



BikeBytes

Scottish Motorcycle Club

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July 2007

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WELCOME TO JULY

July is here, but the weather is more like November and this is having an impact on a lot of riding activity. However the BMF Kelso show is coming up later this month (see events listing) and as the sun normally shines for this weekend perhaps summer will start.



Paul Broughton

GLENSHEE 17 JUNE

Eight of us set off from Kinross services on a route planned by Steve, but not pre-ridden to check the details, so it became a bit of "who knows the next bit?" at times. We got back AOK and didn't lose anyone. In fact we gained one – Dave joined us at the lunch stop!

Steve mis-read a sign at a junction as if it were in France and followed the road beside the sign rather than the road going in the direction of the sign. Ian's local knowledge got us out of that one and the route used the Sma' Glen instead of the back road through Harrietfield as a result. We had coffee at the Queen's View on Loch Tummel (pic #003), Ian Muir led us to petrol in Pitlochry, Alan Graham tried to find a back road, Steve had a misunderstanding with a Police traffic Volvo (*), Alan Graham didn't, Dave joined us at the Spittal, we ate well and smiled afterwards (#005), Steve got us to Glamis (#008) and then lost, Ian's local knowledge was given precedence over the theoretical route, we had a bit of rain but it was OK since we used it to clear the bugs off visors, Alan didn't quite get us to a tea stop in Perth and took us through the harbour, Steve got us back to Kinross to finish in bright sun (#009). 185 or so miles, depending on whose odometer you believe.



We joined the A93 up to Glenshee from the B950, with about eight miles to go, immediately behind a fully liveried traffic Volvo estate. Steve went into full Roadcraft mode – positioning, speed, 2-second rule – the lot. Others behind did the same and we proceeded at a steady 60 including some satisfyingly speedy bends. After about four miles suddenly the blue lights went on, and an arm appeared out of the driver's window pointing across the roof to the left. Ooops. Steve drew to a stop in a slight lay-by, the Volvo slowed, Alan and Ian following slowed. The Volvo drove on!



Alan and Ian followed, Steve restarted, thoroughly puzzled. This was repeated a bit further up the road, but Alan had been thinking, and confident that he had done no wrong, overtook with a wave. The Volvo continued without any reaction, and again showed the blueys before pulling off into a side road. Weird. We came to the conclusion that his lights and pointing indicated what he was going to do, not what he wanted us to do. Presumably he could not officially encourage us to overtake, but simply wished to suggest he was pulling over. The road is splattered with warnings of dangers to bikes, so our conclusion is that he checked us out, found us OK and wished to not hold us up, but the message did not translate – to Steve at least!

Steve Middleton

SMC ROAD TRIP "GLENSHEE" RUN. 17 JUNE 2007

First time reporting here. 10 of the 11 (I think) riders met up at Kinross service station, with another joining us for lunch, at the crack of 9:45am, I made it just at 9:55 despite living in Kinross!. After a briefing by Steve Middleton our leader for the trip, we were given maps of the route and the decision made

£5 £5
WINNER
£5 £5

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:

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to use the drop off system as there were enough of us to establish this system. Yellow bibs front and rear we were set.

We headed of up the M90 to Perth and then the Almond Triangle leaving the A9 onto the first of many windy twisty roads heading for our first coffee stop just out side Pitlochry.



To get to Pitlochry we had some riding to do heading via Perth, we made Crief then took a right North up to Aberfeldy. One of my favourite runs is this road up to Aberfeldy. Twisty slow corners, yet fast enough to keep it interesting and some good scenery with a small loch at the top. Just have to be careful not to join the Loch with some deceptive right handers there! Then following road, down past log piles into Aberfeldy itself. Without pausing, other than the lights, we pushed through Aberfeldy crossing the crossroads that lead to the main high street then across the river over a traffic lighted single track bridge then through the countryside staying alert for the piles of farm yard mud and stones that lined this road.



The road then formed a single track with passing places, climbing past Glenshee campsite, finally dropping down into Tummel Bridge. This is full of pedestrians and other tourist types, with wooden chalets and access to campsites left and right.

I think at Queens's view we make our first pit stop, which was a relief to me as I had inadvertently not filled up the tank with petrol and the tank was empty. Some great tea and coffee had by all, plus some rather large rock cakes and scones. Not to worry, Pitlochry was near by and we, especially me, we then filled up the bikes too.

