



The Magazine of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

WELCOME...

to the last edition of Bikebytes for the 2013 Club year. Let's hope that next season (and the weather) will be as good!!

We've just had our AGM and your newly elected Committee are:-

Chairman – John Hill
Membership Secretary – Steve MacKinnon
Treasurer – Alex Muir
Events Co-ordinator – Gavin Paton
Editor – Janet Moss
Meetings Secretary – Sarah Eddie
Merchandising – Ken Eddie

Also decided at the AGM were the annual subscriptions which will remain at £15 for the coming season. Steve MacKinnon is sending out renewals so don't delay getting yours in! There is advice on the Club's website on how to pay your membership directly into the Club bank account if you want to renew that way. Go to Club Information on the Home page and click on Club Articles and there is a section "How to transfer money to SMC Bank Account" or check out the Forum/General Chat and the top posting also tells you how to do it.

Full Minutes of the AGM should be available on the website soon.
Don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @ScotBikeClub.

Your feedback is also wanted on:- How would you, the Members like to see YOUR money spent if there was an excess of funds due to the Club not taking a Stand at Kelso. Please send in your suggestions to the Editor (or any of the Committee) and they'll be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Cheers, Janet Moss

[Bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk](mailto:bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk)

LAKES & BORDERS WEEKEND OCTOBER 4th/5th

Alan Hopper is organising a weekend away, foraying into the Scottish Borders and Cumbrian Lakes. He is planning on spending the night at the Carlisle Central North Premier Inn, Kingstown Road, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 0AT. If you fancy coming along, drop him a mail - alan.hopper@hotmail.co.uk and get yourself booked into the hotel. Alan is a very experienced Leader so this promises to be a good overnigher!

MERCHANDISE

You will have recently received (via email) Issue 3 of the Club Merchandising Catalogue, with the very latest pricing provided by our supplier. Ordering is fairly straight forward. You can order:-

By e-mail to: shop@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Order should include as follows.

Catalogue Page Number, Item description, Size, Colour, Quantity. You will receive a confirmation e-mail on receipt of your order.

At club events (Runs, club nights etc.) you can pass your written order to me or any other committee member. Order should include as follows. Catalogue Page Number, Item description, Size, Colour, Quantity.

No Payment is required until receipt of your goods. You will be e-mailed when the order has been delivered to the club, to arrange your payment & collection of goods.

NOTE: BE SURE ABOUT THE SIZE YOU ORDER, AS ONCE THE GARMENTS ARE EMBROIDERED THEY CANNOT BE RETURNED TO OUR SUPPLIER. YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR ALL GARMENTS ORDERED / DELIVERED & THE CLUB CANNOT AFFORD TO BE LIABLE FOR ANY MIS-ORDERING.

I will make a maximum of one order per month with our supplier, usually during the weekend after the monthly club meet. No individual orders will be processed outside of this.

Myself and the club webmaster are still working on a shop function on the club website, so you may soon be able to make orders through this, but until this work is complete no orders are being accepted via the web. While the website shop “looks” functional, there are elements still in work, and functionality / prices are incomplete / incorrect, therefore please don't use it and expect the order to be confirmed. We will inform you when the web shop is fully commissioned. Until that time, please ignore.

Ken Eddie

CLUB MERCHANDISER

2013 LANDMARK CHALLENGE BEST PHOTOGRAPH

Our judges from Linlithgow Academy Art dept. have selected the top three pictures from the 46 entered in the competition. First place – again, after winning last year – is Alex Muir with a beautiful image of the Forth Bridge taken at sunset. Second is Ruby Rennie Panter with a landscape of Oban centred on McCaig's Tower; third is Janet Moss with a close-up view of the structure of the Forth Bridge. The pictures are also in 2013 Challenge Gallery on the Club website [here](#) if you want to see them in their full glory on your computer screen.





2014 GOLF CLUB CHALLENGE

The new Challenge is up and running, with eight visits made by five members to five different courses as at 8th March. George Kay, Gordon Robertson and Steve Middleton have made two visits each, and David Goodenough and Tommy Taylor one each. Eight members have so far registered for the Challenge.

The Challenge is fully documented on the Club website with a front page article linking to the instructions and current standings. Go take a look [here](#) and scroll down to the article. Then get out and take part.

Steve Middleton

AWARDS NIGHT SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2014

The Mercat Bar was the place to be on Saturday 22 February. With numbers increasing every year it seems, even with a few who unfortunately (for them) couldn't make it at the last moment, we had 19 of us there. It was also much more accessible this year as the tram works along the main road in front have been completed and all the construction works cleared way.

