



Scottish Motorcycle Club

BikeBytes

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April 2004

Volume 5 Issue 4

WELCOME

Another big welcome, to another five new Members this month. They are: **Margaret Barker** from **Denny** who shares Tom's Suzuki GSF600S Bandit, **Matt Scott** who rides a Honda CBR600F4 (and recently celebrated yet another birthday) and **Fiona Montgomerie** who rides a Honda CB600F Hornet both from **Cumnock**, **Jan Graham** from **Balfron Station** who shares Gordon's Honda ST1300 Pan European, and **David Gourlay** from **Callander** who rides a Yamaha XV1100 Virago. A good time of year to join - with a full season of enjoyable Runs and Events ahead - and not just this season, for many seasons. Join in and have fun. And don't forget to introduce yourself when you turn up so that we get to know you. If you have comments or suggestions, don't be backward in coming forward! We would like to hear your ideas and benefit from your experience.

The total current membership is now 143.

Arthur Shepherd



Moraig tries Ronnie's Wing for size, 7 March



Port Logan run, 7 March



Ian's YZF1000 paint
Fuzz-y Pan & 999 @ show
On the harbour wall >
< Secret Bunker entrance

RUNS AND EVENTS

Jim Simpson will be taking us to **Inveraray** on **Sunday 4 April** leaving Stirling Services at 10am.

On the following **Sunday 11 April**, **Bob Crawley** has organised for us an SMC first, a "**Poker Run**" of about 200 miles in the Scottish and English Border Country. Meet at Abington Services on the A74(M) at 9am and be ready to leave at 9:30am sharp, with full tank and empty bladder! What is a Poker Run? Well, you just hand over £1 at the Meeting Point and pick a playing card, which you hold onto. Similarly, pick and keep three other cards at stops during the day's Run, and the final and fifth card at the Finish. The best hand scoops the jackpot and the winner has a free day! A lot of fun and a wee bit of spice just for a £1! Route maps will be available. If you intend turning out for this Run, please contact Bob (0157 3223203, e-mail: mail@bikecosse.fsnet.co.uk) so that he has an idea of numbers for catering. I hope lots of Members go on this one because I fancy winning! See you there!



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On **Sunday 18 April**, **Jerry Dawe** is leading a Run to **Moffat** leaving Livingston Services at 10am. Now, some Members (even those living in the Capital) have had difficulties in the past finding Livingston Services because, according to the road maps, it doesn't exist! We've used this Meeting Point many times but, for the benefit of new Members, it is the BP Garage just South off of Junction 3 of the M8. Simple!

Next month, **Ronnie Taylor** has his **Keswick Weekend Camp** on **Saturday - Sunday 8-9 May** for which you need to book with him at ronnie.taylor@virgin.net. Details were on p4 of the March issue of *BikeBytes*. You'll leave Dreghorn Services on Saturday, camp overnight, and have a nice Run around Buttermere before heading back on Sunday.

While we are looking ahead and thinking about camping, my Run to the **Shetland Simmer Dim Rally 16-21 June** is definitely **on!** Details were on p2 of the March issue of *BikeBytes*. If any other Member would like to join the select group that is going, please contact me **very urgently** because you'll need one of the special invitation forms that I hold, and this has to be sent to Shetland and the Aberdeen ferry booked. The Rally is very popular, with many folk returning year after year. But places are limited and in demand. You'll need to act quickly if you want to go this year.

Thanks to everyone who has already volunteered to organise a Run. There are still some slots to fill, so contact Gordon on 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

MEMBERSHIP

Many thanks to those many Members who renewed their subscriptions for this year promptly. You should have received your new Membership Card. If you think you have paid but haven't received your new Membership Card, there's a problem and you should contact me urgently.

If you haven't yet paid, please try to do so in the next few days. If you've lost your Renewal Form and need another one, please contact me. I would like to send out a new issue of the Contact List soon but you won't be included, or receive one, if you are not a current (ie paid-up) Member!

