

WELCOME

Welcome to a new club year and to the April edition of **BikeBytes**. The season has hardly started yet and already we have three new members. Chairman **Ken Eddie**'s wife and pillion passenger **Fiona** and daughter **Sarah** have signed up and **Alex Connell** from Falkirk (Honda Deauville 700) joined us as a guest on the Pitlochry run and before the trip was over had become our latest new member. A warm welcome to the club and we hope to see all of you on the runs and events to come.

The AGM was held on the 11th of March and the Minutes and details of the new committee have been posted on the website and are attached to the end of this edition.

As we are now into April could I remind everyone that subscription renewals are due? At the AGM it was decided to simplify the subscription fee by making it £15 for every member, so no change for most. There should be a Renewal Form included with this edition. Please fill it in and send, with your cheque, to my address which is printed on the form.

Keeping up to date with what is going on at the club is easy, just log on to the website at <http://www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk>. Thanks to the efforts of Webmaster **Paul Broughton**, this is a much more user-friendly site than the previous version. Check out the Calendar to find out what is coming up and the Gallery and Run Reports for a flavour of recent and not so recent runs and events. Have a look at the Forum, read the posts and add to the growing list of topics. If you have any problems logging on or have questions about the website, please email me at secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk.

The next club night is on Wednesday 8th April and the next planned run is Steve Middleton's Crieff, Killin and Katrine Run on Sunday 19th April, meeting at Stirling Services at 9.45am.

Steve MacKinnon

EDITORIAL

The Ingliston Bike Show has been and gone, so it must be spring again, which means blowing all those

winter cobwebs away and getting back on two wheels. I've been on a couple of longish runs recently and what a great feeling to get out and about again....a bit rusty to start with perhaps, but after a wee while...brilliant!

This time of year is also the time for our Annual General Meeting and, as a result of simply scratching my head at an inappropriate moment during the meeting, you have a new **BikeBytes** editor!

There have been a few changes in the committee and I hope to persuade the new members to produce a short piece about themselves to introduce them to the membership. Ken Eddie, our new Chairman, has generously started the process and his 'resume' is below. Don't worry guys, I'll get something from the rest of you soon!!

Ken Glendinning

INTRODUCTION TO YOUR NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Having been elected at the recent AGM to chair the committee of the club, I thought it would be a good idea to put down some words in this issue of Bikebytes as many of you may not know me.



I've been a member of the club since, I guess, around 2001, when I had my Honda Hornet and was living in Troon. I was only able to participate in maybe just one or two club runs a year until fairly recently, as my employers needs forced three house

moves in the period 2000 to 2005!! However, with us pretty well settled at our current home in Dunblane, I took a conscious effort last year to get out and do more with the club.

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:

Steve MacKinnon

Tel: 01786 475948 07802 200964 E-mail: Stephen.mackinnon@tiscali.co.uk

And more I certainly did. I think it was ten runs, including the Applecross and Borders weekends. What helped a bit too is that my other half, Fiona, has rediscovered the pillion, which she hadn't experienced since our "courting" days (now too many years to mention!!). So, we've also been doing our own thing, with a trip last year out through Skye to Harris and back into Ullapool, and back down the Great Glen, about 700 miles, over five or six days.

And more to come this year. Lots of runs are now filling up the club calendar, which we are looking forward to, and Fiona and I are planning a trip up to Orkney ourselves in May. The BMW has been on SORN over the winter, and is currently getting serviced, but 1st of April, we are back in business. I think the first club run that I will see you at will be Steve Middletons run up through Crieff, Killin and Katrine on the 19th April, and I will lead a run the following week down through Dumfriesshire and back up through South Ayrshire. There are still plenty of free dates that can be filled with other runs. It goes without saying that you don't need to be a committee member to lead a run. If you have a nice route that you know, let the Events Organiser know, and he will do the necessary to publicise it, and we will all help, should you need a "Tail End Charlie", or any other assistance to make it happen.

