



The Magazine of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

WELCOME...

Happy New Year!! I hope you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to the new biking season. The 2013 calendar is up and running. It's just needs lots of entries put in, so put on your Run organising caps and let John (events@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk) know where you're going to take us or where you would like to go. Let's see if we can beat the 42 events that were organised last year!

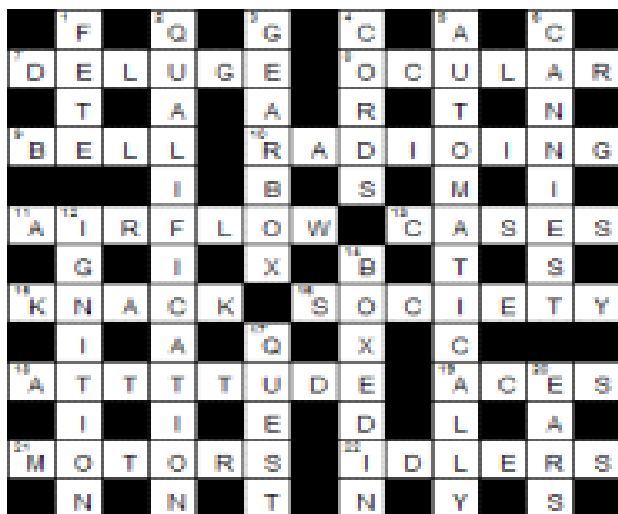
Cheers, **Janet Moss**

Bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new member David Goodenough to the Club, which brings the membership up to 63. He found us through the net and our 'superdupa' website. David lives in Edinburgh and rides a Kawasaki Zephyr 750.

SOLUTION TO LAST EDITION'S CROSSWORD



RABBIT IN THE HEADLIGHT

This edition's 'rabbit' is with our Webmaster, Alastair Wood



How long have you been a member of the SMC?

I became a fully-fledged member at the end of the 3 distilleries ride (Edradour, Dalwhinnie & Ben Nevis) in 2011 having been introduced to the club by our very own Steve Middleton.

When did you pass your test and what was your first 'proper' bike?

I originally wanted to learn to ride back in my college days but being a student the cash flow wasn't as such to allow the opportunity, not to mention the wrath of the parents. It all came about though as a result of a work colleague passing his test which re-ignited the desire to want to ride and so be it. I sat my CBT in March 2008 and took the direct access (on a Honda CB500) path come July passing the test first time with just one fault, coming round a corner too close to the centre line. In October 2008 I found and test-rode a Honda VFR800 Vtec and 3 years later I still own her, now deemed a modern classic by the insurers!

What would be your dream bike?

My dream bike? I have enough problems thinking of what to get as my next bike!! If I had a big garage I'd probably have several to keep me happy. Admittedly though, I'd quite like a BMW...

What is your favourite biking road?

Of all the roads I have ridden so far the one that appeals the most to me is the A86 between Kingussie and Spean Bridge. On a hot summers day I find the road spectacular what with the twists and the abundance of scenery.

Where were you born and when (optional)?

March 1974, Kendal, Lake District. My parents had been working on the construction of the M6 and by the age of 4 I was living in Glasgow for a short time before spending my youth in Cumbernauld and then Falkirk where I still reside to this day.

What do you do for a living?

I work as an IT Technical Consultant and have progressed my career since leaving college in 1994, having worked in both the private and public sectors.

I've also recently expanded my skills to the rank of Webmaster for the SMC...

What's your favourite film?

I don't have a particular as such but generally a good action flick to keep me amused will do, and although not action orientated the Shawshank Redemption and the Green Mile get my vote.

I'm also partial to Sci-Fi / Fantasy but that's pretty much limited to Star Wars and the Lord of the Rings trilogies.

What's your favourite food/drink?

Sweet and Sour Chicken (battered) with Fried Rice, washed down with a bottle of Peroni...

What's your pet hate?

Motorists who don't know what indicators are for, and who hog the overtaking lane on the motorway.

What 3 things (not including your partner) would you rescue from your house if it was burning down?

My 3 children (and my wife Lynne). Everything else is replaceable, they are NOT.

Who from history would you like to meet and why?

The geezer who invented the camera. I like to shoot landscape photography and if it weren't for the camera I wouldn't have pictures to reflect on and share of all my adventures in the Highlands and further afield.