Arthur Shepherd

IAN MUIR'S YAMAHA GETS A BOOST

Hi Arthur,
My FZR has changed its coat over the winter. What do you think of it? It's as close as I can make it to the proper ones with the ability I have. Hope to see you soon, Regards from Dunfermline. **Ian Muir.**

WEBSITE MEMBERS AREA

The Members Area of our website is at www.smc2000.fsnet.co.uk/grampian/. It will remain there and I'll be keeping it up-to-date there *at least* until the end of April or beginning of May. This is to give Members time to renew their subscriptions. It is important that you frequently check the Members Area because this is where you will find the latest version of the Calendar of Events, the Newsflashes, etc. Our new Webmaster **Stewart Bowman** is hard at work on a new website but there's a lot for him to do. We'll let you know when it opens. In the meantime, keep checking the present one

Access to the Members Area is confidential and for current (ie paid-up) Members only. You soon won't be able to enter if you haven't renewed membership!
Arthur Shepherd

CAROLE NASH AND HONDA INSURANCE

As detailed in the March issue of *BikeBytes*, we are **Carole Nash** Insurance "Dealers"! You can contact them directly on their website www.carolenash.com or by telephoning free of charge on 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. If you like their quotation and decide to take out a policy with them, the Scottish Motorcycle Club will receive a modest commission into our bank account for the benefit of all Members.

Honda Insurance are also running a promotional insurance scheme at present. "We design them, we make them and now we insure them!" says the leaflet now available from Honda Dealers. (It also says "Buying any Honda motorcycle - used or new - marks you out as a discerning and intelligent purchaser". Nice that, they must have been thinking about Deauville riders!)

Some of the quotations from Honda I've heard about are quite remarkable (ie low). Apparently, you might get up to £300 off Honda's insurance premium if you buy a new bike from a Honda Dealer. Mind you, I don't know what their prices will be like when you come to renew in a year's time but, hey, that's a year away! You can phone them direct on 08700 780 102 or visit their website at www.honda.co.uk/insurance/. When I visited that website recently there was a note saying that on-line quotes would be available at the end of March. Honda Dealers (at least the ones I asked) don't seem to be offering to quote in-store, and just hand you the Honda leaflet.

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

Arthur Shepherd

NEXT MEETING

The next Club Night Meeting is on Wednesday 14 April 2004 in the Black Bitch Tavern, 14 West Port, Linlithgow, and will start at 8pm. Our **Guest Speaker** will be SMC Member, MAC Instructor and IAM Examiner Neil Stewart. Neil will give us an illustrated presentation "Tips on Enjoying your Rideouts". At least it will be illustrated if I can find a way of playing a 17-minute DVD of Neil doing a Run. We need a laptop or DVD player with a decent size of monitor or screen. Offers urgently to me, please (see contact details on p1).

Arthur Shepherd

MOT's FOR CENTRAL AREA MEMBERS.

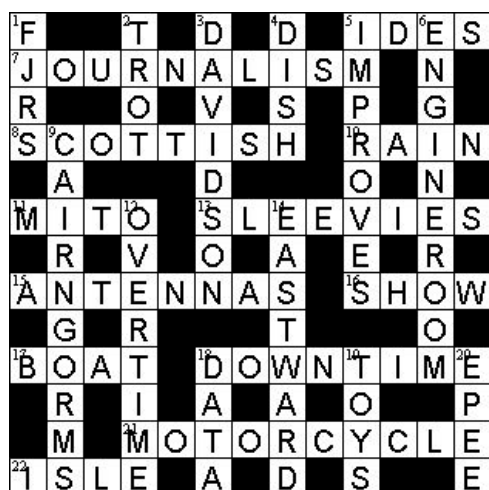
Hi Arthur,
Just had my old chunk o' iron MOT'd at a local garage where the service was accommodating, quick and courteous. I arranged to drop it off for 9am and had it back for 1pm 'cos that time suited me. All in all great service I think.

