

Scottish Motorcycle Club BikeBytes



BBytes0503.doc / .pdf

March 2005

Volume 6 Issue 3

WELCOME

We would like to extend a very warm Scottish Motorcycle Club welcome this month to three new Members, the first three of 2005. **Mike and Linda Belton** from **Helensburgh** ride a Honda Shadow and a Honda 400 Super 4. **Nigel Kingon-Rouse** rides a Triumph Bonneville and, although he lives in **Balerno** near Edinburgh, he contacted us from Saudi Arabia. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting or event soon and hope that you enjoy making new but long-lasting friends by joining in. Mike, Linda and Nigel bring the current membership to 140.

I have had some good runs out on the bike recently, in between the periods of snow, ice and salt. The sunshine feels that much warmer, new bike models are being launched, the Scottish Motorcycle Show takes place on 12-13 March; MOTs are due for those of us who bought a two-year-old bike this time last year or before. I know because I just realised it applies to me - and not just me, to my Deauville as well, probably the best bike in the world!

I have a new badge, presented to me recently by someone who clearly knows me. It says, "CAUTION - Young Bike - Old Bloke". Seems about right!

Arthur Shepherd



Who's a happy chappie then?
Jim Simpson shows off his
tent - see story inside on p3

NEXT MEETING

The next **Club Night Meeting** is our **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday 9 March 2005 in the Black Bitch Tavern, 14 West Port, Linlithgow, and will start at 8pm. Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be served.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As you know, the next Club Night Meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 9 March 2005. We could do with some fresh faces on the Committee to bring with them some fresh ideas so we are inviting you to consider joining the Committee. The Committee rarely meets other than at our regular monthly Club Night Meetings and you need not necessarily volunteer to hold a particular Post but your opinions would be listened to and you might be able to help organise a few things relevant to your skills and experience. So it need not be an onerous undertaking! You might like to consider a Post later, once you've taken part.

We haven't yet received nominations for all the Posts, which are: Chairperson, Editor, Events Co-ordinator, Meetings Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and WebMaster, although several of the present Postholders are able to continue. In addition, there are currently two Committee Members without Portfolio, at least one of whom is not offering himself for re-election. If you would like to discuss any of these Posts, have any questions, or need more information, please contact me.

Outwith the Committee, there is also a BMF Representative (presently David Jerome).

If you can't attend the AGM but would like your vote to be counted, send in the Proxy Form, which is attached to the AGM Notice. Thanks if you already have done.

Arthur Shepherd

VOUCHER - SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

Motobrio 01573 420287
Stand H87 - Scottish Motorcycle Show
*For all your motorcycle clothing
and accessories*

10% OFF WITH THIS VOUCHER

Contact for Scottish Motorcycle Club:

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

Tel: 0131 441 3548 Mobile: 0773 00 66 99 6

E-mail: secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

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

RUNS AND EVENTS

On **Sunday 6 March**, **Peter Cook** is leading us **Firth and Forth to Leven and Largo** for the first Scottish Motorcycle Run of 2005. Meet at the Hotel by the Forth Road Bridge, North Queensferry at 11am (take the first exit after you come off the bridge for North Queensferry). The lunch stop is at the Crusoe Hotel at Lower Largo for about 12.15 to 12.30 (ETA).

Depending on how people feel after lunch there are two choices:

1. the quick way back or
2. back roads to Cupar and back to Kinross Services where the Run can end.

If we take the Cupar route, it's roughly 80 miles in total and we should all be back for 4pm. In case you have any questions, Peter is in the Contact List on 01506 840 295.

The **Scottish Motorcycle Show** is at the Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston, Edinburgh on **12 and 13 March** and you can find details on their website at <http://www.scottishmotorcycleshow.com/http://www.scottishmotorcycleshow.com/>.

Charley Boorman, Ewan McGregor's friend who accompanied him the Long Way Round the World, will be bringing the BMW R1150 GS Adventure motorcycle that he rode, appearing on the BMW Motorrad stand at the Show on both days at 11 am and 2 pm.

David Jerome is offering to meet us on the Honda Stand at 1pm on the Sunday for a blether.

On **Sunday 20 March**, **Jerry Dawe** will be taking us to **Moffat and Beyond** departing from Livingston Services. He has produced a route listing and this should be up on the Club website so you can get familiar in advance if you have the connection.

Looking ahead now to June and July!