As far as the role of chairman of the newly elected committee, I don't envisage any sweeping changes in the way the club is run on your behalf, unless of course that it is the unequivocal wish of the membership. I have listened to the request from some of the membership for a brief account of the committee meeting discussion points at the monthly club meet, which we will endeavour to deliver, while keeping the truly social element of the meeting. I would point out though, in my experience, the committee minutes, which are usually published fairly quickly after a committee meeting, are an accurate reflection of these meetings, and are accessible to all members on the website and sent out with bikebytes.

What will be a priority is keeping up the efforts in attracting new members, and perhaps wooing back some lapsed members. This is where we can all help, as word of mouth is often more effective than elaborate campaigns. There are a fair few other clubs out there that I guess we are competing with for membership, but I do believe that what we have going here is the right thing. Riding responsibly for fun and pleasure in the company of other members.

I look forward to seeing you during what I hope will be a very successful run season in 2009.

Ken Eddie

Ingliston Bike Show

I mentioned the Ingliston Bike Show earlier and this year, I managed a very short visit on the Sunday, just before I jumped into the car and headed up to Gairloch...for work unfortunately!

I didn't spend a long time in the sales halls, but I did have a close look at a few nice new, mouth-watering, machines. The new Ducati Multistrada looked lovely and I would imagine would sound just great...though the show model was in white, it was only available in red for some reason?

I also loved the 'Steve McQueen' special Triumph Scrambler. Looking very like the 'Great Escape' bike that Bud Ekins rode in the famous escape scene (ok, at a distance!), but with some nice add-ons. I've fancied a Scrambler for a while now...but, unless my lottery numbers come up, it'll just have to a platonic relationship.

The highlight of the show, as far as I was concerned, was Steve Colley's Trials show, outside in the show area. I've seen some trials riding in my time, and I was thinking of heading up to the 'Scottish' this year in May, but Steve's display was superb and really showed what a motorcycle (ok, a very specialised motorcycle) can do in skilled hands.



Steve is a great showman, as well as being a World Champion Trials rider, so his show appealed to the large crowd.

My brother in law in Canada used to be a Scottish champion (Stuart McLucky) before he emigrated and now his son is a regional North American champion.

My son Christopher still talks about his first trip to Canada when his uncle Stuart rode his bike over the picnic table in the garden!



Steve's best stunt, was to ride one of his two-stroke bikes with no front wheel, forks or brakes, including a run up the ramp at the back of his van. Excellent, and I can recommend catching his show if you're at another bike show sometime soon.

As far as spending money this year was concerned, I did try to behave myself and ended up buying a t-shirt, an LED torch and a Knox back-protector. I've been meaning to buy one for a while since the stuff in the back of my jacket is probably not all that 'protective' and Knox make a very nice and comfortable 'touring' protector, that can be folded up and stuck in a bag when not in use. I just have to remember to wear it all the time now....I forgot the last time I was out!

Anyway, I enjoyed my short trip to Ingliston this year...I think that it was reasonable value for money. The only club member I met was Ken Russell, so I think most people must have gone on the Saturday. Maybe this year I'll try to get to Birmingham?

Ken Glendinning

MILAN MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Alan Hopper is proposing to organise a trip to the Milan Show this November. The show dates are 12th to 15th November and details can be found at <http://www.eicma.it/moto/en/>.

Rough plan would be Ryanair flights Prestwick - Bergamo, staying probably 3 nights in a hotel there allowing a full day at the show and a day off to either have free time or a trip on the train to Lake Como. The cost will be whatever it is for the flights and Alan would need to check with the hotel for a room rate when he has a rough idea of what we would need.

Before making any firm plans, Alan would like to gauge the level of interest in the trip. If you would like to go, please email me at

secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk with your name, email address and accommodation requirements ie would you require a single room, a double/twin or would you be willing to share a twin.

Steve MacKinnon

Run Reports

Our first, scheduled, run of the year took place on Sunday the 29th of March and, it seems, in glorious Spring weather (I bet the heated grips would have come in handy though). Steve Mackinnon organised a run to the Pitlochry and Glenshee areas and it seems to have been well attended.

Janet Moss posted this short run report on the club's revamped website, but I've pasted it in below for those members who haven't yet become 'web savvy'!