Details: REGENT MOTORS 01506 847788
Unit 6 Mill Road Industrial Estate, Linlithgow Bridge.
Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 12:30pm
Ask for Colin. He is also a biker.

Laurence Maher

(I've not used them for any 'bike stuff but can report good service and attention when a family member bought a car there. Mind, C&J Wilson in Uphall do MOT's on demand if possible – Ed Steve)

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



The mildly suggestive February Prize Crossword Puzzle for Valentine's Day attracted a record sixteen entries, but only thirteen were able to keep their minds on the job and finish correctly! The lucky prize-winner (drawn at random from the thirteen correct entries at the Club Night Meeting in March) was **John Branney**.

Arthur Shepherd

SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE SHOW 13/14 MARCH

I used the suggested meeting point of the IAM stand at 13:00 on Saturday and found Jerry Dawe and new Chairperson David Jerome, plus Bob Crawley and a friend. The first two and I had a bite for lunch before tackling the second hall. I had the chance to catch up with EDAM friends on the IAM stand and was delighted to see their chairman Jeff Glen walking about and well recovered from a *really* bad 'bike accident abroad last year.

The show was a bit disappointing in comparison with former years, and majored on the manufacturers' stands, although these were manned (and attractively womanned in some cases) by local dealers' staff – talked to SMC member and Alvin's staffer Charlie Guthrie on Ducati's about the 999 (!) that Grampian Police will be using for the BikeSafe programme oop north. Missing was the wide range of special deals and particularly for me the AutoJumble and Clubs sections. There was a display of old British bikes, including an example of the first 'bike I ever rode – a mate's Norton 350 single – up a forest track at a Scout camp!



A nice bonus came at the end of the Trials team competition, which involved some famous names including Jeremy MacWilliams. Multi-champion (oops – memory fade and reference material in the bin leads to doubts) Dougie Lampkin (?) was keeping his hand in, so to speak, with all the audience gone, and did a stationary bunny hop that included a 180° aerial spin – gulp – how do they do that? I've done enough Physics and Maths to know to know it should be almost impossible. Next was another bunny hop – from feet-up stationary, with the front wheel on a scaffold pole handrail about 750mm high – over it and into a drop of at least 2 metres!

Another highlight was a young lady asking if she could rub my trousers – with leather food! Foolishly I declined and restricted her to my boots – as I do every time I see a Renapur stand. Good stuff, bought some more including their new cleaner – good results.

Steve Middleton

FROM THE EYES OF A PILLION AND VIRGIN BIKE RIDER – 7 MARCH – PORT LOGAN

Today is the 7th March and after months of nagging (thought only women did this? – ha ha) from my partner Andy (Mason) I promised I would go on the next bike run, and as a woman of my word I went, although I would say on waking up Bed did look a lot more inviting than the cold wet dreary day that confronted me. As I got ready I really wondered what I was doing. I knew nobody and well I'd always said I would go one day but that day never appeared until today. As we left the house and got onto the A702 I was ready to call it off, I have never felt so cold in all my life. Although the views were great all I could think about was the cold.

I took about an hour to get to Abington service station – by then I felt a little better and thought: what Have I got to lose if I go on – a day's housework or a bike run....Well as you can see the bike run won. Once everyone had introduced themselves and a hot beverage was taken, we were given the route and a briefing saying that he (Bob Crawley, run leader) was opting for the "drop off" system. Well, being new to the crowd and never having been on a run before you can imagine my disappointment at this. I thought to myself, where would we be dropped off and what happens if we can't find the rest of the group and of course being shy.....I kept quiet and pretended I knew what Bob was on about!