You may remember the article in BikeBytes (and currently on my personal website with more photographs at <http://www.dreghorn99.freeserve.co.uk/04shetland/04shetland.htm>) about **Old Art's SMC Run to the Shetland Simmer Dim Rally** last year Well, my precious invitation to the 2005 23rd Simmer Dim Rally on **16-19 June**, has just arrived! Would you like to join me this year by travelling to the Rally and making the excursions to see the sights that we visited last year? We would be departing from Dreghorn Services and then Kinross Services on Wednesday 15 June, overnight sailing from Aberdeen to Lerwick, camping (or whatever) and doing runs around the islands until Sunday morning, overnight sailing from Lerwick to Aberdeen, and arriving back at Kinross Services and Dreghorn Services on Monday 20 June in the afternoon. There are live bands, discos, barbecue, buffets, games and

competitions, visit by the famous Viking Jarl Squad, etc and interesting people to meet from all over. They will have real Shetland Ale this year! I couldn't believe they served only canned McEwan's Export last year. Northlink Ferries are offering a 30% discount so it's a good opportunity to visit this fantastic land. I just love it! Please let me know if you are interested in going because there is an additional discount for groups!

The **BMF Kelso Bikefest** is on **Sunday 17 July**. I have gone camping and marshalling to every one since they started and I'm going again this year! The four SMC Members who marshalled last year earned the SMC a discount of £117 off our BMF Affiliation Fee this year! Just for having some fun as a BMF Marshal and helping out a bit. What's more, as a Marshal, you can camp and get fed for free! I'll do a **Run to the BMF Kelso Bikefest** departing Dreghorn Services at 1pm on **Friday 15 July** and returning from Kelso on **Monday 18 July** departing at 1pm - for those camping, staying in B&B, etc. **Bob Crawley** is once again doing a **Rideout** from the site on **Saturday 16 July**.

SMC will have a **Stand** at the Bikefest and **David Jerome** needs volunteers to help. If you are interested in marshalling, accompanying me on my Run, helping on the SMC Stand, or would like more information, just contact me.

Here's to an exciting start to the Season! The very latest up-to-date version of the **Calendar of Events** is always available to you on our website at <http://www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk/rannoch/events2005.htm>.

Arthur Shepherd

DISCOUNT OFFER AT INGLISTON SHOW

Just thought I would let you know that I will be offering recipients of the attached voucher additional discount if they turn up with it at the Show in March.

I am on Stand H87 in the main hall and will be selling helmets, luggage, clothing, boots, gloves and some kids and off-road stuff, as well as the full range of Oxford Products. See my website for more details I always try and undercut the best prices offered anywhere - our motto is 'Affordable Quality!'.

Russell Taylor - MotoBrio

SOMETHING DIFFERENT – SNOW SLEDS

These websites includes some amazing video of sleds doing "ohmygawd" stunts in powder snow. Motocross arena stunts on SkiDoo's at -36°C! Check out the flip in the middle of the first one.

<http://www.big-boys.com/articles/topsnow.html>

<http://www.sledporn.com/> (It's OK – squeaky clean)

Steve Middleton

JIM SIMPSON SUGGESTS CAMPING KIT

Last year I was looking for a tent to take with me when I went to Wales. I looked up various sites on the web and came across "World of Camping". The tent I settled on is an Aztec Merida priced at £99.99. This is a great tent for anyone who wants to go camping as it is quite compact and can fit on the pillion of my bike (this is if you have a Pan European) This two berth tent is easily assembled and has two compartments, one is a sleeping compartment and the other is a garage! (Please see picture on page 1).

My Pan fits easily into the tent and can be out of sight, anyone passing would never know the bike was hidden away. You can swan off to the pub with an easy mind. The sleeping compartment can accommodate a double sleeping bag and this means you can have the love of your life in the garage space and your partner (wife etc) with you in the sleeping area. For you tall people you can also stand upright in the tent, which makes it easier to get your kit off, ask Alec Rennie.

Jim Simpson

EVENTS DIARY UPDATED INFORMATION

The events calendar for 2005 is starting to fill up, there are 16 events already. Please contact Janet and John Moss (john.moss@sun.com) with details of the run you are proposing (date, destination, meeting point/time, approx mileage (if known) and any other info you think is relevant), just check the latest calendar of events on the website (see Arthur's article on page 2 for the URL). Don't be shy, and don't feel your run has to be over 200 miles to have a chance of winning the 'Fine Art' shield for the best run of the year! We have some great roads just on our doorsteps, so take this opportunity to show the other members of the club your favourite routes.

John & Janet Moss

- AND A BIT OF USEFUL INFO:

Lothian and Borders safety camera website.

May prove useful should you ever consider going faster than the law allows, heaven forbid!

<http://www.lbsafetycameras.co.uk/articles.php?frmArticleID=84&staticId=2>

John Moss

KIT TESTS – By Ed Steve

Last month chair David Jerome commented on Costco floor panels. Just what I need for the garage, and they do a great job of insulation and comfort along the base of the workbench. Very neat.

I also got great service and 10% discount from Colin at Forth Gear in S. Queensferry on a set of crash bungs by R&G. I do **not** intent to write a user report!

