BikeBytes

Scottish Motorcycle Club

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CLUB MEETINGS

We plan to have a series of topics at Club meetings for members to discuss items of interest, starting in August at the meeting on 8th with "Five Top Tips For Touring". Each of us is invited to contribute their own best five ideas, following an introduction by one of the Committee members, so come along prepared to join in the discussion. The intention is that we end up with a composite list for the benefit of all, and a starting point for anyone new to the topic. So, please think through what has helped you on your trips around the country and abroad, from weather protection via route finding to planning (or should those be in the reverse order for a logical approach?!)

Future Topics planned include Bike Restoration (with examples!), My Best Bits of Kit, Maintenance Tips and Tricks, My First Bike. Your ideas for further Topics are sought and welcomed.

Steve Middleton

KELSO BIKEFEST 14/15 JULY 2007

John and I arrived (him on his bike and me in the car with all the gear) on the (dry) Saturday morning to be greeted by a rather damp Paul (Broughton) and Ken (Russell) who had travelled down on the Friday afternoon. They had actually spent the night in the Stand as it was too wet to put their tents up. We then got down to the important business of lighting the BBQ for bacon rolls until Steve (Middleton) arrived with all his gear for setting up the Stand. The Stand was in a much better place this year and it felt, to me, that we handed out more flyers and spoke to more people about the Club, so hopefully it will increase the membership. We had quite a few bikes lined up by the tent and in particular the new Deauville that Arthur had borrowed from 2 Wheels and Les's new Bandit attracted a lot of attention! Everyone got a chance to walk around the Show and I know there were quite a few purchases made (not least by John who came back with a new jacket and gloves). We made two new friends when a Norwegian couple set up camp next to us, so they joined us for another BBQ and a few beers in the evening. This was even after Arthur had tried to persuade them to join the Club!!

There were two Bands providing the evening's entertainment in the main hall, the second of which were a great laugh as they were big, hairy, tattooed blokes dressed up in blonde wigs and pink satin mini-dresses who played a variety of non-heavy songs but in a fast, rock style (you had to be there to appreciate it!).



After a very noisy night (must remember to wear ear plugs next year) it was the same again for Sunday (i.e BBQ, chatting, watching the Show). Paul (Heuvelmans) represented the Club in the Cavalcade in fine style with the Saltire and Dutch flags draped over his bike.



By 4.00pm things were starting to quieten down so we packed up and went our separate ways after another enjoyable weekend in Kelso. Thanks to everyone for their great company and especially to Steve for once again organising our participation at the event.

Janet Moss

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BMF KELSO BIKEFEST, 14 & 15 JULY

We had our stand at Bikefest again, but in a different location on the showground, in among the other Clubs at the SouthWest corner of the arena. This was better for involvement with the public and passing punters who stopped and chatted. We rarely had a moment without someone stopped and talking with us. However those who stayed the night and camped behind the marquee reported a lot of noise during the night, including someone revving his engine until it went BANG accompanied by much ribald comment and ironic (I hope) applause.



We had many members dropping in, to leave kit while they toured the show or to get a welcome sit-down or drink (or biscuits if they behaved!). Les Mackie's new Bandit 1250 grabbed a lot of attention, especially from the nearby Bandit Owners Club, who wanted to know where he had bought it. Apparently the bike has a strong demand and is in short supply. Les's strategy of buying the first one he saw, unridden and straight off the shop floor, from Jim Allen in Falkirk showed his faith in the opinions of the magazine reports. Arthur Shepherd had the Deauville demonstrator from Two Wheels in Edinburgh on loan, with appropriate stickers and a publicity notice. This attracted a surprising (!) amount of interest, almost as much as the Bandit.



Other Club members' bikes on show for the weekend included Ken Russell's CG125 (ridden all the way from Doune – and back!), Paul Broughton's Transalp, John Moss's Pan 1100, Paul Heuvelman's VFR VTEC, plus Judy Broad's TDM900 on Saturday and my VFR750 on Sunday.