Although we had a late call from the Mercat to choose our meals in advance, we managed to supply them with most people's choice, and with a few more choices available on the night, I don't think anybody was disappointed. There was a a good selection and all at reasonable prices.

Everybody seemed to get stuck in, not only to the food, but to the drink they wanted, whether on their own or grouping together to share a bottle of wine, or two, or three! But nobody was riding their bikes, so no problem there. Having said that and from what I saw

at Haymarket Station waiting for my train home, I think we were very well behaved. This of course is only to be expected from the sensible fun loving bikers that we are!!

So after the main meal was finished, and without waiting for those who indulged in a dessert as well, we proceeded to the Awards themselves.

For those of you who weren't there to see who won which award, there is a list below for your information. This also includes those who received certificates for their efforts in the 2013 Landmarks Challenge. The main award, the Merit Shield, went to John Moss for all his untiring, enthusiastic and diligent work over the years as Events Co-ordinator, 2013 being his last year holding this position.

From the convivial atmosphere on the night and feedback afterwards, it can be considered another very enjoyable and successful evening. We look forward to seeing even more attending next year!!

John Hill

SMC 2013 AWARDS

1. Most runs attended by a non-committee member
Kenny Anderson, 17 runs - engraved glass
2. Most runs organised
Ken Eddie, 10 runs - engraved glass
3. Most runs organised by a non-committee member
Steve Middleton, 4 runs - engraved glass
4. Most TEC's by a non-committee member
John Nicol, 2 runs - engraved glass
5. Members favourite bike photo on website
John Hill - engraved glass



6. Landmarks Challenge certificates and coasters for all
 - 7 Gold:- Ken Eddie, Sarah Eddie, Janet Moss, John Moss, Tommy Taylor, John Hill, Steve Middleton
 - 2 Silver:- David Goodenough, Gavin Paton
 - 5 Bronze:- George Kay, Michael Wight, Alex Muir, Helena Morton, Alasdair Wood
7. Landmarks Challenge photos :-
 - 1st Alex Muir - engraved glass;
 - 2nd Ruby Rennie Panter; 3rd Janet Moss - coasters
8. Merit Shield
 - John Moss - engraved glass



Certificates and prizes presented at the Awards Dinner.

GROUP RIDING

Now that the new season is nearly upon us, members might like to be reminded of procedures and safety points for riding in a group.

INTRODUCTION

Riding on the road should be a safe, sometimes instructive and always enjoyable experience - if you, your bike and any pillion are fit and well-prepared. So, before you set out from home, check the bike (brakes, chain, electrics, tyres, fluids, security) and yourselves (waterproofs, sunglasses (ha!), etc.).

When you arrive at the departure point for a Club run, please ensure your bike has a full fuel tank and take advantage of organised fuel stops as necessary during the day.

On your first run with the Club you should make yourself known to the Run Leader so they

can welcome you, introduce you to other members and ensure you are confident of the arrangements.

As a Club, we have few rules, but those we do have are there for good reason. On Club runs there will often be a wide mix of riders and bikes, from relative novices/newcomers to experienced riders and single-cylinder bikes up to Goldwings. If everyone on the run exercises their common sense, then everybody will have an enjoyable day. Our Club runs often take us to parts of the country that are new to many of the riders. Since most people don't much like getting lost and abandoned, we do like to stay reasonably together so that the Organiser can lead and the rest of us can follow safely to the coffee and lunch stops. For that reason there will be an initial briefing by the Run Leader explaining the route for the day and when there is any chance that riders could get lost we use the Drop Off system to mark turns from the straight ahead route.

THE DROP OFF SYSTEM

The Run Leader and the Tail End Charlie (TEC) will wear SMC fluorescent reflective jackets and introduce themselves at the briefing at the start of the run, so you will be able to see what they, their helmets and bikes look like.

When a turn needs to be marked, the Run Leader will indicate to the rider immediately following behind by pointing down at the side of the road. That rider (the Marker) will choose a safe point to park and indicate to other following riders the route to follow. At roundabouts the Marker will be on the exit route. If you cannot see the Marker on your approach to the roundabout (often the case at larger roundabouts) be prepared to completely circle the roundabout to confirm the exit to take.

When the TEC arrives the Marker will rejoin in front of the TEC unless it is not safe to do so. In that event the marker will catch and overtake the TEC when possible.

GROUP RIDING PROTOCOL

You are responsible for your own safety. Ride for your own safety and the safety of others. You alone (and not the SMC, its Officials or Organisers) are responsible for your own actions and the safety of you, your bike and any pillion.