AMERICAN QUALITY KIT – AEROSTICH

Go see some terrific stuff including their famous RoadCrafter suit; order a free catalogue or browse the website. Get a feel for US touring attitudes too.

I particularly like the novel Bar End Helmet Lock at: <http://ride.aerostich.com/product.php?productid=17027>

If you do decide to order, just watch out for shipping and customs taxes, discussed on the site. If I were ever in the Duluth area I'd be sure to drop in and be tempted.

Steve Middleton

MIDDLETON JUNIOR – LATEST

Club friends have kindly shown interest in my son's biking development as reported by proud Dad, so the latest news:

Martin has bought a Yamaha R6, 2001 model if I remember correctly, Red/Black/White. He checked it out carefully with a mate who already has one similar and knows a bit about spannering. No riding reports yet – he's off skiing in Austria as I write, leaving it tucked up at his work. I've not scared Mum yet with "what'll it do mister" details, but he's been well warned, with strong shoves in the direction of the IAM. Dunno when I'll see it, not even a pic yet. So, if anyone has any experiences or tips to pass on, please get in touch.

Steve Middleton

HERE IS THE SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY'S PRIZE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

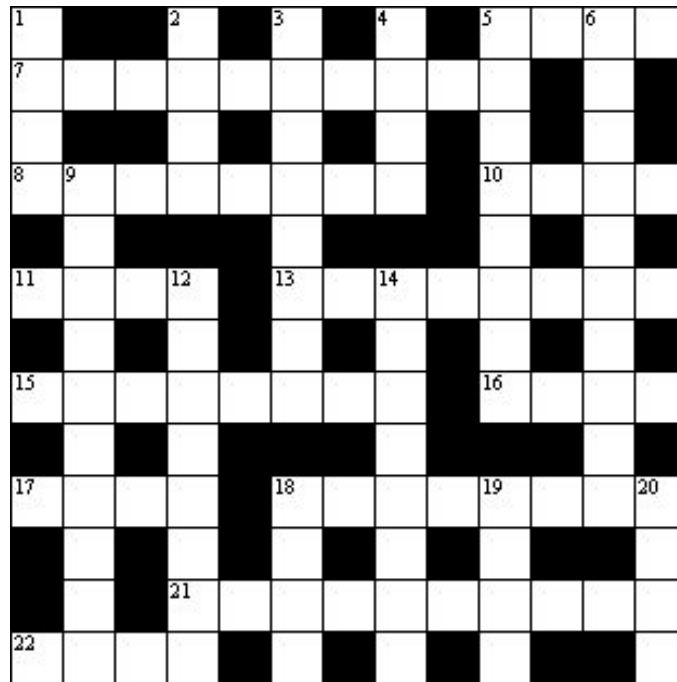


The January Prize Crossword Puzzle attracted twelve entries, all of which were complete and correct. The lucky prize-winner (drawn at random at the Club Night Meeting in February) was **George Cruden**.

Arthur Shepherd



March prize crossword puzzle



*Crossword and Clues compiled by Arthur Shepherd.
There may be snow about but Spring is near and we are thinking about
Runs, Bikes and fettling this month! Old Fine Art*

Across

- 5 Lepus with long ears, form but no burrow, mad in March (4)
- 7 *see 8 Across*
- 8 *and 7 and 10 Across:* At Ingleston, Edinburgh on 12-13th (8, 10, 4)
- 10 *see 8 Across*
- 11 Red planet; Roman God of War (4)
- 13 Self-government; lit. self-law but it's clearly not automatic! (8)
- 15 Professional motorcycle mechanic concerned with design, maintenance, etc (8)
- 16 Hebridean home of St Columba (4)
- 17 Soldiers walking together keep in it, especially during this month! (4)
- 18 Radio or TV bulletins about topical current affairs (8)
- 21 Two days before Easter (4, 6)
- 22 Operating over distances; extending like forks (prefix) (4)

Down

- 1 Australian flightless birds (4)
- 2 Foal; US inventor of a gun with a rotating breech (4)
- 3 Make a substance more likely to react chemically (8)
- 4 Institute of Caterers, Restaurateurs and Hoteliers, maybe (1, 1, 1, 1)
- 5 Capital of Finland (8)
- 6 Speaks in favour of; suggests favourably (10)
- 9 Place to buy a replacement for an anchor cable? Or one of several shops selling similar goods and owned by the same company (5, 5)
- 12 Loss of power in transmission; loss of traction (8)
- 14 Get rid of; divest oneself of; high-side (5, 3)
- 18 Meridiem, not post or ante (4)
- 19 Wire winding for producing high voltages for plugs (4)
- 20 Surely doesn't apply to bikes although some people accuse us of playing with them and behaving like children (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