

BikeBytes

The Magazine of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

WELCOME...

To the newest edition of BikeBytes, and Happy New Year to everyone. Did anyone get any bike related gifts this year? With Winter well upon us, most of us (apart from the brave year-round bikers) have bedded our bikes down for the winter, but there are still some Club events going on – the usual Club nights, a very enjoyable Christmas dinner (more of which below) and the Awards night will be taking place in February. Hope to see some of you there!

Club Challenge

The treasure hunt has been continuing strong over the summer and there are now a few people who have completed visited all the lighthouses and attained Gold. Congratulations to: John Nicol, Janet and John Moss, Steve Middleton, John Hill, Tommy Taylor and Alex Muir who all have Gold.

Christmas Night Out

The Christmas Night Out took place at Cook's in Stirling and 17th December and was very well-attended. We were given a side room to ourselves and everyone seemed to enjoy the food very much. Thanks also to the Committee for supplying bottles of wine for the table!

Run Reports

There were some runs taking place into October last year – some reports are below:

Lake District Weekend: We all agreed that it was a fantastic weekend. The weather was great, The Lake District looked splendid, the roads were interesting and fun, and the craic never stopped - well only when we weren't. Thanks to Alan Hopper for organising and leading us all so well including booking our table for an excellent Italian dinner on Saturday night. We kept the same running order throughout. Alan at the front, Jim McKeeman at No. 2 and always at a never varying 15 metres behind Alan. At No. 3 was Fraser Wilson varying the noise levels for us all. John Hill, now named by the others as Top Tec, made sure nobody got lost.

The run down on Saturday took us via Peebles to Selkirk for our first coffee stop. Then after Hawick some fab roads, A6088 to Bonchester Bridge and the B6357 south before turning off to Kielder and our lunch stop. The afternoon saw us continue in England to the Hartside pass and cafe. How Alan mounted his bike after that portion of coffee cake!! Then it was on to Carlisle for our overnight. 3 of us in the Premier Inn while Jim went on to find his hotel somewhere in the city centre. In the morning without our leader, he had to resort to hiring a taxi to follow to guide him back to us at the Premier Inn !! That must be a first !!! To his surprise when he did find our bikes there were now 4 !!! Ian Jones had made an early start and ridden down to join us the our day in the Lakes.

The Sunday we went south on the A6 over Shap and on to Kendal and just after we stopped at the Gilpin Bridge Inn for coffee. Then to Lake Windermere which we crossed on the ferry on an idyllic morning. Now in the heart of the Lake District, we passed through Hawkshead, Ambleside and Windermere before heading up the Kirkstone Pass at the top of which we stopped for lunch and more great views. Then it was homewards vis Penrith, Carlisle the A7 to Hawick for our final stop. Then the A68 to Edinburgh.

Approx 410 miles

The only unfortunate incident was on the Sunday morning as we were getting ready to leave. Jim's helmet rolled on to the ground and the visor attachment broke. So he endured the whole day with too much fresh air in his face!

Perthshire: This was a good fun day keeping away from most of the traffic and enjoying biking together on a mixture of roads, but all with plenty of bends. Well except for one very short section on the A9 !! Nine of us set off from Bowtrees, John Hill leading, Steve Middleton as TEC and his friend he brought along, Jim McLaughlan; Jonathan Douglas, John Nicol on his new small BMW (another brown one like some others in the Club!); Alan Graham, Simon Taylor, James McKeemen and Charlie Porter. Beware, Bowtrees service area was closed so we had some early unscheduled stops for fuel. We were soon through Glendevon on a glorious day heading for Crieffely

Then a good coffee stop in Aberfeldy at the cafe opposite the petrol station. Unfortunately we had somehow managed to lose Charlie. Someone said he stopped for a pee in Crieff!

We then went north on smaller roads to Tummel Bridge and then an even smaller unclassified road high up in to the hills with great views of the Ciarngorms. Then to Pitlochry for more refreshments. We finished in Perth after going via Bridge of Cally and Blairgowrie. Big grins all round said it all.

Awards Night

The awards night will take place next year on 25th February at The Star and Garter in Linlithgow. If you wish to attend, please let John Hill know.

Merchandise

The Club shop is still open for business, there are some new items for sale including a limited number of calendars, buffs and glasses with an etched logo. See the Club Website for more details.

And Finally...

BikeBytes needs you! If you have anything bike related you think other members of the Club might be interested in, please send it over. Even if it's just an idea you don't want to write yourself, just send it over.

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary: Gordon Robertson
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