BikeBytes

Scottish Motorcycle Club

Volume 8 Issue 2 February 2007 BBytes0207.doc / .pdf

WELCOME

Welcome to the February edition of BikeBytes. As this is being written the sun is out and the roads are dry, a sure sign that it is time to ensure the bike is ready to go. So wishing you a great riding season and hoping that you can take part in many of the rides that will be organised by members of the Scottish Motorcycle Club – why not organise one and take us on your favourite route?

Please also note the change of date for the AGM

Paul S Broughton

AGM CHANGE OF DATE

Due to our normal venue being fully booked for the proposed date it has become necessary to change the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Motorcycle Club

This shall now take place on ***Wednesday, 14th February 2007.*** Please note this is the regular club meeting night of the **second** Wednesday of the month.

The venue remains **The Black Bitch Lounge, Linlithgow** and the meeting shall commence at **20:00 prompt**.

All other arrangements remain as previously communicated.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused by this late change.

Jim McKechnie

BMF BENEFITS

At the January meeting it was agreed to renew our membership of the BMF. As well as public liability insurance the club and all members of the Scottish Motorcycle Club receive the following benefits. To avail yourself of these benefits it may be necessary to quote our discount code, which is **SCO 07Y787** for 2007.

Benefits Available to Affiliated Clubs

Affiliated Club Insurance

BMF affiliation to the Central Council of Physical Recreation means our Affiliated Clubs automatically participate in their unique Civil Liability insurance scheme

Details of this can be obtained from Sean McNamara at Perkins Slade on telephone number 0121 6988027.

National and One-Make Forum

NOM Clubs can send representatives to these meetings, that take place at regular intervals through out the year, and can, through this forum raise concerns which they have at both national and local levels and obtain assistance from other Clubs I BMF in dealing with them.

Regional Meetings

Local Clubs send representatives to these meetings and can, through these forums raise concerns which they have and obtain assistance from other Clubs I BMF in dealing with them.

Free Club Ground Space at BMF Shows

Exhibitor space is available to all affiliated clubs at our events. There are four of these events and details can be obtained from BMF Events Department at Jack Wiley House on 0116 284 5380 or louise.labroov@bmf.co.uk

Motorcycle Rider

Clubs, as part of their affiliation receive, a set number of subscriptions to the BMF magazine "Motorcycle Rider". These are mailed to members nominated by the Club.

Regular Information and Press Releases

All clubs will receive a monthly mail-out from the BMF; this will include details on all matters that can affect motorcycling from press releases to new campaigns.

Benefits Available to Members of Affiliated Clubs

Political Representation

The BMF represents every rider at the highest level in the UK and Europe. Specialist lobbyists and researchers as well as a network of UK volunteers are engaged in this work.

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:
Jim McKechnie, 15 Stewart St., Burnbank, HAMILTON, ML3 0RH
Tel: 01698 824883 Mobile: 07801 968 885
E-mail: secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk Club Website: http://www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

To get involved, contact the BMF Membership Department on 0116 284 5390 or membership@bmf.co.uk

Biker Legal Line

Access to free legal advice regarding accidents, from one of more than 10 legal firms, spread across the UK and Eire. If a claim is taken forward, Affiliate Members will be requested to take up Individual Membership. Call 08000 856 243 Monday to Friday during normal working hours.

Discount on entry to all BMF shows

Tickets can purchased in advance on line at www.bmf.co.uk or by ringing the ticket hot line on 0845 0900 157 quoting your club's unique discount code (SCO07Y787). Tickets may also be purchased at the event. A current Affiliate Membership card must be shown at the gate.

Right to attend BMF Memba Rally

Each member may bring a companion to Memba Rally but tickets must be pre-purchased on line at www.bmf.co.uk or on the ticket hot line 0845 0900 157, quoting your club's discount code.

Access to Riderspace, the BMF website

Visit www.bmf.co.uk for details of events, briefing documents, press releases and many other things to do with the BMF.

Travel Insurance

A combined Travel and Breakdown Insurance, which covers Continental Europe and beyond. Single trip or annual cover available. Apply for cover from our brokers Perkins Slade on 0121 6988050.

Sea Ferry Savings

Motor Sport Travel, a BMF Corporate Member, offers excellent ferry rates on many routes between UK and Europe, for Motorcycle or Car.

Call 01759 301010 for details of prices on specific routes.

