17:00hrs, Camping from Friday to Tuesday	Arthur Shepherd
August	Bluegrass Weekend Details tbc	Alex Rennie
# 12-19 September – Germany Trip – Buzz Off		
November	Concorde Trip - East Fortune Details tbc	Alan Hopper
Saturday 4 December	Christmas Party Booking Required	Bob Crawley

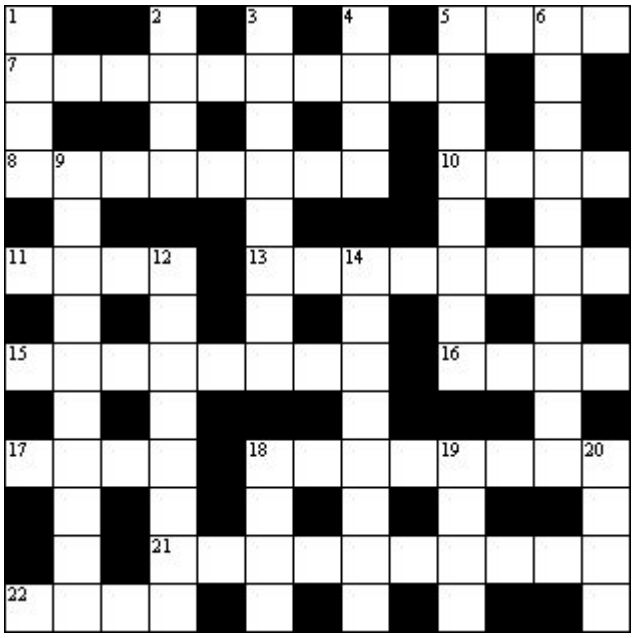
- These events are not SMC organised but are open to club members and noted here for information only.

This list is provisional, runs will be added and amended. Please check BikeBytes for the latest details or contact the appropriate organiser for clarification of specific points.

Please introduce yourself to the organiser upon arrival at the meeting point. Remember the tips for riding in a group, keeping the bike behind in sight by slowing down or stopping, as necessary.
High-visibility long sleeved vests and waistcoats are available from the Club Run Co-ordinator.

We look forward to your company. Enjoy your trip.

March prize crossword puzzle



Crossword and clues all compiled by Arthur Shepherd.

Across

5 The 15th of this month in the Roman calendar, on which Caesar was killed in 44BC (4)
7 Profession of newspaper management (10)
8 *and 21 Across and 16 Across* Important biking event at Ingliston 13/14 March (8, 10, 4)
10 Can be fun provided you have good waterproofs (4)
11 Cagiva 125cc two-stroke single (4)
13 Up where did Napoleon keep his armies? *[Tip: think classroom joke.]* (8)
15 Aerials (8)
16 *see 8 Across*
17 Useful transport for *22 Across* (4)
18 Period during which a machine (especially a computer) is inoperative (8)
21 *see 8 Across*
22 Arran definitely, but Whithorn? (4)

Down

1 Yamaha 1300 big, comfy sports tourers (1,1,1, *plural* = 4)
2 Ride at a moderately fast pace(!); extreme left-winger (4)
3 Robert, Scottish inventor of first full-size electric locomotive; Arthur, something to do with US motorcycles (8)
4 Concave reflector for receiving microwaves; particular recipe (4)
5 Enhances in value or quality, like your riding with experience and training! (8)
6 The throbbing motion down below comes from here and puts you at sea (10)
9 Ben Macdui is part; yellowish quartz crystals originate there (10)
12 What Events Co-ordinator Gordon is working, putting the Calendar of Events together (8)
14 Direction we'll head from Dreghorn for my Berwick & Northumberland Run (8)
18 Facts, figures or symbols (4)
19 Things for (sometimes big) boys and girls to play with; old Scots woollen or linen headdresses (4)
20 Pointed fencing or duelling sword without cutting edge, as demonstrated to Members by Jim and Norrie (4)

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