I had made up some special T shirts for the show based on the usual ones we get for members with the Club logo sewn on the front, with our web address added across the back in two diagonal lines so they looked like a Saltire. Paul H went into the Club Cavalcade wearing one, plus a Club hat and with two flags flying off the back of his topbox – a Saltire and a Dutch tricolour. We also had laminated signs made up to go on the front screen or number plates of the display bikes. Together with the Club's banner we put on quite a decent show. John and Janet's bacon butties cooked over a barbeque at the front went down well, too.



No-one reported any amazing bargains at the dealers' tents, but lots of small items were bought, including my find of a dentist's set of picks and probes and best of all a mirror-on-a stick, all in a pouch for £3.50. I'm not planning a new career, but know these are good for some maintenance jobs and useful in modelling which I occasionally get around to. Norrie Millar bought a new helmet, after we told off another dealer for claiming two helmets took the same visor when they clearly didn't. John M got a nice jacket in camouflage grey – I'm not sure just why, but he was well pleased and Janet seemed to approve.

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Once again the weather was great for the show, and we spent the two days in short sleeves considering sun cream but not quite needing it. However, the Friday had seen very wet conditions, and there was a distinct muddy effect all over the grassy bits on Saturday. Campers looked distinctly damp on Saturday morning when I arrived to set up the stand.

Steve Middleton

ELECTRONIC VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO ANSWER SAY BMF

Plans for the fitting of Electronic Vehicle Identification (EVI) to motorcycle number plates would be akin to 'tagging the law-abiding motorcyclist with an ankle tag' and be ineffective at addressing any of the issues relating to VED evasion and motorcycle theft say the BMF. Responding to a consultation document issued by the DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority) on the pros and cons of using EVI for motorcycles as a means of addressing both tax evasion and criminal activity, the British Motorcyclist Federation say that the money spent on EVI would be better spent on traffic officers policing the existing licensing regime. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) has shown that a significant number of vehicles of all types use cloned or stolen plates, but without adequate road policing for 'stop checks', the culprits remain unidentifiable. EVI might be more easily read say the BMF but the embed ded chip could be easily masked or indeed stolen along with the registration plate. This could mean, as now, that the victims of cloning or theft could be the ones held liable for the actions of criminals. In its formal response the BMF say that while it condemns tax evasion, the proposed new system would also have civil liberties implications. It would track the law-abiding, not the criminals the system is trying to catch. "The law abiding motorcyclist would effectively be monitored in the same way as a paroled prisoner with an ankle tag," said BMF Government Relations Executive Chris Hodder. Commenting further, Chris Hodder said: "While the BMF understands the problem, EVI is not the solution. It would not only be expensive to introduce but be largely ineffective in deterring the criminal and would only serve to monitor the honest and law abiding. We are fundamentally opposed to EVI and will vigorously resist any attempts to introduce such a scheme".

The DVLA is also proposing that with EVI, the current system of plate manufacture and provision for motorcycles be scrapped and a new system introduced. This would have a huge impact on the manufacturers of registration plates and the costs therefore passed onto the consumer.

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Details on this and other BMF activities can also be found on our web site: http://www.bmf.co.uk

John Quirk

BOB KIBBLES RUN TO SEAHOUSES, 8TH JULY 2007



After a week of torrential rain which had turned the car parking at T in the Park into a quagmire, it was a relief to head over to Edinburgh on Sunday morning under blue skies punctuated with fluffy white clouds. (If you've gotta have clouds then the bikers favourite is probably the Lesser White Fluffy).

The Transalp burped along the M9 effortlessly, as I reflected with immense pride on its coming 150th and last in Bike magazines 2007 'Bike of the Year' list.

Our rendezvous was at Sainsburys where Bob distributed meticulously hand drawn route maps. Better than Wainwright, these pictured the gently rounded Lammermuirs, coffee stops and even the wind turbines on Dun Law. The group numbered ten bikes as we left the car park and rode a short distance on the A1 then headed into the interesting 'B' road stuff. Through Gifford to a brief stop at the top of Newlands Hill at the summit of the Lammermuir Hills. Looking back we had a panoramic view over a vast area of east central Scotland. We could see from Bathgate to the bridges, Edinburgh, North Berwick, the Bass Rock, Fife and beyond. Wonderful. I read somewhere that you can see more of central Scotland from the top of Cairnpapple Hill,above Bathgate, than from any other location, but the view from the heights of the Lammermuirs was far more dramatic.

