Scottish Motorcycle Club

BikeBytes

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August 2005

Volume 6 Issue 8

WELCOME

If you are a new member, WELCOME to the SMC and this edition of BikeBytes. We all hope you enjoy our company and activities. The weather has been pretty good recently, and with holidays there has been a dearth of Runs apart from some arranged fairly *impromptu*. See below and the website Events section for fuller details of our planned activities, sometimes including a route.

Steve Middleton (editor)

Kelso: Arthur at play (look at that – *err* - sky – and the green reaction!) Les on the Rideout







NEXT MEETING

The next **Club Night Meeting** is on Wednesday **10th August 2005** upstairs in the Black Bitch Tavern, 14 West Port, Linlithgow, and will start at 8pm. Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be served.

RUNS AND EVENTS

Sunday 7th August : Cook Mystery tour
Depart M74 Abington services 10.30am. Finish Livingston services 5pm?? Lunch is picnic if the weather is good or there are places to go if bad. Guess the mileage and win a bottle of wine.
Peter Cook (& relations?).

Sunday 21st August : Ten Lochs tour
Meet M9 Stirling services 9.45 for 10.00 depart.
Arthur Shepherd.

Sunday 4th September : Grampian Motorcycle Convention, Alford. No details of arrangements, so keep an eye on the website or phone John Moss nearer the time.
(Why not volunteer to lead the Run?)

Sunday 11th September : Floors Castle, Kelso
Meet A720 Dreghorn services 9.45 for 10.00 depart, bring picnic.
Janet&John Moss.

Chairperson David Jerome is looking at running a **Treasure Hunt / Navigation Test** with a BBQ in **September**, date and details to be confirmed, however if any one wants to give a hand please get in touch.

Why don't YOU organise something? Make a suggestion to John or Janet Moss and help will be offered. Several runs have been organised recently for evenings and had good support. We just need someone to act as the focus and inspiration; the rest of us will support and advise. Take us to your favourite roads or destination; show us the interesting or secret parts of your area. Another easy way to get involved in organising a Run is to volunteer for Tail-End Charlie duty – you get to wear a yellow vest and wave *Thank You* to kind motorists! – and watch all the others' riding styles.

Steve Middleton

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THE "DOUBLE A" TRIP TO MALLAIG & SKYE

This is a little update on the Mallaig trip over the weekend of 12-14 August 2005, **Leave 9.30am from Stirling Services.** See July's BikeBytes for route.

This run is available to anyone in the club if they want to go. They could arrange B+B for only one night, have dinner, return on Saturday or just come as far as they want and then return on their own.

Alan Graham

TRACY MACMILLAN'S FUNERAL

The Club was well represented by about a dozen members who joined with family and friends at Dunfermline cemetery to celebrate Tracy's life. A large escort of bikes accompanied the hearse and cars from the family house, with staff and students from the local bike training school marshalling at the junctions. The crematorium room seats full with family and friends, and three sides of the room lined by standing bikers, spoke volumes about how well liked Tracy was. The Club's condolences were given to her parents and husband Gordon. They each expressed their appreciation of our presence, and asked that their thanks be passed to the members.

BMF KELSO BIKEFEST

Les Mackie's weekend : 15 – 18th July

Friday 15th, 1pm @ Dreghorn services. Arthur Shepherd and I managed to boost our numbers by welcoming three other non-SMC members to join us for the run down as they were going to the camping weekend also. We quickly made friends with Mike and Sue on a Harley look-a-like, and waved at another biker on a real Harley who came in and introduced himself as another Mike. Arthur of course had his "best bike in the world" and I the Honda CB500. All the bikes were gleaming in the sunshine as we set off down the bypass onto the A68 for a relaxed ride down to Kelso.

On arriving we pitched tents and reported for marshal duty on the main gate. The site was really busy with bikers roaring in, and we later enjoyed the live groups on the stage while having a few beers.

Saturday 16th Main gate duty again, but luckily there were more marshals than needed, and I got away to go on Bob Crawley's Rideout with about 70 bikes. He briefed us and led a route that took us through the Ettrick Forest and the B7009, Ettrick Water sparking in the sun beside the road and the feel-good factor kicking in big time. Tea break at the Kagyu Samye Ling monastery and Tibetan centre at Eskdalemuir. What a stunning totally unbelievable sight hidden in the Borders. After a quick visit to the monastery we had our refreshments at the tea-house and sampled home baking.

On the bikes again past Boreland, north to Moffat and the Hammerland centre for lunch outside on the patio overlooking a little loch.