So as we all rolled out it was about 9.30am and it became apparent to me that we would not be left abandoned in the middle of nowhere; it is the group's way of sticking together. The second rider in the group would stop off at a turn or junction so the rest of the us knew which way to go, then rejoin the tail end in front of the back marker. After an hour and a bit we stopped off for our first tea break at Newton Stewart golf club. It was a welcome sight, my feet were frozen; serves me right for putting thin socks on. Entering the coffee shop I headed straight for the bar, not for alcoholic drinks but to ask if they had a shop where I could buy an extra pair of socks. Just before leaving I was presented with a pair of socks that were gratefully received - warm feet at last. The rest of the journey I wouldn't have missed for the world; the sun was shining, it was warm and the scenic views were breath taking. I would say it pays to be a pillion for the view.

On reaching Port Logan everyone was hungry. After taking in some of the scenery we headed off for something to eat, only to be told that our table had been given away to a sudden influx of visitors. Bob headed off to the local pub to find they could accommodate us and so we invaded it to the amazement of the locals there, for a superb meal.

Leaving Port Logan the views were once again breathtaking as we made our way to Twynholm and invaded the lovely Last School Tea Shop. We

ordered our beverages and something to eat. By this time I felt like one of the lads and lasses; we had a banter, relaxed a bit before we set off for the last leg to Moffat. As the time was getting on the weather was beginning to change and home couldn't come quick enough. I was even tempted to swap bikes and try the luxurious comfort I could easily imagine aboard the Goldwing. I didn't give in to temptation and finished the run the way I started – on Andy's recently acquired Yamaha FZR600. On reaching Moffat most of us decided that home and the thought of a nice hot bath were calling, so we said our goodbyes and thanked Bob for a wonderful run.

I would just like to add a little bit more. By the time I got home every bit of my body ached but I would not have missed it for the world. Thank you for letting me be part of the amazing group and having the pleasure of all your company. I will hopefully be on the next run a little bit better prepared even when we reach speeds of 100mph....(Naughty Andy! Ed)
Total distance 296 miles

Moraig Warren

CRAIL & SECRET BUNKER – 28 MARCH

Sunday and the alarm went off at 07:30hrs BST but as far as my body was concerned it was really 06:30hrs GMT! Anyway it was time to get ready and get to Stirling services to meet up for Neil Stewart's run. Not a very good start mind you, after adjusting to the time change I had to come to terms with the fact it was raining in Livingston and I had to go for fuel and find a hole in the wall. As you can tell I'm not a morning person.

Arrived at Stirling services on time and ready to go. There were 10 bikes and 13 bodies – still to pick up Alan Graham at Powmill when we stop for coffee. It was nice to meet Steve's son Martin who was pillion for the trip – well done on the CBT and good luck with the test! Things just got better from here on in. The rain held off and after coffee the sun came out and we had dry roads and clear blue skies all day. In fact not only were we biking but we also managed to do some: "twitching" – we saw some kind of bird of prey at Knockhill; plane spotting – 3 gliders were out at Leven Loch; eating – lunch at the Golf Hotel in Crail was excellent value and catered for every requirement, followed by a spot of "espionage" at the secret bunker – Neil even managed to negotiate a special rate for entry.

I can't thank Neil enough for a thoroughly enjoyable Sunday day out. The company was excellent, the route and roads enjoyable, the pace was easy going, refreshments were just right, the bunker trip was a bonus and the weather was "spot on" once in Fife! This was my first club run this year and my first run using the "drop off" system – it was a brilliant run and I think the system worked really well. See you on the next one.

Tracy Macmillan

EDINBURGH KAWASAKI MOVE

The capital's Kawa dealership on Slateford Road is due to close at the end of June. Originating from the Uphall dealers C&J Wilson, they are apparently returning there. I'll be sorry to see them leave the new premises; it is the nearest dealership to my place of work and easily diverted to on my commute, for tyres, browsing, and a chat with another CBX750 owner behind the parts counter. So, there may be a few bargains going nearer closing time!

Steve Middleton

NEW RACING VENUE – EDZELL – Info received:

"Hello all you bikers out there !