Next, in a rather hesitant start (we might have put the fly fisherman off his stride passing him twice) we headed for the road that past Edradour distillery. Some interesting sharp lefts and rights and beautiful greenery on either side, the first time I had ridden on this road. Onward to our lunch stop at Spittal. On route those at the front managed to catch up with a

fully marked up police patrol car. Eventually after some spirited riding most of the bikes were waved through myself included and with a cheery wave and blue flashing lights, the policeman waved back and we all made the over take. It was only when we made the lunch stop did it turn out that in fact the wave was more a strong indication to pull into the lay by we so deftly passed, as the last two riders in our group were pulled in and a chat was had. Something about a "dangerous road" and that we should all be "on our guard". That said lunch was great in the full meaning of the term substantial and value for money. I along with many others elected for a sandwich and soup combo which was reasonably priced and HUGE. To add to our entertainment the friendly policeman booked a fellow biker for small plate and odd exhaust right outside our café.

After lunch we headed back down the same road we had just ridden up, with for me at least keeping a wary eye for the V70. After some orientation lessons and some additional back roads and some local directions we made it back to the pre ordained route.

Back through Perth and back to Kinross via the "Glenfarg bobsleigh" run! I mean quiet leafy back road that is the road from Perth to Glenfarg. Back on the M90 motorway for a junction or two then in at the services at junction 6. I then took the honour of promising to write this up ☺ All in all a good days ride of around 180 – 190 miles, depending on how you cut the corners. Some very twisty single track and some directionless sheep, good food and a well planned route. All with the exception of the rebel biker who seemed to entice the law, had a good time and I hope to make another similar ride in the near future.

Jonathan Douglas

CENTENARY YEAR T.T. - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

My introduction to m/bikes was as a teenager in Edinburgh on B.S.A's and Ridges. Geof Duke on Nortons was my hero. There was quite a long gap without two wheels and I only got back to bikes some eight years ago. However I have always held the view that at some time or another a biker should visit "Mecca" at least once in his or her lifetime. The Isle of Man!

This year being Centenary Year I was determined to make it despite recovering from an operation in late March. During one of the club meetings I was discussing this with our Sec. John Quirk who said he was going and gave good advice with ref. to booking ferries, accommodation etc.

John and I were travelling on the same ferry from Troon on Sat.2nd June at 21.00. He lives in Dunoon so we arranged to meet in Greenock and soon arrived at the terminal. Unfortunately there was a

delay and after a four hour crossing we arrived on the I.O.M. at 03.00hrs on Sunday morning. We made straight for the accommodation, John's oldest son Brian's house, where we got our head down for a few hours.

1st Day.

One of my ambitions was to complete one lap of the T.T.course so it was suggested that around 10.00am would be the best time. Following John and Brian we soon met dozens of bikers, but I am afraid the conditions were horrendous (for me anyway) with rain and mist. Visibility was down to a few yards in places, especially on the mountain, but I survived. Both my guides were good enough to stop and wait for me on several occasions. Even after changing and resting I was still feeling rather tired so opted out of the evening entertainment. Conserving energy!

2nd Day

We started the day with me "hanging on to John's exhaust pipe"! He being a Manxman, knows every inch of the island took me along tracks and backroads which would have taken some time to discover on my own, until we arrived at Cronk Y Voddy. After climbing over many hedges and fences we secured a place by the roadside on a grass verge about 3ft high and about the same wide. Our view was obscured but we could hear the commentaries on radios nearby. I was told that after the start the first bike should reach us in approx 8 minutes. I could hear the first bike approaching, and yes , I knew it was going to be fast, very fast! But I wasn't prepared for being about 3ft. from a bike travelling at 180 + mph. it was awesome! Talk about the Doppler effect, it will stay forever in my memory. We stayed throughout the days racing and enjoyed the wonderful entertainment in the evening, watching the stunt riding, acrobats, and a guy called "Pyromaniac", who had a quad bike with a helicopter engine! The ground literally shook as he accelerated down the Promenade. We couldn't get near the front but we all watched it on two huge t.v. screens, mostly from the beer tent area.

3rd Day.

John suggested I may like a more open view so again, after taking the back roads we arrived at Brandy Well. This was quite exposed with Snaefell and



the Bungalo well in view. I could see the riders coming up the hill and was able to watch some cornering techniques, again at speed, but with two gear changes involved. It was very interesting to hear the different engine noises from the various machines. After resting we again went to see the

evening entertainment at the Promenade venue, from guess where, Yep, the beer tent !

4th Day

This was John's last day having to catch the Wednesday evening ferry, and ofcourse had to spend time visiting his many relations and friends. I took the bike on a familiarisation tour including a visit to the ferry terminal. I was booked for the 08.30hrs ferry with a reporting time of 06.30hrs. It was good to have clear roads for a change, and have time to appreciate the islands many interesting features. I thought it may be good to spend the day at the Grandstand start/finish area and also visit the many trade stands . I knew the organisation must have been complex, but on seeing this area I really appreciated the planning and training which goes into this event. John tells me that this was his 47th T.T. (he was born on the I.O.M.) and in his time has acted as marshall, time-keeper, and scorer. I was able to watch the many races including the sidecars which I really wasn't interested in, but not any more! The passenger especially has to have complete confidence in "the pilot ", and at these speeds I have complete admiration for both. The pit refuelling system fascinated me. There were about eighty large petrol containers rather like the whisky bottles which are upside down in a bar. Usually four persons are in each pit area with a specific task. Two on the fuel hose, one on visor cleaning or replacement, and one on screen. These stops were carried out with precision and speed, and within seconds gone! All this was carefully watched by the officials.