Then, back on the A701 and St Mary's Loch for a photo session before returning to Kelso. A big Thank You to Bob on his Pan, in the lead and in total control as usual, with his friend taking up the rear on another Pan. The evening slipped past enjoying the live bands, and beer.

Sunday 17th Open Day. We were on duty in the bike park until 1.30, when we ate and put our bikes on the SMC stand with David's GTS and Steve's VFR. Jerry in his own inimitable style told us to Bug Off as we might put people off with us wearing our BMF marshal kit *(smart shirts and hats – Ed.)* We returned to duty, pausing to get pictures with the lovely Yamaha girls. The evening was spent in town for food and drinking with some local lads and lassies in the Red Lion – 100 years old the day before.

Monday 18th Arthur and I walked the 10 minutes into town for breakfast, meeting Bob Crawley shopping for shoes before his holiday in Spain starting in a few hours. We returned to the campsite and I packed ready to go, leaving Art. to stay on a little longer.

It was a great weekend, and the weather was perfect.

Les Mackie

Sunday 17th The Club's stand and tent at the show was a focus for members over the day and we saw at least 30 and attracted the attention of many more of the general public. We gained several new members, and their fees! I met some bikers from another Club and had a useful technical discussion concluding with the offer of a specialist tool. Many visitors were from down south and at the start of a tour of Scotland in the following week, so routes and stops were discussed. The weather was perfect.

Jerry Dawe had taken the hardware down in his car, and by 9 when David J and I arrived the stand was all set up and ready to go. Jerry's son Nick had worked like a good-'un, and we only had to add the bits we'd bought with us to put on a very effective display. Alan Graham and David had produced loads of pictures of runs, I had six examples of BikeBytes on display, and we had our Club shirts on. The banner out front announced our presence, and the activity with members and visitors attracted a lot of attention and kept us busy talking. So much so that a neighbour of mine came by but didn't get to say Hello. So, next year, make a point of coming down, and offer to help. Use the tent to leave your kit in – we'll turn our backs while you change!! Unfortunately Hein Gericke were not present this year, so no news of stunning deals on kit like last time, but all the other usual stands were there, and I found a really nice pair of gloves.

Steve Middleton

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CHAIRMAN DAVID'S EVENING RUN
THURSDAY 21 JULY

A good number – maybe 14 – met at the Black Bitch / West Port car park at 7 for a run on local roads in good weather and conditions. Poor Deborah arrived to show off her new BMW650 (complete with very butch ally side cases) but suffering badly from hayfever. David led us out alongside the canal towards Torphicen and back to Beecraigs before aiming for Dechmont. Frequent "Drop-Offs" meant I had seen everyone's riding by now as Tail End Charlie, and this last bit had Deborah in front of me, and I noticed her head bobbing up and down regularly – she was sneezing! She succumbed to the problem and retired to home and the care of some antihistamine. Les Mackie was having his final fling on the CB500 – and Boy, does he get animated on that thing! I wonder if the VFR will be muscled around as much. We bypassed Bathgate, visited Whitburn, West Calder, Breich, Fauldhouse, Blackridge, Armadale, Avonbridge and returned to Linlithgow by the road past Muiravonside Country Park. Refreshments were taken in the Black Bitch. Very nice indeed – just about the best way to spend a balmy summer evening I can think of. The best guess at the run length of 60 miles was rewarded with a bottle of bubbly, the most midge-infested fairing with a bottle of wash and the cleanest – a white BMW – with a sponge. Thanks Big Lad.

Steve Middleton

LES MACKIE'S TROSSACHS RUN
FRIDAY 29TH JULY

The forecast was incorrect! It said we would have a dry day on Friday, they lied! However I rode to Stirling services, interested to see who would turn up. It was damp, but as I arrived at the services it started raining fairly heavily. As I was early I went inside for a coffee and sat watching the carpark to see who would be equally foolhardy. Les arrived about 6:50 and we waited until about 10 past, but it became apparent that we'd be the only ones. Fortunately it had stopped raining by then and we donned the yellow vests and set off (I was tail end Charlie!).

Les was on his new (to him) VFR800. I think he likes it a lot! We left the services and headed towards Stirling along the Bannockburn road, turning left along an unclassified road towards Carron Bridge. We joined the B818 at Carron Bridge and headed along the Carron valley to Fintry. Much of this road has been re-surfaced and is much better for it. At Fintry we turned right on the B822 towards Kippen then took an unclassified left to Arnprior. At the A811 we turned right, then left onto the B8034 towards Port of Monteith. The lake was very picturesque, like a millpond with a couple of lone fishermen in their boats. From here we took the A81 to Aberfoyle. We stopped here for a coffee at a little café (sorry can't remember it's name, Les may know it) on the high street. It was good to get off the bikes and have a little walk around. The café was really good, and would be a good lunch stop if anyone was planning a rideout in the area.