"Woke up at 7.00am (or was that really 6.00am!!) and checked the BBC weather site. Forecast was for white cloud, but I think the first white cloud we saw was at the afternoon tea stop in Perth. Don't get me

wrong, it was cold, but what a fantastic start to the season.

12 bikes left Dobbies with the sun shining in a clear blue sky. With Steve Mac in the lead and Alex Muir as TEC we wended our way up to Ballinluig for coffee. Then it was on to Pitlochry and along that nice road (apart from that patch of ice!) to the A93 and lunch at Spittal of Glenshee.

After lunch we made our way homewards via Loch of Lintrathen and some easy country roads which I've never been on. A quick stop in Blairgowrie for petrol and then down to Dobbies in Perth through Caputh, Stanley and Luncarty.

We were home by 4.30ish after a windy blast down the motorway and after a quick dust down of the bikes (which was all they needed) ready for a curry to finish a great day off. Brilliant!! Thanks Steve."



Alex Connell from Falkirk, on his Honda Deauville, joined the run as a guest on Sunday. Steve Mackinnon used his excellent powers of persuasion on him and he joined the club!

So, welcome Alex, I hope that you enjoy many sunny days out with us this year.

Ken Glendinning

Member/Bike Pictures

I think that most of us now read **BikeBytes** online at the club's website, or the emailed copy that gets sent out by Steve Mackinnon every month, so I don't see any problem with having a few photographs in each month. We can all enjoy some good pictures without spending a year's salary on ink-jet cartridges...hopefully!

I'd like to invite members to send in pictures of themselves and their bikes, or just interesting or funny bike pictures that they've captured with their cameras or just seen somewhere on the internet. If

you're anything like me, you'll have loads of bike pictures from any trip away...my pc is full of them!

If you have recently been lucky enough to have become the owner a new bike, then why not share that with all of us.

Send any pictures, along with a little piece about the picture, or your bike...or anything, to:

bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Judy Broad, sent in a picture of her lovely new Fazer FZ1 and I was about to use that in this edition.

However, I spotted a picture on the website gallery (you haven't visited the new website and seen all the now features yet?...See Paul's piece below!), of her and her new bike....so I'll use that instead.

It'll be good for new members to see what everyone looks like, as well as their prized possessions!

Here's Judy's musings on a change of bike!



FZS1 Fazer v. TDM900

First impressions on my new (to me) '06 FZS1 compared with the TDM900 ('07 model) which I had from new in March '07 and did 18000 miles on.

The TDM has a strong following of devoted owners, with a very active and helpful forum www.carpe-tdm.net - clever play on words! However, I never really got smitten.

It's a sad state of affairs when the bike in the garage doesn't make you desperate to go out for a run every time you see it. I found it tall and top-heavy, making it slightly daunting to move around; the long stretch to the bars made my arms ache; and the handling was

affected too, I always felt I had to wrestle it around bends.

The other side to that coin was that the angle of knee bend was excellent, and I never got cramped legs on long runs; the seat was good and comfortable for several hours, and it's a very frugal bike, doing 200miles easily before the reserve starts counting.

The wind protection was the worst I have come across, with the standard screen the noise and turbulence were bad, and there is plenty of discussion on the forum about replacements. So, it's sold to one of the devoted fans, and Sunday was my first bendy run on the FZS.

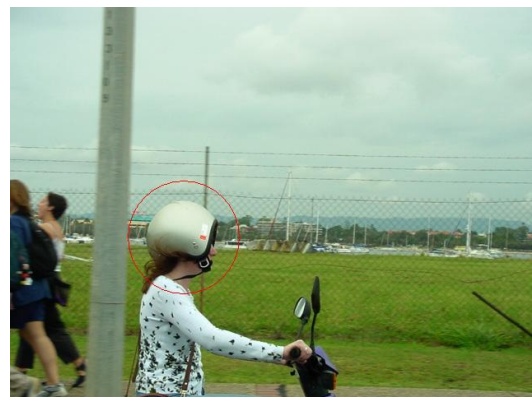
Firstly, it feels much lower and smaller, so immediately I am not intimidated. Today I am not nursing sore arms and wrists (well, a bit, but not nearly as much as after riding the TDM) and my ears are not ringing as the windblast, though still present, is much smoother. And it goes round bends by just looking round them!