After packing my gear and a few beers, I felt it prudent to get a good nights sleep before catching the early morning ferry.

5th Last Day

It was a fast crossing to Heysham taking a little over two hours. Whilst having breakfast I had time to reflect on the past busy days , and I recalled many incidents and details. The people I 'd met would be remembered, but above all my sincere thanks must be given to J.Q. who guided me safely at all times with his steady riding abilities, his time and knowledge given freely with reference not only to the many aspects of racing, but to the past and present history of The Isle of Man.

I was indeed fortunate.

Norrie Millar



Scottish Motorcycle Club



SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE CLUB
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD 20TH JUNE 2007
JOHN & JANET MOSS' HOUSE

John Moss chaired the Meeting.

Present: John Moss, Janet Moss, John Quirk, Judy Broad, Steve Middleton

Apologies: Arthur Shepherd, Paul Broughton

Minutes of May's Committee Meeting: Accepted. Proposed by John Quirk, seconded by Steve Middleton.

Secretary's Report: no new members but about 1 enquiry a week via the website.

Treasurer's Report: Balance at 25th May - £826. £188 to come out for Kelso Bikefest and various other small amounts.

EVENTS

Past

Open Day at Honda Phoenix – good test rides.

Bob Crawley's Run to the Borders/Carlisle – 4 bikes, mixed weather.

Steve Middleton's run to Glenshee – 9 bikes, good Run.

Future

Thursday 21st June – David Jerome leading a Chip Shop Run to Anstruther.

Sunday 24th June – Paul Broughton leading a BBQ Run to the Campsie/Ochills. Meet Kincardine Services at 10.15 for 10.30 departure. Bring your own food.

Friday 29th June – John Moss leading the Chip Shop Run. Meet West Port car park 7.15pm.

Sunday 8th July – Bob Kibble leading a Run to Seahouses. Meet Sainburys near Straiton 9.45am for 10am departure.

14th/15th July Kelso Bikefest. Steve has 8 volunteers to help over the weekend. Format will be the same as last year. Should have same pitch as last year. Arrive about 9.00am for 10.00am start. We are able to camp behind the Stand. Steve is printing t-shirts with web address on the back for helpers to wear. John and Janet sorting out the flyers, Steve will print out in colour. John Quirk to send membership list to Steve so he can send messages to volunteers. Steve also to send wristbands to John Q.

29th/30th September – Applecross weekend. Lochcarron Hotel provisionally booked. 10 bedrooms which will sleep 17 people. £30 per person bed and breakfast plus dinner. Janet to do information sheet and booking form for July's Bikebytes so she can confirm booking at the end of July.

Paul volunteered to Run an Inverness weekend sometime.

Website: Brian not present. John M to get Brian to take picture of Jerry as Chairperson off the Website asap and update Events in public area. Steve and Judy have updated Tips for Safe Riding, will be sent to Brian.

Bikebytes: John Q is to ask Paul to do Bikebytes a bit earlier in July as he will be on holiday. Steve to put something in Bikebytes about Kelso.

Merchandise: Most of the order has been distributed.

AOB:

William and Roberta Maxwell represented the Club at the BMF Scottish Regional AGM. They received £15 each per night expenses. Would the Club match this? Agreed. John Q to ask them to put a report in Bikebytes about the meeting.

Paul Heuvelmans has asked about recruitment for the Club and how we can get more members.

Suggestion of laminated poster with information on the Club and contact details to be distributed to dealerships. John M to look into this.

Scottish Motorcycle Club

Someone has approached Paul B about having a theme for discussion at each Club night e.g. Touring or bike maintenance. Invite suggestions at next Club night.

AOB from Club meeting:

New DVD in stock – 100 Greatest TT Moments.

No article received for Bikebytes by any member other than a Committee Member.

Lothian and Borders Police are doing assessed rides in Peebles on the 1st July.

Jerry's funeral went as well as could be expected. It was good to see so many people on bikes. Very well attended. Thanks to Sahib for organising the floral tribute.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 26th July at Judy Broad's house, 8.00pm.