Keeping to curving B roads, unfamiliar to me and all the more enjoyable for it, we passed through picturesque villages to the first coffee stop at the Cedar Café, Grantshouse. Dave and the RSV headed back north after coffee and the rest rejoined the A1 for a few miles, crossed the border and then peeled off from the Berwick on Tweed bypass onto the B6525 to Wooler and onward through Belford until reaching Bamburgh. We passed below Bamburgh Castle which is massive and towers over the village from its rocky outcrop. Images of Dr Frankenstein and scythe-sharpening peasants sprung to mind. Understandably, the village was teaming with tourists and busy with cars so we picked our way carefully through and then rode beside sand dunes to our ultimate destination: Seahouses.

We sat above the harbour, enjoying the sunshine and lunching on obligatory sea side chips while watching those people not clad in Cordura slowly turning that signature summer shade of British Pink.

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Having ingested enough fat for a winter hibernation, it was time to set off on the long haul northwards. We passed through Wooler again, then Coldstream and on to Kelso where we parked up in the cobbled town centre. It was time for confession. Bob admitted we'd had an unintentional detour since leaving Seahouses (which I hadn't noticed). Most admitted to experiencing the onset of numb bum. The break for cold drinks helped and soon we were on our way again, following the Gatso-lined A697 and A68. During this stretch we had to negotiate a mercifully short section of road on which the council had randomly and generously distributed loose, grey grit in the name of road maintenance.

Reaching Edinburgh, we all headed off to our separate destinations. Thanks to Bob for a great route, destination and cartography.

Steve MacKinnon

KIRKUDBRIGHT 29 JULY

We were six, and then we were five. I took liberties with John Moss's route and mucked it about a bit at the start because he would be working on the other side of the planet on the scheduled date, and I picked up the gauntlet. Janet (Hornet 600) stayed on as Tail End Charlotte. Also at Dreghorn for the start were Steve MacKinnon (Transalp), Les Mackie (Bandit 1250), Neil Johnston (K1200S) and David Jerome (Mille). Arthur Shepherd walked round from his house and wished us a good run and took pix.

We made good time on the A702 / West Linton / A701 to Moffat and the Rumbling Tum for coffee and cake, to join many more bikes passing thru' or stopping. The weather was beautiful, but Dave J had a family appointment and departed for home via St Mary's Loch while we five continued down to the A75 at Dumfries. I was leading in theoretical mode, not having pre-ridden the route, but was depending on memory from holidays in the area and the run two years ago, plus some revision using Autoroute and via Michelin maps to look at details of junctions. I found the link road and we continued on the A711.

We got to Kirkudbright OK and the petrol station was where the man on the 'phone had said it would be, and open as well. Lunch at the Gordon House hotel was good – excellent food with a wide variety available from snacks to full meals. We set off after lunch in full sunshine to the A75 along the coast to just short of Newton Stewart and turned inland on the A712 – the Queen's Way. This is REALLY good – lovely scenery and roads. Just after New Galloway I screwed up – missing a turn to the North on the B7075 – I had completely forgotten it and my tank-top map was not detailed enough to remind me. Thus we ended up off-route and a sign pointing to the left to Moniaive woke me up (the weird name rang a bell!). As a result we had a 10-mile run on single-track roads to recover. During this Neil answered a call of nature and was delayed when he found his keys missing. After a brief panic he found them and rejoined us at the next junction. It gave Janet time for a fag break, at least!