Accommodation

Express by Holiday Inn, offer BMF members discounted accommodation (subject to availability) To book call 08704008135, quoting "Exclusive Rates" and "BMF".

Credit Card

BMF Visa Card

No annual fee. Call 0800 028 2440

Merchandise

Fantasy Prints-On line shopping for offers all kinds of BMF branded merchandise. As a member you will receive 5% discount on all orders. Online by visiting www.bmf.co.uk or call Sarah McMorn on 01289 303249.

Vacations

BMF Touring

Great savings on a variety of tour operators in Europe and even further a field. Contact BMF Membership Department for latest offers on 0116284 5390 or membership@bmf.co.uk

MCI Tours

Small and friendly tours across Europe staying with UK motorcyclists who own property abroad. Also fully escorted tours, rider training weekends abroad.

Call 0161 941 7149 or visit www.mcitours.com for further information.

Pete and Rustys

Camping or B&B in North West France. BMF members receive at least a 10% discount.

For more information call 0033243080012 or email peter.broad@tiscali.fr

Upgrade to BMF Individual Membership

Affiliate members can receive a £1.00 discount on full membership.

Motorcycle Insurance

Bennett's have negotiated preferential rates with selected insurers. Call 0800 072 5943 and see how much you can save.

Breakdown & Recovery

15% discount off NCI Biker Rescue standard rates. Both UK and European cover available for any type or age of bike. NCI specialise in bike assistance and recovery but can also cover your car or you personally on any vehicle. Call NCI on 0800 783 6026 or click www.ncionline.co.uk

Motorcycle Rider

Individual Members, as part of their membership fee, receive a subscription to the BMF magazine "Motorcycle Rider".

Legal Fees

The firms of solicitors which operate the Biker Legal Line have agreed to allow Individual Members a 10% discount on their normal rates, for other legal services, such as Conveyancing, Probate work etc. Additionally this service can include up to half an hour of free legal advice.

Jim McKechnie

MOTORCYCLE TOUR OFFER

I don't think this is really treading on the toes of our members offering organised tour events, (the

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geography is spectacularly different), but if you feel it is, I apologise in advance.

A school friend of mine has been talking of his next business venture for some time now; of offering guided tours on supplied motorcycles in the South Western corner of the US. Well Colin has finally got around to doing it.

The tours are offered in 4 and 5 day loops going north and south out of Phoenix, or if you have the time a double loop over a 14 day period. The prices vary from approximately $1100 to $5400 depending on tour option and time of year. For this you get the use of a motorcycle, accommodation for 2 people (sharing), guide, first fuel of the day, and on some tours the use of a support / luggage vehicle and selected meals are included.

And now for the good news. The area has over 300 days of sunshine a year, (eat your hart out Jerry), the routes make use of the relatively empty state routes and US highways (pre Interstate roads), the pace and composition of the tours is aimed at touring couples, (sorry Charlie), and, those members of the SMC who identify themselves as friends of mine will receive a discount of up to 20%.

As Colin is a discerning motorcyclist himself, the mount of choice is the Honda ST1300, (Pan to you and me).



In June 2000 Sandra and I managed to tour the northwest corner of the US at our second attempt. The weather is a bit more mixed in those latitudes but the older state and national roads are spectacular and the national parks real wilderness areas. We chose this area to ride the Rockies, (Beartooth pass 10974 ft) and the lower but more spectacular North Cascade Highway (SR20 5477 ft), as well as the Yellowstone and Glacier National parks.

The North Cascade Highway had only been opened the previous week and riding on dry empty roads between banks of snow, meeting friendly concerned bikers and accommodating lodge owners was a great first ride in the USA. I can't vouch for the weather in Arizona, but the SR & US Hwy roads are a bikers dream. The tours are split into summer and winter routes, the later avoiding the high passes, so if like me you enjoy the spectacle then look to the April – October tours.



