

JANUARY 2010 – Happy New Year!

BikeBytes

The Monthly Magazine Of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

Welcome

A Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to the first **BikeBytes** edition of 2010.

This year is an auspicious one for the club, as it was ten years ago, in February 2000, that the Scottish Motorcycle Club was formed by Arthur Shepherd and some motorcycling friends. In his opening comment in BikeBytes Issue No. 1 Arthur wrote,

*'A very big welcome to you all from the **Scottish Motorcycle Club**, the new and independent Scottish club for keen and responsible bikers who enjoy not only riding their motorcycles well but also the company of other members'.*

...a description which is as true today as it was then.

This leads on to two announcements. First, I hope you have seen the emails which were sent out recently and asked for feedback on options for a celebratory night out. The responses have been collated and the result is that the **SMC 10th Anniversary Celebration** will be held on **Saturday 6th February** at the **Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry** (<http://www.athollpalace.com/>). A meal and overnight stay, possibly with a bit of post meal entertainment thrown in! Ticket prices for the evening and booking details for Hotel rooms will be announced shortly by email and on the website. Agreed rate with hotel is £55 per person per night.

The second announcement is that the **Notice of the 2010 AGM** will shortly be emailed out. More details in the article in this edition.

Please keep an eye on the website at www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk for all the latest news, additions to the calendar etc.

Steve MacKinnon

Chairman's Bit



A very happy New Year to you all! I hope 2010 will be very good to you. I also hope that this rather sustained cold spell will in turn herald a nice spring and summer. However it turns out, it looks as though the clubs tenth anniversary season is shaping up well, and it's only eight or so weeks away (or should I say, until my bike comes out of hibernation!).

Before that though, we have a function organised to mark the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Motorcycle Club, to be held at the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry, and full details are elsewhere in this issue of **BikeBytes**, and on the website. I hope as many as possible can attend, to make the clubs birthday that wee bit special. It's a very nice hotel, and a special rate for accommodation is offered for those attending the function.

Also coming up shortly is the club AGM, and you will shortly receive notifications of that. Please use this as your opportunity to put your views to the forefront, and any nominations for election onto the committee would be welcome.

Hope to see you at the next club night on 13th January.

Ken Eddie

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:

Steve MacKinnon

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

Anniversary Dinner

We are pleased to announce that the arrangements for the Scottish Motorcycle Club 10th Anniversary Dinner are now in place.

The event will take place at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry on Saturday 6th February 2010 at 7pm for 7:30pm.

Cost for the meal, to include table wine, will be £45 per person. This will be payable in advance to the club. Please fill in the form and return it with your cheque payable to "Scottish Motorcycle Club" to John Moss at the address on the form, to arrive before 29th January 2010.

We have negotiated a special bed and breakfast rate of £55 per person at the hotel. To take advantage of this, members should deal direct with the hotel, booking either on their website www.athollpalace.com or by phone on 01796 472400, quoting Event Booking Code 060210SMC.

On the upper left side of the Hotel web front page, there is an Availability and Booking facility with an "Event Booking Code" box included. Please be sure to enter 060210SMC in this box before proceeding, or you will not receive the special rate.

This rate is also available for the nights before and after the 6th if anyone wishes to make a longer stay.

Round the Coast in Winter

*I have to thank David McWilliam for posting a comment on the website about Rob Edwards and his amazing 'Round the Coast for Cancer' ride. It is a tale of such determination against all odds that I thought it deserved a mention in **BikeBytes**.*

Rob Edwards was diagnosed with three cancers in 2005. He underwent aggressive therapy and has been in remission for the past four years. He decided not only to raise funds for The Christie, the North West's Main Cancer Hospital, by riding anticlockwise round the British coast but to set off from Llandudno on December 23rd!

I'm sure you can well imagine the cold and discomfort as he rode south to Land's End through the worst winter weather in years. Various people put him up for the night and provided food and donations as he made his way round the south coast and up the east side of the country. Temperatures plummeted when he crossed the border into Scotland and he slid and froze his way to Fife.