We are the Bon-Accord Motorcycle Club from Aberdeen and we have just come to an agreement with the new owners of the former USAAF base at Edzell near Brechin. We are to run a number of National Motorcycle Road Races and Super-Moto races on the newly laid out track.

You can see on the web site www.edzellracing.com that the track plan is very exciting; the track is a bit longer than Knockhill, quite a bit wider and as a result the average speeds will be higher.

Also in the web site is the calendar of events and you will see that all the Nationals are 2-day events over the weekend. This was not done by accident, we want to have fun at these races and have people staying over the Saturday night, there will be camping facilities on the site. It is early days yet but eventually we would like to lay on dances, big bands, rallies.... a gathering.

We need the help of every biker in Scotland to make Edzell a success; there is a need for a focal point like this in the North East of Scotland. The Edzell site is huge and with the help of all the bikers in Scotland we can make this a huge event.

Can you have a look at our calendar of events and see if you could arrange any of your rallies or bashes around these dates so you can come and give us a visit or spend the night. The greater the numbers the better the atmosphere.

If you would like some more info. about the events drop me an E-mail and if you can manage to come, let us know so we have enough facilities laid on.

The competition dates are-

22nd and 23rd May ROAD RACING

7th and 8th August SUPER-MOTO

21st and 22nd August ROAD RACING

25th and 26th September SUPER-MOTO

Best regards",

Ken Whittaker

RUN CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATE

As you will note the SMC Calendar of Events on the members website has been updated with a column indicating the approximate mileage for the runs - if you have kindly volunteered to organise a run could you let me know the details as soon as you have them and indicate if you will need the club Hi Vis vests (2 long sleeved jackets and 3 waistcoats).

tandg@blueyonder.co.uk

Gordon MacMillan

CLUB WINDOW STICKER AVAILABLE

Shown here on my heavily tinted screen, the new club sticker costs £1 and is easy to apply neatly. The ruler is scaled in centimetres.

See me at meetings to get yours, or via post with a stamped SAE to my address in the footer on this page.

Steve Middleton

NATIONAL RALLY

George Cruden is thinking about entering this event, and asks if anyone else fancies joining a team for an intensive weekend clocking up some serious miles and navigating between checkpoints around GB. There are various classes available depending on how far you want to go. See the details at www.national-rally.co.uk George writes:

The National Rally this year is being held on the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of July. The final control is Uttoxeter Racecourse, although those people who may want to just get a finisher's medal need only do 200 miles and finish at any control. For the more adventurous there is a platinum award, which requires 540 miles checking in at various controls and doing a special stage held on the 20th June at Uttoxeter. There are four other awards between the medal and the platinum.

You can enter either as an individual or as a team of three. The cost of this little jaunt, organized by the A.C.U and the B.M.F, is £22 per rider plus £7 per passenger and a £6 fee for team entries. The beneficiary of any sponsorship is Mencap, Closing date for entries is 31st May.

Anyone wanting any more details please phone me on 01505 615598 or mobile 07899875738 and I will be happy to help in any way.

George Cruden

Scottish Motorcycle Club

Annual General Meeting
11/02/04 Black Bitch Tavern, Linlithgow

1. **Apologies**

John Mallet, Janet Moss, Gordon MacKinnon, Ronnie Taylor, Jim & Marion Campbell, Jim Semple, Elaine Scott, Margaret Bennie, Ursula Bowman

2. **Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes from the previous AGM were available for individuals to review.

Proposed by: N Millar, Seconded by: Jim McKechnie

3. **Chairperson's Report – Ronnie Howat**

Ronnie advised members that he was standing down for personal reasons but thanked members for all their support over the previous year.

4. **Finance – Alan Graham**

A statement of account had been prepared and circulated to members present at the meeting. The balance currently stands at £585.62. £400 is usually required at the start of the financial year to pay various bills.

5. **Secretary – Arthur Shepherd**

195 people have joined since the SMC began in 2000. There are 134 current members, 10 more than at the last AGM.