CHALLENGE COMPETITIONS 2012 & 2013

With the arrival of the New Year the Bridge Challenge 2012 comes to an end. The results have been regularly reported both here in Bike Bytes and more frequently on the front page of the website, complete with a table of who has done what. Go see the table [here](#) if you are not familiar with it.

We have eight members who have visited all sixteen of the bridges and so qualify for a Gold award, three with the twelve visits needed for a Silver, and a further two with the eight for Bronze.

A total of 208 visits have been recorded with Belhaven in Dunbar – the “bridge to nowhere” – being the most popular with seventeen visits, closely followed by Devorgilla in Dumfries, Kalemouth near Kelso and Kinbuck near Dunblane all having sixteen visits.

The least visited, and most remote, is Kylesku, way “oop north” but in my view the most attractive and in the best setting.

The certificates have been designed and await printing and laminating for presentation at the Awards Night on the 2nd March. In my view richly deserved are the Silvers for Michael Wight and George Kay – the Scooter Boys – who got round thirteen of the bridges on their 125cc twist’n’go machines before the end of April. A superb performance. Janet and John Moss were not far behind and were first and second to complete the full house of 16 visits, before the middle of June. Ken Eddie was next with Fiona keeping him pointing in the right direction from the pillion, and a big cheer is due for a third Eddie, Sarah, who was fourth to complete the full set on her restricted Bonnie just over a year after passing her test.

The new element of the Challenge last year was a Best Bridge Photograph competition, for members to show their photography skills. This has produced 89 pictures with Kinbuck being the most popular subject (possibly because it had at least two Club runs visit it and is fairly central to the membership) with eleven pictures, followed by eight each of Victoria bridge up in Braemar and Wade’s Tay bridge in Aberfeldy.

We have made an arrangement with the Art department of Linlithgow Academy to judge the pictures, using our old website to view them. Our Webmaster, Alasdair Wood, has done a great job of modifying the site to suit this use. He has also modified the “new” site to better present pictures in a user-friendly way. Certificates have been designed for this competition too.

For 2013 we shall have a Landmarks Challenge using famous and significant locations around the country. Some destinations to be included are Ardnamurchan lighthouse (the most westerly point on the British mainland), the St Andrews clubhouse, Meiklour Beech Hedge, Gretna blacksmith’s shop. The final list is yet to be decided, but will be soon and the Challenge details published via the website, so keep an eye out for that before the end of January. I hope we shall have a Best Landmark Photo competition too.