I'm very pleased so far, however – there's always a however, the perfect bike doesn't exist – the seat is a bit hard, and only 150 miles before reserve! Ouch! I did know that, so I'll just have to get used to it. It's the price you pay for having a hooligan bike, even if this hooligan will be riding it like a granny...

Judy Broad

Just as a little light relief, can anyone see the (obviously deliberate??) error with the way that this young lady has worn her helmet in this next picture?

I'm not sure that it'll do her quite as much good that way!!



Website update

As some of you may have noticed we have given the website a bit of a face-lift. The idea of the changes is to adjust the functionality of the website to better suit the needs of the members. We have added a gallery where you can upload your own pictures and view pictures that other members have uploaded. There is also a section where you can add your own run reports as well as reading reports submitted by others. There is a forum on the site, so why not use this to communicate with your fellow members.

Please take the time to look at the updated site and feel free to pass any feedback back (web@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk).

One other job that needs to be done is a redesign of background – if you want to have a go then please email me for size details.

Please enjoy the site update.

Paul Broughton

MORAY WEEKENDER 12TH/13TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Once again the Moss' are organising a weekend away, this year to Moray.

John will be leading us this time and we shall be sampling the delights of the Whiskey Trail (and I mean the roads not necessarily the drink!) .

Although we are having lunch at a Distillery and if there is sufficient interest, do the tour afterwards.

If you want to come on what is bound to be another fun-filled weekend, complete the booking form below and return to me as soon as possible with your £10 deposit.

Janet Moss



SMC Membership Renewal Form

Current membership fee = £15 for each member

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name				Signature					
Second member				Signature					
Address									
Town									
Postcode									
Telephone Number			Date						
Mobile Number									
E-mail Address									
Membership Number									
Motorcycle(s) Owned									
Do you use your bike for?	Commuting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday runs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday runs	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Are you a member of	RoSPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	IAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	BMF	<input type="checkbox"/>	MAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Club (please specify)
What length of run appeals most?	<150 miles		150 – 350 miles		>350 miles				
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Annual mileage			Year of full licence						
In Contact List	Yes								
In Runs List	Yes		Renewal Fee						

Please make cheques payable to 'Scottish Motorcycle Club' and send to:

Steve MacKinnon, 21 Parkdyke, Stirling, FK7 9LR

SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE CLUB
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD 11TH MARCH 2009

Apologies: Judy Broad.

Minutes of AGM held 12/3/08: Accepted. Proposed by Steve MacKinnon, seconded by Ken Eddie. No matters arising.

REPORTS

Treasurer: Accounts were presented. Balance at the end of December 2008 £262.41 compared to balance brought forward £267.40. The increase in subscription income meant that we ended the year with a small surplus similar to last year. The postage/stationery costs (£142.23) were expected to increase this year with extra photocopying expenses. The web hosting cost (£122.11) greatly increased this year but will be much less in the future (about £60). The greatest expense each year is the Black Bitch room hire and refreshments. The accounts are February to December being an adjustment to bring them into line with the constitution.

Webmaster: It has been a big year for the website and thanks to Paul Heuvelmans the new website was launched just before Kelso this year. A vote of thanks was given to Paul H for all his work. He has now moved down to London. One of the main changes to the website was the ability for members to change the content without interference of the webmaster. Some changes are currently being tested on the new website that better suits the needs of the members, including a gallery and a place where members can post run reports – as well as the forum. This site will move from “testing to live” soon, as we will be moving the server that the site is hosted on. This move will save the Club in excess of £120 per year. During the move the site may be down for a short time. Feedback on the updated site would be appreciated.