We did consider cutting the rideout short from here, but decided we would complete it as planned. We headed off through the Queen Elizabeth forest park on the A821 Duke's pass towards Loch Katrine and around Lochs Achray and Venachar. Before we reached the A84 we took a right along another unclassified and by passed Callendar, joining the A81 and then onto the B822 to Thornhill. From here we took the A873 and joined the A84 close to Blair Drummond Safari Park. We stopped just short of the motorway for Les' closing speech!

I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, especially the stops we made along the way for Les to point out the local landmarks. He's been riding these roads since he was a boy and obviously knows them very well. Thanks again to Les for putting the effort into organising the run. He did say that we could maybe re-run this one later in the year, hopefully on a warm balmy evening - watch this space! *(and the website)*

John Moss

DONNINGTON MOTO GP TRIP

The plan was simple - take the bikes down to Donnington and watch the Moto GP. However the reality was more complicated. There was never any chance of Jerry's Multistrada getting back on the road but we waited until the last minute. So Jerry in SMC tradition took his car, Saqib Chaudhry and I took our bikes.

The accommodation was arranged at a Travel Lodge on the M6 If you think motorway services stations are expensive; imagine having a holiday at one!

The journey down was uneventful, but despite all leaving together on Sunday morning Saqib and I arrived about an hour before Jerry. At this stage the weather was fine, a bit cool and damp.

We met up at the Ducati hospitality stand so that Jerry could shout loudly at someone to get a move on with his bike. Once that was done we had to keep pulling Jerry back from having another go.

At the start of the day umbrellas were £5 but by 2:00 we gave in a bought one at the new price of £20.

The BMW cup race was great, with the naked K1200's replacing the Boxer twins.

The Moto GP race was unbelievably wet but the noise of the bikes; the close racing and sheer talent of Rossi meant the time flew by. In true teenager style Saqib and I invaded the track (along with about 2,000 others) to watch the podium celebrations.

The next event was the exit. Saquib and I were at the top of the hill towards the exit at Redgate and the view was jaw dropping, there were about 20,000

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bikes split into two columns going down the hill, merging into one and all funnelling through a narrow gate. Once we were in the queue you were part of a massive throng with the noise, bikes running over feet, bikes on the ground and everyone pushing forward to get out. Up to this point, the old GTS had been fine but in the queue the temperature light came on so I let her cool down for a few moments, and after that she was fine. However we were absolutely soaked through.

Once we reached a safe point Saqib and I stopped for something to eat and about an hour and half later Jerry turned up in the car.

The lessons that I learned were:

As soon at it rains get the oversuit on – don't wait - it's not going to get better and it means that you don't have to put on sodden gear the next morning.

Find some waterproof over gloves that Alan Graham has.

I stayed in Manchester that evening as I had to be there for a meeting, however Jerry and Saqib didn't get back to Edinburgh until the small hours.

Next year I'm thinking of going to a European round, where hopefully the weather will be kinder.

Footnote - It won't be wet on the Double A run????

David Jerome

CHAIRPERSON DAVID'S SHOPPING CORNER

Oxford Maximiser- Fully automatic 4 stage charging system. Down from £50 to £25 at most Oxford dealers.
Makro are offering a Blue Media Sat Nav unit that also has camera locations and a bike (but not waterproof) fitting kit for £250 plus VAT.
Makro are also doing the Garmin Streetpilot lll deluxe SatNav unit for £219 plus VAT.
Hein Gericke are offering 15% discount on Givi orders over £100.

David Jerome

NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SECURITY SCHEME

"LOCK IT 2 ME" PACK, to consent to locking only bike chains together

CONTAINS 1 membership disc, plastic "tax" disc holder, 2 smaller stickers

Details of scheme at http://www.lockit2me.co.uk

E.D.A.M. has some surplus kits at £2.00 for purchase at next SMC club night meeting, (usual price £2.85 + p&p), Or £2.50 posted to you.
Send cheque (made payable to E.D.A.M.) to

Elliot Beattie, 93 Caiyside, Edinburgh EH10 7HR
elliot@agebeat.freeserve.co.uk

HELMET STANDARDS DISCUSSION WEBSITE

Last month I mentioned a site with loads of helmet reviews. This month I've found a great discussion of the standards used for testing – particularly criticising the Snell standard that is usually accepted as the "best", but doubted here by evidence from accident investigations and comparative testing which suggests it allows too high a level of shock to be transmitted.