AGENDA FOR NEXT CLUB MEETING WEDNESDAY 11TH JULY, BLACK BITCH, LINTHGOW AT 8.00PM

- 1 Any matters arising from Committee Meeting.
- 2 Video Club.
- 3 Bikebytes Article
- 4 Events
- 5 Merchandise
- 6 AOB

Janet Moss

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| Next Run! | Date | Destination / Meeting point | Details | Organiser | Contact Details | Mileage | # of Participants |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|--|---------|-------------------|
| | Wednesday, 13 June 2007 | Club Night: Black Bitch Tavern @ 8pm | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 17 June 2007 | Glenshee | Meet at Kinross Services, 9:45am for a 10am departure; Lunch at the Spittal of Glenshee | Steve Middleton | Steve Middleton - middleton27bha@aol.com | | |
| | Thursday, 21 June 2007 | Anstruther; Meet at 7:30pm, Linlithgow, West Port Car Park | Summer Solstice run to the Chippy in Anstruther | Dave Jerome | David.Jerome@clydeport.co.uk | | |
| | Sunday, 24 June 2007 | POSTPONED due to bad weather: Ochills and BBQ | Meet at Kincardine Services 10:15am for a 10:30am departure; alternatively pick up at the Wallace Monument at 11:15am. Gentle run up through the Ochills for a BBQ on the side of Loch Vernica. Bring your own food! | Paul Broughton | smc@owlresearch.co.uk | | |
| | Friday, 29 June 2007 | Monthly Chip shop run to Crieff | 7.30pm start at Linlithgow, West Port Car Park; Kincardine bridge, Powmill, Yetts o' Muckhart, Glendevon, Gleneagles, Muthill, Crieff (stop for fish and chips), Comrie, Braco, Stirling, Fallin, Skinflats, Grangemouth, Linlithgow. | John Moss | john.moss@sun.com 925063 | 07802 | |
| | Saturday, 30 June 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 1 July 2007 | British Superbikes, Knockhill | Not an SMC event | | | | |
| | Sunday, 8 July 2007 | Seahouses via Borders; Meet at Sainsbury's car park at Straiton, A701, Edinburgh 9:45am for 10am departure | Details TBA | Bob Kibble | Bob Kibble - bobk@education.ed.ac.uk | | |
| | Wednesday, 11 July 2007 | Club Night: Black Bitch Tavern @ 8pm | | | | | |
| | Saturday, 14 July 2007 | BMF Kelso Bikefest: 10am-5pm, Springwood Park, Kelso | Club will have a stand again this year; camping behind the stand confirmed; Please contact Steve if you want to help on either day at the club stand | | Steve Middleton - middleton27bha@aol.com | | |
| | Sunday, 15 July 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 22 July 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Friday, 27 July 2007 | Monthly Chip shop run | Details TBA | | | | |
| | Sunday, 29 July 2007 | RE-SCHEDULED from May 13th: Kirkudbright; Meet at Dreghorn Services on Edinburgh Bypass (A720) 9:45am for a 10am departure. | Dreghorn, Moffatt (coffee), Dumfries, Dalbeattie, Kirkudbright (Lunch), New Galloway, Thornhill, Abingdon Services (End) | Janet and John Moss | Janet and John Moss - john.moss@sun.com | | ~200 |
| | Sunday, 5 August 2007 | Glendaruel (Argyll Peninsula); Meet at Stirling Services 9:45am for a 10am departure | Details TBA | Hamish Davidson | | | |
| | Wednesday, 8 August 2007 | Club Night: Black Bitch Tavern @ 8pm | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 12 August 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 19 August 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 26 August 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Friday, 31 August 2007 | Monthly Chip shop run | Details TBA | | | | |
| | Sunday, 2 September 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 9 September 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Wednesday, 12 September 2007 | Club Night: Black Bitch Tavern @ 8pm | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 16 September 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 23 September 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Friday, 28 September 2007 | Monthly Chip shop run | Details TBA | | | | |
| | Saturday, 29 September 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 30 September 2007 | Lochcarron/Applecross; Meet at Dobies Garden Centre, A84, off Jct 10, M9, Stirling. 9:45am for a 10am departure | Leave from Stirling and ride up to Lochcarron, staying at the Lochcarron Hotel on Saturday night. Sunday 30th September - ride round to Applecross, via the Bealach na Ba road and then home. Limited rooms available so respond to the notice in July BikeBytes | Janet and John | Janet and John Moss - john.moss@sun.com | | |
| | Sunday, 7 October 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Wednesday, 10 October 2007 | Club Night: Black Bitch Tavern @ 8pm | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 14 October 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 21 October 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Friday, 26 October 2007 | Monthly Chip shop run | Details TBA | | | | |
| | Sunday, 28 October 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 4 November 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 11 November 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Wednesday, 14 November 2007 | Club Night: Black Bitch Tavern @ 8pm | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 18 November 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 25 November 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 2 December 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 9 December 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Wednesday, 12 December 2007 | Club Night: Black Bitch Tavern @ 8pm | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 16 December 2007 | | | | | | |
| | Sunday, 23 December 2007 | | | | | | |