

February 2009



# BikeBytes



The Monthly Magazine Of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member **Steven Kenny** from Torphichen who rides a new BMW R1200GS and also owns a Yamaha XV1600 Wildstar. Steven deserves a second mention as he turned up on his GS for David Jerome's proposed run to North Berwick on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. Frost and ice were the order of the day and it was decided to defer the run until another time but hats off to them both for braving the conditions and setting out on two wheels.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank **Paul Heuvelmans** for the invaluable work and expertise he put into his Webmaster role. It was Paul who, back in July, set up and launched our current website. The improvement over the previous site is immeasurable, with members now able to post articles and join in the forums. Paul has moved to London but leaves the website in the capable hands of [Bikebytes](#) Editor, **Paul Broughton**.

I hope everyone has received a Notice of the AGM to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Please try to come along if you can as there is a lot to discuss and decide.

If you have any questions I can be contacted via the at [secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk) or via the website

**Steve MacKinnon**

## ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE FOR HONDA BY 2010

There are exciting plans in the works on the environmental technology front with the announcement by Honda's President and CEO, Takeo Fukui, that the company is currently developing a battery-powered electric motorcycle which emits no CO2 during operation.

According to Fukui, in order for Honda to sustain its business during the next 100 years of the automotive industry, the company will further strengthen its ability to continue advancing environmental technologies and to apply them to creative and attractive products.

Honda believes the characteristics of a battery can be better utilized in the area of motorcycles, which are often used for short distance travel.

In the pursuit of advanced environmental technologies for motorcycles, Honda has been developing and releasing products that use energy sources other than gasoline for quite some time. In fact, Honda has been developing electricity-powered scooters since the latter half of the 1980s.

In 2004, Honda unveiled a fuel cell scooter prototype in addition to the hybrid scooter and electric moped developed as prototypes for eventual mass production. The Honda FC Stack, which was originally used in automobiles, was applied to the fuel cell scooter, after being made lighter and more compact to be the optimal size for scooters.

The 50 cc hybrid scooter prototype employs both an internal combustion engine and an electric motor and provides ample storage space.

The electric moped has a built-in 360kW light nickel hydrogen battery inside an aluminium frame. Being powerful enough to climb a 12-degree incline, the electric moped offers performance comparable to that of a gasoline-powered moped.

Honda is aiming to introduce the fully electric motorcycle to the market in approximately two years and envisages it could be viable for commercial as well as individual applications.

**Honda Press Release**

## OXFORD HOTHANDS ROAD TESTED

Having fitted the wrap-round HotHands I wanted to try them out as soon as possible. There was a brief cold but dry weather window on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January so I set off towards Aberfoyle to find a location, the Teapot Cottage, which had been used in the 1959 version of 'The 39 Steps'.

Because the HotHands are wrap-round items they make the grips feel both fatter and 'squishier' than normal, but you soon get used to this. The instructions say they are designed to be used with winter gloves so why is the switch so small and fiddly? With the green 'power' LED glowing, the HotHands soon started to warm up. With no way of

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:

Steve MacKinnon

Tel: 01786 475948 07802 200964 E-mail: [Stephen.mackinnon@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Stephen.mackinnon@tiscali.co.uk)

regulating the heat, other than switching off, they proceeded to go from warm to hot, very hot and eventually unbearably hot. I reckon you could spit roast a couple of small mammals on these things.

I reached Aberfoyle in toasty comfort and enquired at the Tourist Info if they knew where The Teapot had been before it was summarily and controversially demolished a few years ago. The helpful assistant said it was located just beyond Kinlochard and that there was now a new Teapot Cottage on the site of the original building.

The B829 from Aberfoyle to Inversnaid and Stronachlachar is now in a terrible state – massive potholes, gravel and on the day I visited large bits of it were under large bits of Loch Ard. In other words, top fun on a trail bike. The car park for The Wee Blether tearoom at Kinlochard was completely submerged and shortly after leaving the village I found the house which had replaced the original Teapot. Very sympathetic to the surroundings it is too – a fairly plain white house in a pleasant location. Just beyond it was the tiny hump-backed bridge where, in the movie, a police car had stopped while searching for Hannay. The camera had obviously been pointing back towards Aberfoyle as The Teapot was behind the car in the shot.

The Teapot was part of the heritage of the area as it had been a comfort stop in the days of horse drawn coaches. One website says that it was home to the best illicit whisky still in the county. While tourists would request pots of tea, locals would ask for *glasses* of tea and receive an entirely different drink.

If you know the Trossachs and Balquidder area well, the '59 version of the film is well worth watching if only to spot the many local locations used. The geographical liberties taken were quite bizarre. Hannay (Kenneth More) is making his way to the fictional village of Glenkirk and he has a map which shows it situated between Milton and Kinlochard on the B829. However, he gets a lift from Sid James who tells him that Glenkirk is on the road to Aberdeen. When he finally arrives, Glenkirk turns out to be Killin!

Pointless mission accomplished I splashed back through Aberfoyle and made my way back to Stirling via Thornhill. The round trip was about 80 miles and I have to say I was impressed with the HotHands. I'm pretty sure that in those temperatures my hands would have frozen without them. Cheap and cheerful they may be and I have reservations about their durability – but they work.

**Steve MacKinnon**

## BMF PRESS RELEASES

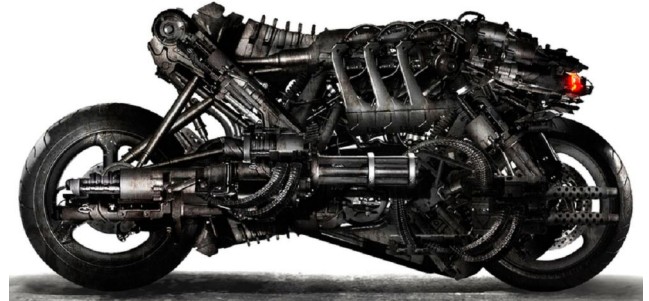
You can now sign up to receive Press Releases, by email, from the BMF. Simply enter your name and email address at:

[http://www.bmf.co.uk/pages/press\\_release.php](http://www.bmf.co.uk/pages/press_release.php)

**Steve MacKinnon**

## TERMINATOR BIKE

The new Terminator film is due out soon, and it has the Terminator riding a bike.



**Paul Broughton**

## BIKEBYTES EDITOR

As I have now taken over as Webmaster the position of [BikeBytes](#) editor. Therefore if you would like to help the club out by taking on this role then please can you let the Chairman know prior to the AGM.

**Paul Broughton**

## SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE CLUB

This years show takes place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March. As well as the new bikes, with the chance to sit on them, there will be Harley rider training sessions and Walker Ecosse Dakar Truck with Simon Pavey (motorcycle instructor to Ewan McGregor & Charley Boorman).

For the family there is the children's mini-moto demonstrators, go carting, fun fair and Scalextrix.

Tickets cost £12 in advance and £15 on the day. For more information see their website:

<http://www.scottishmotorcycleshow.com>

**Paul Broughton**

## SCOTTISH BIKERS FORUM

A new bike forum has just started up for Scottish Bikers. As this venture has just started out it is hard to say of how much use it will be to Scottish riders.

The site can be found at <http://scottishbikers.co.uk>

**Paul Broughton**

## FILL THIS SPACE

Do you have an article for [BikeBytes](#)? if so please email it to the [BikeBytes](#) editor

**Paul Broughton**