Remember the "2 second rule" (Highway Code Rule 28) and keep a safe distance from the bike in front. Stay alert. Ride in staggered formation where appropriate to give yourself a better view (it allows the rider in front to see you in the mirrors and keeps the group more together in built-up areas).

Wait for the TEC to arrive, however long it takes. (- and make sure it is our TEC, not just another rider in a HiViz jacket!).

Riders will normally stay in order without overtaking, unless the rider in front positively invites the overtake. If you see a big gap opening up ahead and others are close behind,

consider inviting them to pass so as not to cause any 'crowding' or frustration.

When overtaking in a line of traffic be aware of any other bikes which may follow you and move over to the inside after overtaking to give them a gap to slot into.

If you want to leave the run before its end please tell the Leader or TEC so we do not institute a search for a "lost" rider.

Do not feel pressurised to ride in a way with which you are not comfortable. It is all too easy when riding in a group to get "dragged" along at speeds beyond your present capabilities. Don't. We want everybody to arrive safely at the next stop. If you have any safety concerns, speak to the Run Leader or another member.

RABBIT IN THE HEADLIGHT

This time the headlight is turned on our Treasurer, Alex Muir.



How long have you been a member of the SMC?

After some digging it looks like I joined in 2005, so that would be nine years

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

Test (such as it was) passed in July 1977 on a Suzuki B120P. My first "big" bike was a Suzuki GS400B - well it was all I could afford on a student budget!

What would be your dream bike?

My dreams were kicked into touch long ago by practicality but it would be nice to have a red Ducati sports bike in the living room. Just to look at.

What is your favourite biking road?

A85 Tyndrum to Dalmally would be up there (either direction).

Where were you born and when (optional)?

Bellshill Maternity Hospital in 19 (something).

What do you do for a living?

I'm an accountant with HarperCollins Publishers.

What's your favourite film?

Blues Brothers - good music and loads of car chases!

What's your favourite food/drink?

Fish and chips, but only from a small number of chippies and Bacardi & Coke.

What's your pet hate?

Ant & Dec.

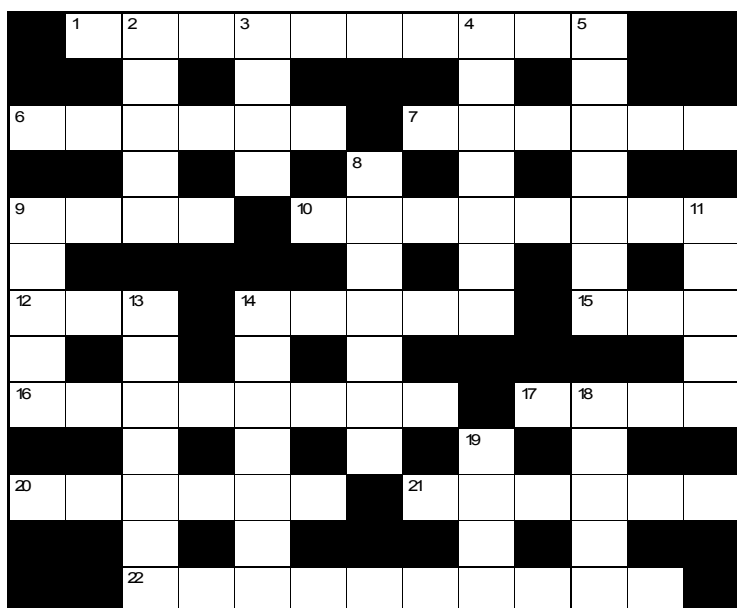
What 3 items (not including your family) would you rescue from your house if it was burning down?

My computer, laptop and the cat.

Who from history would you like to meet and why?

Nobody sticks out.

SOLUTION TO LAST EDITION'S CROSSWORD



Print out the page to see the grid fully.

ACROSS

- 1 Intersections (10)
- 6 Foot levers (6)
- 7 Trip (6)
- 9 Stream (in Scotland) (4)
- 10 The shape of a ring (8)
- 12 Equipment (3)
- 14 Former name of Shropshire (5)
- 15 A pair (3)
- 16 Winding motion (8)
- 17 Large town (4)
- 20 Bunny (6)
- 21 The beginning (6)
- 22 Facial expression when surprised (6-4)

DOWN

- 2 One travelling on a horse or bike (5)
- 3 Roads treated with this in icy weather (4)
- 4 One wheel protector (1,6)
- 5 Helmet (4-3)
- 8 Seat behind 2 across (7)
- 9 One who rides a two-wheeled vehicle (5)
- 11 Spacious (5)
- 13 Carrier (4,3)
- 14 Seated (7)
- 18 Publication, or matter of contention (5)
- 19 Hollow cylinder that can carry liquids (4)

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