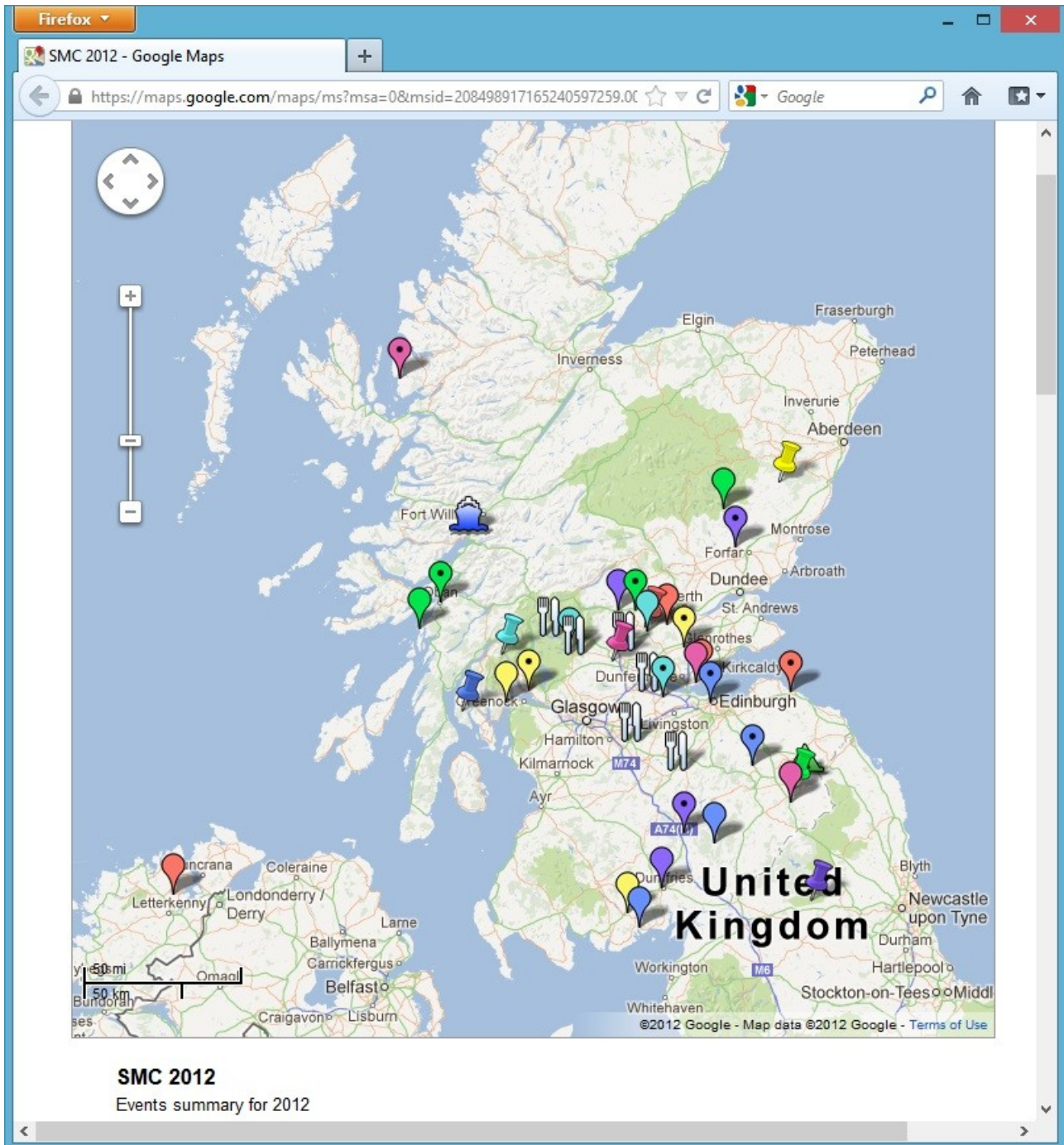
Steve Middleton

2012 EVENTS ROUND-UP

Last year was another record year for events at the Scottish Motorcycle Club. We had a total of 42 events on the calendar (not including those we had to postpone or cancel due to the inclement weather). Of this number 20 were full day events, 9 were half day, 5 were overnighters with the rest comprising chip shop runs, BBQs and other random events.

The events were organised by 15 different individuals, with Ken Eddie organising the most (9). Sarah Eddie wins the prize (if there is one!) for performing the TEC duties most often (9). Take a look at the map to see where we got to in 2012. Most pleasing is the fact that 55 of our members attended at least one event in 2012, that's ~88% of the membership. Moving on to 2013, we already have a couple of events in the calendar including a trip to Brugge in April organised by Ken Eddie and Janet and I will try to take a run to the Hartside Cafe in May. We also have the Kelso BMF Bikefest in July. It's a start, but we

need a lot more if we are going to compete with 2012, so please let me know if you are thinking of organising an event for 2013, or if you would like a run to be organised to any particular location.



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WHAT WAS YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

Jonathan Douglas says

“I have been bought a trip on a micro-light . Sort of a motorbike with wings. Some time in 2013 I will head to the skies.”

Judy Broad replied:

“Here's a pic of my best present! An addition to the garage, hopefully will make me fitter, though I haven't ventured out on it more than twice yet - I last cycled about 15 years ago, so I'm a bit wobbly”.



John Moss said

“An 18 year old bottle of Glengoyne, a present from my daughters, was my best Christmas present.”

The Editor commented that “a personalised calendar of photos from last year, collated by my girls was my favourite gift this Christmas.”

Alastair Wood enjoyed watching 'Ted', but also had fun putting his son's Lego mining set together.

Steve Mackinnon and Alex Muir also received DVDs – 'Mongrels' and '24, series 8'.

Steve Middleton just “enjoyed spending time with my son and fettling with my new bike”

PROPOSED TRIP TO BRUGES

Fiona and I have in the past done a couple of trips down to France on the bike, and we've often had folk in the SMC say that they'd fancied doing a trip to the continent, but a bit nervous about heading off on their own, so I've decided to lead a short "taster" trip to Brugge in April, departing the 4th, returning the 9th.