111 copies of Bike Bytes are issued every month, including 44 by post.

Each member receives a membership card, a BMF and MAG affiliation card, club rules and constitution, a Calendar of Events, Arthur's riding tips a contact list and a welcome letter. If they do not have e-mail they also receive a discount list and list of videos.

Enquiries come mainly from the website and from recommendations from other members. All inquiries receive a response either by letter or e-mail. SMC also had a stand at the BMF show in Kelso in July and this attracted a lot of interest and a few new members. This was the first exhibition that the SMC has ever done. Posters were also placed at the Scottish Motorcycle Show and BMF/MAG stands at Kelso

Pre-printed renewals will be sent out this month. Members were asked to respond promptly without waiting for a reminder. The new year starts on 1st April. Membership cards are printed and laminated for all current members, therefore if anyone is not intending to renew please advise Arthur to avoid unnecessary laminating and postage costs.

The subscriptions for 2004 remain unchanged; £12 single membership, £6 for an additional member at the same address, £6 for membership after 30th September.

Proposed by: Tom Brown, Seconded by: Jerry Dawe,

6. **Events – Gordon Macmillan**

No report issued for last year.

7. **Newsletter – Steve Middleton**

Steve thanked all members for their contributions, especially Arthur who has continued to provide regular articles.

8. **Website – Arthur Shepherd**

The website has two areas, a public area that anyone can find on the Internet and a private area intended for members. The public area is to encourage people to join and there is a response they can fill out which is sent to Arthur or sign the guest book. The area only has an extract of the calendar of events but mentions the benefits of joining.

The private area is a reference area for members with newsflashes, calendar of events, links to other

sites members discounts, picture gallery of member's bikes, postcards, video club details, an application form you can print off and send to prospective members, a list of the committee, and tips for riding in a group. Finally there is a member's discussion forum where you can post and respond to messages.

Over the last year the private area has been visited approx 1900 times (an average of 157 per month and the public area approx 1500 (an average of 126 per month).

The website will move to a new location for 2004.

9. **Elections**

The new committee was elected as follows:

Chairperson – David Jerome; Proposed by: Jerry Dawe, Seconded by: Arthur Shepherd,

Treasurer – Judy Broad; Proposed by: Arthur Shepherd, seconded by: Alan Graham,

Membership secretary; Arthur Shepherd (continuation),

Events Organiser; Gordon Macmillan (*pro tem* position confirmed),

Meetings Secretary; Katharine Jackson (continuation),

Editor; Steve Middleton (continuation),

Webmaster; Stewart Bowman; Proposed by: Arthur Shepherd, Seconded by: Alan Graham

Members without portfolio; Neil Stewart, Norrie Millar.

10. **Any other Business**

Steve Middleton announced that he has a stock of clothing such as hats and T-shirts available for purchase. Other goods can be seen in the catalogue, also available from Steve.

Alan Graham circulated some sample SMC stickers and asked whether members would be interested at a cost of 95p each. The majority were in favour of the small transparent ones therefore Alan will place an order.

11. The meeting was closed with Arthur thanking Ronnie for standing as chairperson over the last year, and Steve Middleton paying tribute to Alan Graham for all the hard work which he has done as treasurer since SMC began.

12. Ronnie welcomed the new committee members and officially closed the AGM.

Katherine Dallman

Scottish Motorcycle Club

Monthly meeting – Wednesday 11/2/2004 Black Bitch Tavern, Linlithgow

1. **Chairperson**

The meeting was opened by the new chairperson Dave Jerome. Dave thanked the previous chairperson Ronnie and said that he hoped to continue to in the same vein as Ronnie.

Minutes of previous meeting.

Proposed by Bob Crawley, Seconded by Alex Rennie

Secretary – Arthur Shepherd

Ronnie Taylor has discovered some quilted Hi-Viz vests and is trying to negotiate a discount.