It is from the US magazine "Motor Cyclist" – about the best one they have over there with a sensible comprehensive coverage of the whole biking scene, not just Hogs. Like many things American it is big, but it is well written and clearly explained (and the rest of the site is well-stocked).

http://motorcyclistonline.com/gearbox/hatz/

Steve Middleton

HERE IS THE SOLUTION TO JULY'S PRIZE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



The June Prize Crossword Puzzle attracted six entries, all of which were complete and correct. The lucky prize-winner (drawn at random at the Club Night Meeting in July) was Ken Glendinning who wins £10.

Arthur Shepherd

BIKEBYTES SUBMISSIONS FORMAT REQUEST

To help me, **please** try to:-

Attach a report to an email, do not include it in it.
Use **Arial** font in size 10, single column.
Keep pix **separate** from text, using JPG format.
Filename pix and use name to refer in the text.
Crop pix then **Size** to 800 x 600 pixels maximum.
Use MicroSoft file **formats** if possible, or ASCII.
email to bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Editor : Steve Middleton

THAT'S ALL, FOLKS – THE HOLIDAYS ARE TAKING MY TIME!!

So, next month there will be the missing bits, plus all the reports you will write for me – pleeeeeease.

Steve Middleton (editor)

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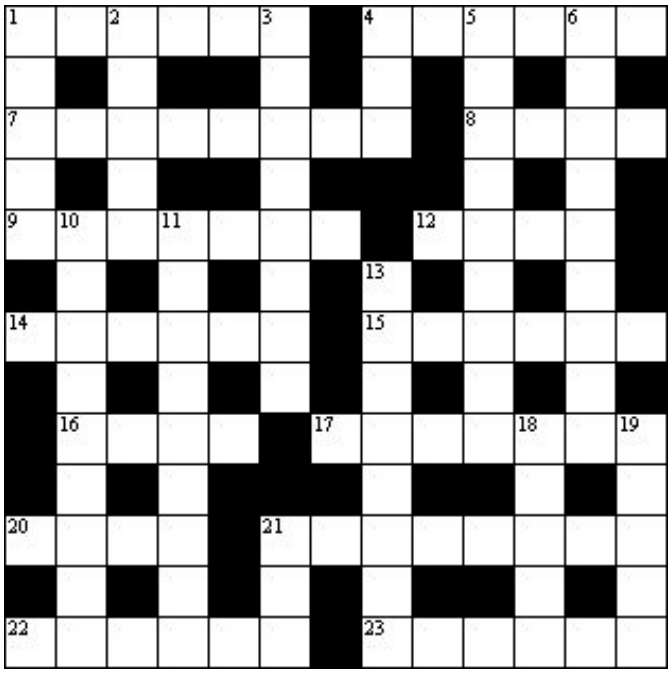
August prize crossword puzzle



Crossword and clues compiled by Arthur Shepherd.
There are several references to the Calendar of Events in this month's Crossword, as well as just riding!

Across

1 *and 7 Across, 17 Across and 9 Across* Alan's and Old Art's long Run in August (6, 1, 7, 7, 3, 4)
4 Old Art was scraping the barrel with this one! *(abbr)* (6)
7 *see 1 Across*
8 Helmets (4)
9 *see 1 Across*
12 Marie McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie (4)
14 Scandinavian country (6)
15 To hang out the bunting and ensigns again; to lay slabs again (6)
16 Less than twice (4)
17 *see 1 Across*
20 Our Chairperson (4)
21 Old Art's other August Run (3, 5)
22 Missile from Triumph (6)
22 Skilfully (6)

Down

1 Stage play; story of life and action; series of events (5)
2 Turn or place something upside down; village in Cambridge (5)
3 All people (8)
4 Counterfeit, bounced cheque; failed to work or go off as it should (3)
5 Opposite of being empty monochrome (9)
6 Colour and make of Jerry's lovely bike (3, 6)
10 Spud you don't mash (3, 6)
11 Safety glance before turning or moving off (4-5)
13 Arranged, appointed, decreed, admitted to holy orders (8)
18 A native of this country (1, 4)
19 Tricky riding conditions with sudden blasts of wind (5)
21 Small child; dram (3)

Write your name here: .....

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

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