Plan as follows:

Day 1 – Thursday 4th – Meet then ride to Ferry at North Shields (departs 1700)

Day 2 – Friday 5th – Ferry (Amsterdam) to Brugge. Mainly [motorway](#) (easier to acclimatise to riding on right).

Day 3 – Saturday 6th - Chill in Brugge – explore city. No biking intended.

Day 4 – Sunday 7th – Rideout. Down into [France](#) – Dunkirk return via WW1 cemetery in Belgium.

Day 5 – [Monday 8th](#) – [Leisurely](#) ride back up for ferry.

Day 6 – Tuesday 9th – Ferry to Home.

If you are interested in joining us, there are three easy steps.

Step 1 – e-mail me at keneddie@aol.com to let me know that you are intending to join us.

Step 2 – Book your hotel on line: <http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1047-ibis-brugge-centrum/index.shtml> - Check in Friday 5th – Check out Monday 8th .

Step 3 – Book your ferry online: <http://www.dfdsseaways.co.uk/> - Newcastle to Amsterdam sailing at 1700 on the 4th. Amsterdam to Newcastle sailing at 1730 on the 8th.

Couldn't be easier.....

There is five signed up already, so, don't be shy, the more the merrier.

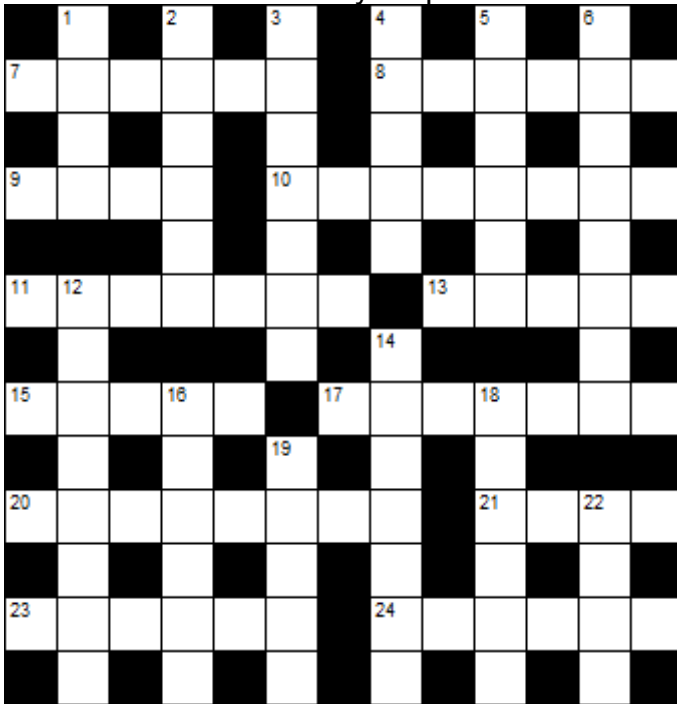
KEN EDDIE

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

If you're interested in how the Club is run and who makes the decisions, then you might like to check out the Minutes of the Committee meetings. Log onto the website. Click on DOCUMENTS which is one of the tabs along the top of the front page. Click on COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS, then the relevant year and the Minutes you want to read. Meetings are held several times a year, depending on what needs discussing. We had five in 2012 and they are held at a member's house, usually with excellent refreshments provided.

Remember it's the AGM in March so if you fancy joining the Committee just speak to any of the current Committee members. Also Steve MacKinnon will be sending out details of the AGM in February and there'll be a part on that you can fill in. Why not give it a try?

The latest crossword for your perusal... solution in the next edition.



Across

- 7 Slang for 'called on the telephone' (6)
- 8 See 10 (6)
- 9 Kind of brake (4)
- 10 and 8 Device to enable the driver to see the road behind (8)
- 11 Nearest (7)
- 13 Relish (5)
- 15 Colder (5)
- 17 Spans (7)
- 20 Get together (8)
- 21 Large container (4)
- 23 Adjusts (6)
- 24 Solvent in winter conditions (6)

Down

- 1 Animal (4)
- 2 Joining devices (6)
- 3 Place of residence (7)
- 4 An oily one's a danger on the road (5)
- 5 Had guided a vehicle (6)
- 6 Arrive at base (4,4)
- 12 Close to a Scottish body of water (8)
- 14 Companions (7)
- 16 Allowed to ignore a rule (6)
- 18 Small facts (6)
- 19 Cause to be embarrassed (5)
- 22 Requirement (4)

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