Arthur circulated details.

Arthur has received an e-mail from the Scottish Motorcycle Show organisers, offering the club a discount but contained no further details. Arthur to follow up.

An organisation called Moto Events is offering European motorcycle tours. Arthur circulated details.

2. **Events – Gordon Macmillan**

Arthur announced details of several rallies;

27/19 Feb – Cold Arse Rally

4 – 6 June – MAG Harburn Rally.

The closing date for Alan Hopper's trip to the Falkirk wheel is tonight. Steve Middleton is organising a run beforehand around the roads of Linlithgow.

It was agreed that events should be organised as per previous years where a blank calendar of events is issued and people place their names against the provisional dates.

So far there are 2 runs to be scheduled in May, a trip to Shetland, a 10 loch run, a run to Berwick and a trip to East Fortune to see Concorde.

The next scheduled run to take place after the Falkirk Wheel is on 7th March, organised by Bob Crawley and will take riders to Galloway. Departure will be 9:30 am at Abingdon Services.

Bob Crawley proposed that the Xmas dinner is moved to a weekend. He announced details of the Red Lion at Culross that will accommodate 35 people. Costs are not known although the current standard menu is approx £15. Alternatively there is the option of having a night away at Galloway for a cost of £35 pp. This includes a Xmas buffet, a disco (in a separate room) and B&B. For an additional £13 members could get an additional night (including breakfast).

It was proposed to schedule it at the beginning of December to avoid conflict with other Xmas commitments.

3. **Any other business**

Whether the club will adopt a charity or not will be discussed at the next meeting. Jim McKechnie suggested that it was placed in an advanced agenda so that members had the opportunity of voicing their opinions.

Norrie Millar proposed an annual charity event. This will be considered further.

4. **Video Club**

There are currently 37 videos available. Members are encouraged to use it as it's free of charge.

5. **Crossword**

There were 13 entries, 12 of which were correct. This month's winner is George Cruden.

6. **Next meeting**

Wednesday 10th March 2004 at Black Bitch Tavern (downstairs) 8pm.

Katherine Dallman

Scottish Motorcycle Club

Monthly Meeting Wednesday 10/03/04 Black Bitch Tavern, Linlithgow

1. **Apologies**

John and Marilyn Simpson, Alex Rennie, Hamish Davidson, Ursula Bowman, Bob Crawley

2. **Minutes from previous meeting**, Not available.

3. **Secretary's Report – Arthur Shepherd**

All new members have been listed in Bike Bytes. The majority were introduced by Bob Crawley and the last run. Approximately 30 renewals have been received to date.

4. **Treasurer – Judy Broad**, Nothing to report.

5. **Events – Gordon Macmillan**

The current calendar of events has been published on the website and also issued with Bike Bytes. If anyone would like to organise a run they should contact Gordon.

Forthcoming events:

28/3 – Fife Coast & Secret Bunker with Neil Stewart, departing 9:30am Stirling Services

3-4/7 National BMF Rally – various awards are given for mileage and number of checkpoints a rider passes through. Team entries of at least 3 people are required. Cost is £20 per person

16-21/6 Simmer Dim Rally, Shetland. This is by invitation only – details available from Arthur Shepherd.

Events taken place:

7/3 Bob Crawley's run to Galloway. Feedback indicated that it was a well-organised run with a turnout of 17 bikes.

29/2 Falkirk Wheel – photos are on the website.

6. **Website – Stewart Bowman**

Stewart reported that he was looking at the re-designing the website e.g. having a club e-mail address and e-mail addresses for committee members and maybe even members.

Arthur has give Stewart a copy of the CD containing a copy of all the source files which make up the existing website.

Arthur reported the following: 118 visits to the private area, 145 visits to the public area

7. **Newsletter – Steve Middleton**

Steve has received articles for the recent Sunday run which will be issued in the next edition of Bike Bytes. As usual anyone who would like to contribute articles are encouraged to do so.