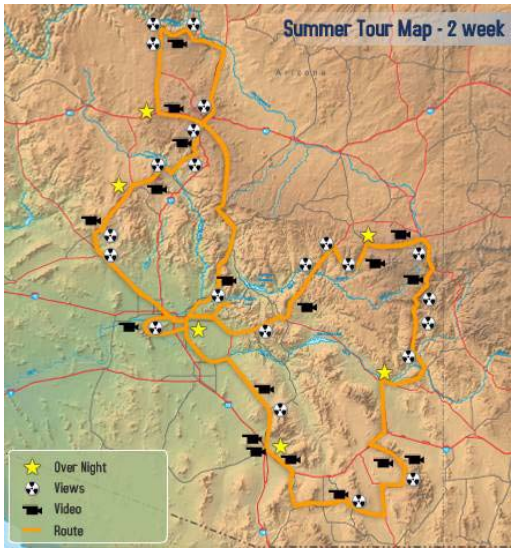
Riding the quieter roads of the western seaboard and mountain ranges is something all riders I have ever spoken to dream of, and everyone who can should do so at least once before the Zimmer frame looms. There has never been a better opportunity; two dollars to the pound, discount, and a tour organiser Scottish born and breed with extensive US knowledge.

Tempted, Sandra, another non-riding couple who know Colin, and myself certainly are, then look up the details on www.motorcyclecentric.com or contact

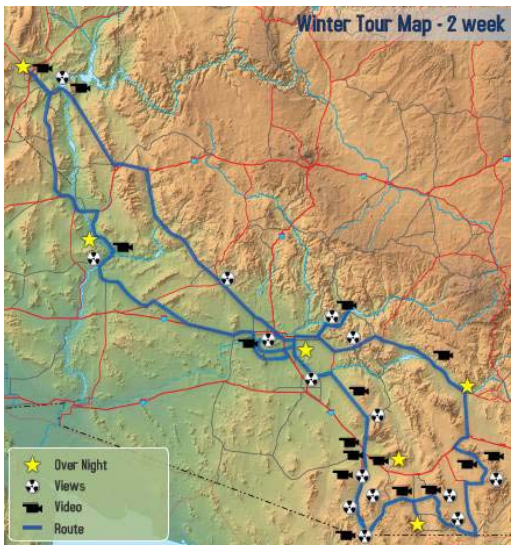
Motorcycle Centric,
1391 West Weatherby Way,
Chandler,
Arizona 85248
U.S.A.
+1 480 782 1542

I will request that the link is added to the Club website, but feel free to spread the word amongst other adventure riders. The web versions of the routes are interactive and name the stops, routes and attractions.

Not yet convinced the area is spectacular, visit www.arizonascenicroads.com



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Jim McKechnie

NEW HONDA MOTORCYCLE DEALER IN CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Phoenix Honda is adding motorcycles to the range of Honda vehicles they sell at their showrooms just northwest of the Earlsgate roundabout at Junction 6 on the M9 between Falkirk and Grangemouth. On a local run I suddenly caught sight of the wing symbol used for bikes added to the car's boxed H on the display post, and called in to check out the details. I know the dealership having got my Civic from them, and found that they had a fairly full range of new bikes on display.

I mentioned the Club to the staff and found they are due to have the Honda display truck some time in May to show and demo. the range, so keep an eye out for the details nearer the time. Maybe they will offer some form of benefit to us – I suggested there could be a mutual advantage to get together in some way.

They will have full Parts and Servicing facilities, and plan a Training section as well. Clothing and other kit will also be stocked on a balcony area.

I have to admit it is of great interest to me since I use Falkirk quite a bit and, even though I work in Edinburgh, it would be quicker and easier for me to get there from Linlithgow than to nearly all the Edinburgh dealers from work. If you are going to drop in but are not local, be advised that Junction 6 has only west-facing slip roads – if you come from the East on the M9, exit at J5 and use the local road that runs parallel to and north of the M9 to get to J6.

I spoke to Bob Conway, phone 01324 888280. The showroom was open on Sunday, but the hours of the other sections remain to be seen. If you go, mention the SMC, and maybe we can get a discount in the future.

Steve Middleton

THE SECRETARY'S FUNCTION

I said an issue or three ago that I would describe the job I have performed for the club for the last two years. Well almost. This is intended to make prospective candidates aware of the duties, and encourage those not yet candidates to consider the post.

The basic function is to be the recipient of, and the instigator of communications to, a) the members, b) the BMF and any other organisation we are collectively a member of, and c) prospective members and commercial organisations. So no surprises there. However the functions are not set in stone, they may be split or reassigned as required.

I will run through the activities chronologically assuming the previous incumbent has distributed the renewal forms by e-mail and by post, which I will.