The final section of A702 from Carronbridge to the A74 was wonderful with a lot of it newly resurfaced. A brief shower just as we went under the A74 and alongside it to the Abington services did not really cause any problems. While we were in for coffee and tea the heavens opened and absolutely chucked it down, for about 10 minutes. Then the blue sky reappeared – just in time for us to get going again. Amazing timing. Up to then we had done about 200 miles, and getting back to the Linlithgow area added another 50 or so, with individuals peeling off as their route home appeared. I was in the house about 6:30. The VFR was its usual well-behaved and satisfying self, aided and abetted by recent new Pirelli Diablo Stradas.

Steve Middleton

MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS ON WEBSITE/BIKE BYTES

At the last Committee meeting it was decided that it would be a Good Thing if members contact details were published on the members only section of the website or as an insert in Bike Bytes for those without email addresses. These details would be restricted to email and phone numbers only. Having this information available to all members would enable individuals to contact nearby members for spontaneous runs, trips to the pub etc.

As this information is stored on computer it falls within the Data Protection Act and even though the information would be restricted to members only, individuals must be given the opportunity to decline to have their details published. If any member does not wish to have their email address and/or phone number made available to other members, please let me know before 15th August.

As part of the updating of the website, it has been suggested that photographs should be included of as many members as possible preferably with their bikes. Please send any pictures to me, preferably by email.

John Quirk.

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Scottish Motorcycle Club

SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE CLUB
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 24TH JULY 2007
JUDY BROAD'S HOUSE

Judy Broad chaired this meeting.
Present: Janet Moss, Steve Middleton, Judy Broad, Paul Heuvelmans (to discuss Website).
Apologies: John Moss, Arthur Shepherd, John Quirk.

Minutes of June's Committee Meeting: Accepted. Proposed by Judy, seconded by Steve. Matters arising: to use the flyers from Kelso, laminate them, to send/give to Dealers. Steve to look into this. Suggestions for Club night theme in August "My 5 top tips for touring" - Steve and Paul Broughton to work something out for Club night and put a note in Bikebytes about it and topics for future discussions (bike maintenance, first bike, best bits of kit, bike rebuilding).

Secretary's Report: 71 members.

Treasurers Report: balance £587 which is down due to merchandise paid for, most of which will come back in. Kelso still to be paid for. There is £61 in the account which was donated for Jerry and John Quirk has about £100 donated from the Singles Club. One suggestion was to use the money to pay for member(s) to do "first bike on scene" course. Paul H offered to look into this.

EVENTS
Past
21st June David Jerome's Summer Solstice Run – 4 bikes, good run.
24th June Paul Broughton's BBQ run – postponed due to the weather.
29th June Chip Shop Run by John Moss – 7 bikes.
8th July Bob Kibble's Seahouses Ride – 10 bikes, great run with good weather.
Future
Friday 27th July – Chip Shop Run – Update: David Jerome has offered to run this.
Sunday 29th July – this Run now being led by Steve Middleton. Meet car park at Little Chef at Dreghorn Services 9.45 for 10.00 departure.
Sunday 5th August – Hamish Davidson to lead Run to Glendaruel. Janet will get John to e-mail Hamish for more details.
No more events on calendar, apart from Chip Shop Runs, until Applecross weekend. Janet will get John to e-mail members and point this out and ask for volunteers (also to lead Chip Shop runs).
29th/30th September – Applecross weekend. 10 people booked to go on this. Janet will confirm hotel and send cheque for deposit.

Website: Paul Heuvelmans came along with some suggestions for updating the website:-

1. Promote the Club/image/visibility in public area.
2. Committee members able to add events/photos.
3. Membership database available to enable members to correspond. Have details of members/bike/photo.

Paul to work out a plan to put to Committee. John Q is to let Brian know about Paul H and his offering to do some work on the website to make sure he is happy with this. He will pass Paul H's e-mail address onto Brian so he can contact him. If any Committee member has requests for things they want doing to the website, contact Paul H directly.

Bikebytes: Paul B absent.

Merchandise: Prices have gone up. Steve will have updated price list with the catalogue.

AOB: John and Janet M not at next Club night as they are on holiday.
Date of next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 28th August at Steve M's house.

AGENDA FOR NEXT CLUB MEETING WEDNESDAY 8TH AUGUST, BLACK BITCH, LINLITHGOW 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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