8. **Merchandise - Steve Middleton**

Catalogues are available if anyone wants to place an order. There is some stock available.

A further selection of stickers were circulated at the meeting. It was agreed that 200 would be ordered at a cost of £1 or less.

9. **MAG – Norrie Millar**

Norrie read out various articles which may be of interest to members. 11/4/04 Easter Egg Run, departing Kelvin Way, Glasgow 1:30pm. A free MAC course is being donated.

4-6/6 Edinburgh & District MAG rally.

A reminder was given to members that a BMF and MAG folder is available at every meeting.

10. **Video Club** There are a total of 37 videos available for members to hire free of charge.

11. **Crossword**

There were 16 entries this month, 3 were incorrect. This month's winner is John Branney.

12. **AOB**

A reminder was given to members that volunteers will be required if SMC runs a stand at this year's Bikefest at Kelso.

Norrie Millar suggested that the club should have a guest speaker i.e. an experienced rider or MAG representative to provide the club with some general ideas about riding in groups. Alternatively it could be held as an open discussion. This will be carried forward to the next meeting.

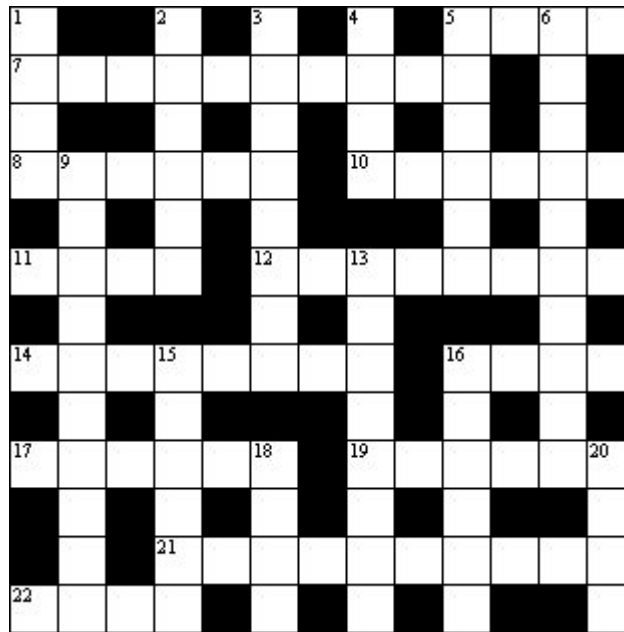
13. **Next meeting**

14/4/04, Black Bitch Tavern, Linlithgow. Resuming in the function room upstairs.

Katherine Dallman



April prize crossword puzzle



Crossword and clues all compiled by Arthur Shepherd.

Across

- 5 Trivial lies (4)
- 7 We've sprung forward to it (6, 4)
- 8 *and 10 Across* We went down there in March but can't tell you where it is! (6, 6)
- 10 *see 8 Across*
- 11 4840 square yards (4)
- 12 We're off to this group of 100 isles for the solstice (8)
- 14 Records, as your odometer does, the more Runs you go on (6, 2)
- 16 Organiser of Run to *8 Across and 10 Across* (4)
- 17 Current season (6)
- 19 Fuel quality number (6)
- 21 Nutritious (10)
- 22 Puts a question (4)

Down

- 1 Egyptian goddess of nature, the Thames above Oxford (4)
- 2 Come out of garage after winter lay-up (6)
- 3 Complains, demonstrations (8)
- 4 An arm or a leg (4)
- 5 Herb of carrot family (6)
- 6 RNVR flag (4, 6)
- 9 Australian gum tree (10)
- 13 Feeling of elation or well-being you get riding your bike (8)
- 15 Australian city, Scottish terriers, piles of stones (6)
- 16 Rough, difficult, not smooth [as applied to a gearbox] (6)
- 18 Fix, stick (4)
- 20 Small Inner Hebridean island with a sgurr - and a horsey tail! (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