For the first 4 – 6 weeks approximately 70 renewal forms and cheques will need to be processed. This entails recording renewal, passing the monies to the treasurer and updating the e-mail and postal addresses. This is where personal preference takes over, Arthur used a PC and a spreadsheet, I used a database, but may easily be accomplished using a cardfile system. And of course, a membership card with the hidden area of the website's address on the reverse needs to be despatched to each renewing member.

During this period it will be necessary to notify the BMF who the new office bearers are, and their addresses.

After this and at any time as they appear, it will be necessary to reply to prospective members. This for me is most conveniently achieved by replying to the e-mail enquiry, but there are always those who require hard copy replies. All replies could be standardised in this format and a photocopy form letter prepared.

The reply itself is obviously open to variation from a simple form and copy of the constitution (optional) to a more personal invite to participate in the club nights and runs. I varied it depending on time available.

Lastly on an ongoing basis Bike Bytes has to be distributed. This entails a batch of envelopes, stamped and addressed, and a distribution list for e-mail recipients. For simplicity and to share the workload with the editor, I distributed the electronic versions leaving the editor to stuff envelopes. Most of the time.

All of the above can be achieved by various means, not all of which require a PC or software skills, which should allow any member to adapt the job and make it work for them.

The bottom line: probably about 3 – 5 hours per month.

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Just to vindicate all the luddites out there, during the last three months the account I have used as secretary has progressively become more erratic until about mid December it seems to have failed completely. So, if any member has sent me motions or nominations for the AGM via e-mail, can they please re-send to jim.mckechnie@talktalk.net.

Look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on the revised date of 14th February.

Jim McKechnie

DID YOU KNOW?

That a recent survey found that 22% of the general public thought that bikes are dangerous, 14% believed that bikers are risk takers or reckless. However 8% were correct by saying that riding is fun

Paul S Broughton

OPEN EVENING WITH JOHN FULTON

All SMC Members may like to know about the following that I've seen on Two Wheels' website.

Tuesday 13th February 7.00 for 7.15pm

One of our good customers, John Fulton, has offered his time to talk about his 40 years of motorcycling which have taken him to continental Europe, North Africa, the Balkans and the Middle East. As a result of his passion for motorcycling, John set up a company called Wildcat Adventures where he organises and participates in multiple tours each year. You can view his website at:

www.wildcat-motorbike-tours.co.uk

John will give a talk on his experiences and present a slide show. We'll provide refreshments, so don't worry if you have to come straight from work. We anticipate the night winding up around 9.00pm.

If you fancy coming along please give Dave a call on 0131 667 2573 so that we can have an idea of numbers.

Arthur Shepherd

HOW MUCH???

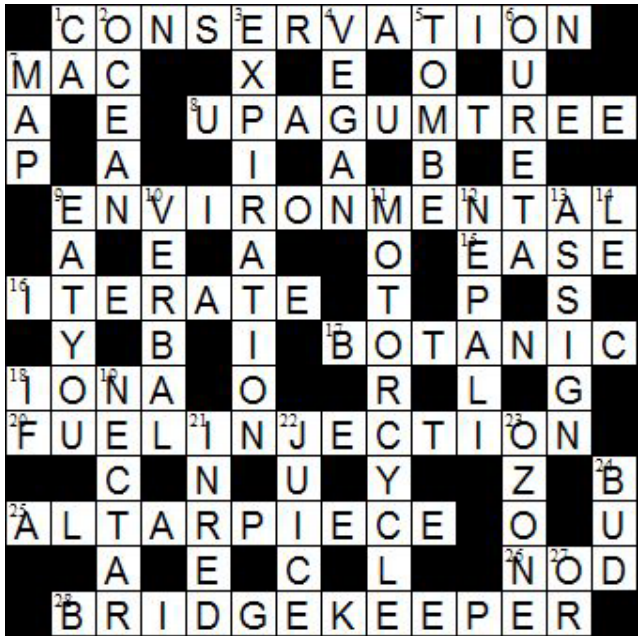
Some of you may remember in the distant past of last year that I asked for help in gathering data concerning how much bikers spend on biking. From the government figures in the 'Expenditure and Food Survey' it is possible to estimate that the HM government believes that the average bike owner spends approximately £33 per week or £1731 per year on their bike and its upkeep.