Editor: Paul Broughton is stepping down as Editor after enjoying several years in the position. He will offer any assistance to the new Editor. In June the new-look Bikebytes was launched. During 2008 there were a total of around 90 articles of which about 75 of them were contributed by Committee members, which was disappointing. More articles were requested by non-committee members. There was a request for some crosswords. Arthur Shepherd offered to do an occasional one but any sort of word puzzle would be welcomed, contributed by any member.

Events: There were 28 events altogether. 16 rideouts with 8 going North, 3 West, 3 East, 1 North East and 1 South. 6 Chip Shop runs (1 posh!). A First Bike on Scene training event. 2 social nights out. 3 overnights (Kelso, Applecross and Borders) and 1 visit to a motorcycle dealers. Calendar is already looking good for this year. John Moss displayed a map which showed a good spread of runs over the country. Anyone wanting to organise a run, please contact him with details or if any help is needed with organisation of one. John thanked everyone who organised a run in 2008.

Membership Secretary: We ended 2007/8 club year with 78 members. Of these 60 renewed for 2008/9. Reminder letters were sent out in late April and again in early June to members who had not renewed. During the year 5 lapsed members from pre2007/8 rejoined in response to a mailing campaign in May when 56 letters were posted out to pre2007/8 members who had not renewed. 13 new members joined who were split fairly evenly between those joining after enquiring through the website (all enquiries through the website were sent information and an application form) or learning about the club through word of mouth. Steve MacKinnon stressed that every member can help get new members for the Club. It was suggested that putting an advert in the local paper (Linlithgow Gazette) may attract new members. Ken Glendinning stated that the BMF were hoping to put Clubs on their website.

Meetings Secretary: Committee meeting are usually held monthly through the year. Committee members take turns to host it in their houses.. Minutes are produced after each meeting and are on the website for all members to read. The Chairperson or Meetings Secretary prepares an agenda. Meetings Secretary is also responsible for the Club night venue.

Merchandise: Steve Middleton stated that the new logo was launched this year. There is a catalogue, pictures of regalia and an order form on the website. Members can also order items at Club nights. The Club stand at Kelso Bikefest was also organised by him.

Chairperson: David Jerome reported that it had been a good year with plenty of runs and events. The club must again try to increase membership. He thanked everyone for their support over the past year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

After some discussion it was proposed to set the subscriptions at £15 for all members. Proposed by Jim McKechnie, seconded by Ken Russell. Motion carried and accepted.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY MOTIONS

The amended Constitution was discussed. Items 7.4 and 9.3 were duplicated so it was proposed to delete 9.3. Proposed by Jim McKechnie, seconded by Ken Eddie. Motion carried and accepted. It was proposed to accept the new Constitution by Paul Broughton and seconded by Steve Panter. Motion carried and accepted.

ELECTIONS

Treasurer: **Alex Muir** (proposed by Steve Middleton, seconded by Paul Broughton).

Webmaster: **Paul Broughton** (proposed by Steve MacKinnon, seconded by John Moss).

Editor: **Ken Glendinning** (proposed by Ken Russell, seconded by Steve Middleton).

Events Co-ordinator: **John Moss** (proposed by Paul Broughton, seconded by Steve Panter).

Membership Secretary: **Steve MacKinnon** (proposed by John Moss, seconded by Janet Moss).

Meetings Secretary: **Steve Middleton** (proposed by Paul Broughton, seconded by Janet Moss).

Chairperson: **Ken Eddie** (proposed by Steve MacKinnon, seconded by John Moss).

4 positions without portfolio: **Arthur Shepherd** (proposed by Steve Middleton, seconded by Ken Eddie). Arthur was happy to carry on with the DVD/video library. Steve Middleton asked if anyone would be prepared to take on the Merchandise, but there was no volunteer.

AOCB

The Annual Merit Award was presented to Steve MacKinnon for all his hard work over the past year.

A vote of thanks was given to David Jerome for his hard work as Chairperson.

Jim McKechnie stated that Alan Hopper was willing to organise a trip to the Milan Show in November and asked for interest. 6 members expressed an interest.

Arthur Shepherd reminded members about the Simmer Dim and he could advise any members who were interested in going.

Paul Broughton requested that any new committee members give him their email addresses.

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

Janet Moss