The Questionnaire that I was hawking around not only asked about the bike, but also other related spending, such as accommodation and events. The results to some may be frightening, with an average spend of £3,500 per year on all biking activities. Average values were £1210 for bike and kit, £1195 on consumables, £612 on accommodation, £150 on events and £293 on other items. After revealing these figures to a few people I was asked not to disclose them to wives and girlfriends!!!

	Average
Bike and Kit	£1210.40
Consumables	£1195.05
Accommodation (UK only)	£611.88
Events (UK only)	£150.35
Other	£292.90
Total spend	£3500.25

Paul S Broughton

HERE IS THE SOLUTION TO JANUARY'S PRIZE DRAW CROSSWORD PUZZLE



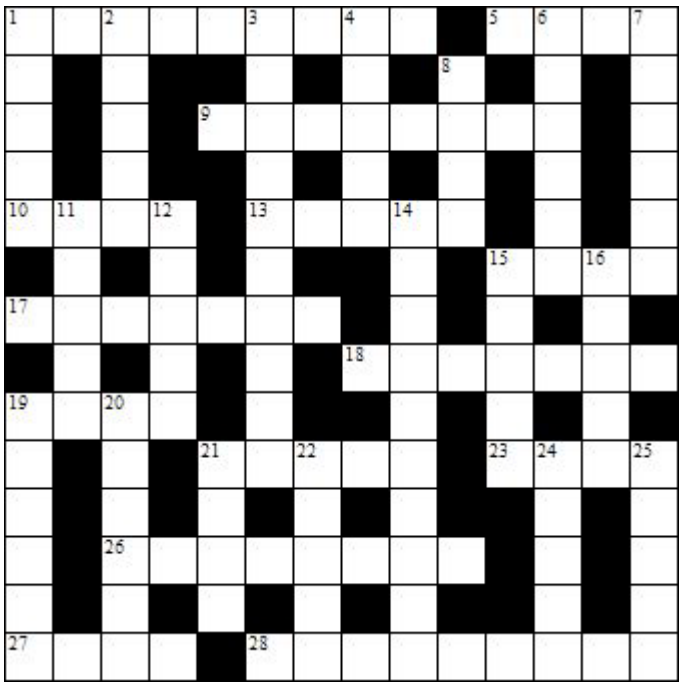
The December Prize Draw Crossword Puzzle attracted five entries, all of which were complete and correct. The lucky prize-winner drawn at random at the January Meeting was John Quirk. Judy Broad was the winner of November's.

October's winner hasn't been drawn yet because our Chairman has run off with the entries. They are safe enough and the winner will be drawn as soon as possible.

Arthur Shepherd

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Scottish Motorcycle Club
February PRIZE CROSSWORD



Crossword and Clues compiled by Arthur Shepherd. This is a very special month, picked up by some of the clues. There are also hints of science, botany, engineering and geography - but only hints, so don't worry! There are, of course, the usual biking bits and references to girls.

Old Fine Art

ACROSS

1 The most important day of the week this month: miss a date and you could be in deep trouble! (9)
5 Sounds strange but can be evens, except in *27 Across* (4)
9 Someone who believes the existence of God cannot be proved and probably that it cannot be disproved either (8)
10 Short bit on which to mount a wheel (4)
13 Items administered by the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP). That should help you find it (5)
15 Bangkok hasn't moved: it's always been here (4)
17 Lists of things to be done: we'll have one at the *7 Down* (7)
18 Phil Collins, Mike Rutherford and Tony Banks have sustained massive international success over 40 years; Yamaha YZF750R (7)
19 Gardening chap *abbr* (1, 1, 1, 1)
21 *and 21 Down* An amazing pair, quite fantastic (OK, that's taken care of *21 Across*!): but seriously, what we do without them to organise things for us to enjoy? (5)
23 Quiet, efficient, reliable EVERY month: how would we know what's happening without him? (4)
26 Very pale and very attractive hair (3, 5)
27 Change it for speed, weather, speed, climate, incline, season, fashion, revs. Confused? Just get into it and get the power on! (4)
28 Rarely (9)

DOWN

1 Heads or tails but sides are worst! (5)
2 Longest river in EU flowing from the Black Forest to the Black Sea *auf Deutsch* (5)
3 Genus of aquatic plants named after arrows shot by the Zodiac's centaur into ponds (10)
4 Huge US oil company merged with BP in 1998 to give us more fuel for our bikes (5)
6 Desmodronic, Desmosedici, Monster, Multistrada - they can mean only one thing (6)
7 Miss this Wednesday and you've missed an opportunity to shape our future! *abbr* (1, 1, 1 1, 1, 1)
8 Infection of an eyelash or eyelid - no piggies in here! (4)
11 Triumph's delicious all-rounder that has earned its stripes! (5)
12 We don't enjoy straight roads, it's these we like! (5)
14 Forget this and you'll lose your own head to join the saint - it takes two to enjoy this date to the full! (10)
15 Woolly jumpers (5)
16 Farewell (5)
19 How are you doing? If not naked, you'll be warmer, drier, faster, protected - and you might (or might not) even look better too! (6)
20 Senior Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer of Honda Motorcycle Operations (6)
21 *See 21 Across* (4)
22 First synthetic fibre still used in motorcycle gear (5)
24 British company that started manufacturing motorcycles in 1901. An early model was the Red Hunter (5)
25 Plants deprived of light can grow this way but I'm thinking of another kind of tall blonde! (5)

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

Scottish Motorcycle Club

SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE CLUB
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10TH JANUARY 2007
IN THE BLACK BITCH, LINLITHGOW

No meeting was held in November due to refurbishment of the Black Bitch.

No official meeting held in December – social night.

Apologies: David Jerome, Steve Middleton, Bob Crawley.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted. Proposed by Jerry Dawe, Seconded by John Quirke.

Matters Arising: None

Secretary's Report: AGM to be held 7th February. **Note: this is the 1st Wednesday in February.** BMF National Single Make Club meeting to be held 12/13 May. Roberta and William to attend. Enrolment to BMF due for renewal. For 100-110 members it will cost £252 if we rejoin. Arthur proposed that the Club rejoin, Seconded by Judy Broad. Vote taken – no objections. Carried. Other various BMF correspondence was passed around. John Quirke suggested BMF correspondence be put in BikeBytes, or links to appropriate websites.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance around £700. Two payments to the Bitch to come out.

Events: December's social night went well. A short film by Alan Graham and quizzes arranged by David and Steve. Thanks to them. It was suggested that more of these nights be arranged.

John has prepared a new Events Calendar for 2007.

Jerry has offered to do a short Run from Livingston to Moffat on the 4th March, weather dependent, with an early finish.

John Quirke presented a proposal he has put together for an SMC Challenge which would be a summer-long event. It's aim to raise the profile of the Club and encourage riders to visit parts of the country they would not otherwise, with an element of competitiveness but no pressure of time or restriction of mileage i.e. to have fun. Crossword-type clues would be given with the answers being specific locations. Visiting the location would earn points (photographic evidence would be needed) and at the end of the summer medals would be awarded. Some discussion was made of how to bring this event to the wider public's attention. Ken Glendinning offered to approach the BMF about putting flyers on their Stand at the Scottish Motorcycle show.

Jerry suggested if it would be possible to organise a couple of weekend trips whereby everyone meets up at a hotel/B&B on a Friday night about an hour's ride away. Leave from there at 9.00am, enabling anyone who didn't want to stay on the Friday night to meet up with the rest of the group. Then have an overnight stay somewhere else, coming home on the Sunday. This would save having to book time off work.

Website: Brian not present.

Bikebytes: Paul not present.

Merchandise: Steve not present but Jim says he is about a third of the way towards an order. Contact Steve if you want to place an order.

BMF: see Secretary's Report

Video Club: Arthur requested members to sign videos/DVDs in and out. There are a couple of DVDs on order. Arthur has the Duke catalogue for members to look at and suggest any they would like for the Club.

Crossword: October's entries unavailable as David has them, will be drawn at the next meeting.

November's – 3 entries. Winner is Judy Broad.

December's – 5 entries. Winner is John Quirke.

AOCB: A friend of Jim Mckechnie runs bike touring holidays in Southern California. He will give a discount to SMC members. The January Christmas meal has had to be postponed. There will be an informal get together for drinks at the Hawes Inn, South Queensferry, on Friday 19th January at 8.00pm. If members wish to eat they must make their own arrangements. John Moss to put a note on the Website in both members and non-members area. He will also do e-mail distribution. Thanks were made to Steve for his Run to the Kelvingrove Museum. Roberta reported that there was now **ONE** space at the Museum for motorbikes.

Date of next meeting: AGM, 7th February 2007, 8.00pm, upstairs in the Black Bitch.

Janet Moss