On the night of 28th December he checked into a hotel in Anstruther and, rashly as it turned out, put a post on his web site in which he extolled the virtues of his Versys and how well it was coping with the dreadful conditions. The next morning the Versys refused to start and despite checking everything he could think of, nothing would persuade the bike to burst into life. With bike shops closing for the New Year and having no breakdown cover, the Versys was abandoned but Rob was determined to complete the trip and set off north by bus. He borrowed a Transalp in Elgin and rode through blizzards to John O' Groats.

Although he is not a member, the AA sent a van to take his bike from Anstruther to C&J Wilson and from there to Jim Allan in Falkirk.

To cut a long story short, he continued 'by any means', sometimes borrowing bikes from well-wishers, sometimes travelling by bus and finally ended his journey at the Great Orme, Llandudno on January 4th. He reckons he's raised about £2500 for his chosen charity.

For more on the story, visit his website at <http://www.roundthecoastforcancer.co.uk/>

On 5th January Jim Allan's workshop diagnosed a 'faulty ignition switch unit'.

Editorial

I take my hat off to the extremely brave (or extremely foolhardy!) souls who've been riding in the last couple of weeks. I was amazed to see 10 different bikes around Edinburgh recently, making their way, presumably, on a very cold commute.

I made a comment recently in **BikeBytes** about us not really 'needing' our bikes....a very easy thing to say for someone who uses his bike for fun. The Tiger does make me feel good, it does sort out my head and clears out a lot of stress and worry and it's guaranteed to put a smile on my face in minutes.

However, for a lot of people, two wheels are their only form of transport and they do need their bikes.

As they say in the US...Respect!

Here's a thing...you've probably heard that there's an election coming along this year...it's difficult to miss all the posturing before the date is announced.

As a biker, who are you going to vote for?

The Motorcycle Action Group, the British Motorcyclists Federation and the Motor Cycle Industry Association are running a campaign to encourage riders to vote in the forthcoming General Election and to discuss issues with potential MPs.

2010 appears to be a year where there could be big changes in parliament and this could be the best chance in decades to really influence opinions so that we can get what riders want!

But before they do that, they need your ideas on the issues that we all should be campaigning on and we need the Bikers of Britain to get involved. They're planning to get face to face with the people that will be making the rules after the election and put the questions that you want asked.

So, get involved, check the website and tell them what kind of future you think biking should have:

www.ridersarevoters.org

Ken Glendinning

Hawick's Biking Heroes

Many of you will know that I hail from the beautiful Borders town of Hawick. I would imagine that most of you will know of Hawick's proud Rugby history and it's fame for producing superb quality knitwear, especially cashmere. How many of you though, know that Hawick has produced more than it's fair share of Motorcycle Racing Champions?

Hawick's first biking hero was **Andrew James "Jimmy" Guthrie**, who was born in the town in 1897. After service with the KOSBs at Gallipoli and Palestine, Jimmy served in the Western Front as a motorcycle despatch rider and it was here that he discovered his love of bikes. After the war, Jimmy returned home and joined the Hawick Motorcycle Club and did extremely well in local road races and hill climbs.

He first competed in the 1923 Isle of Man TT on a Matchless, but had to retire with engine problems and did not return to the island until 1927, where he again had to retire from the Junior TT after mechanical problems with his New Hudson machine.

In the Senior TT though, again riding a New Hudson machine, he took second place, despite having to stop and tighten a loose foot-rest, finishing in 4 hours, 4 minutes at an average speed of 66.02 mph (slightly different to today's average speed record of over 131 mph!!).

In 1930, Jimmy won the lightweight 250cc class on an AJS, but wasn't until he joined the works Norton team in 1931 that he really found success. He set various world records, including the one-hour record of 114.09 mph and broke the 50 and 100 mile records. With numerous podium finishes at the IOM and other prestigious meetings, 1934 saw his big breakthrough. He won the 500cc 1934 North West 200 and followed that with wins in the Junior and Senior TT. In 1935, he retained his title at the NW200 and the Junior TT, but missed out on Senior race win by only 4 seconds to Stanley Woods on a Moto Guzzi.



Jimmy was 500cc European Champion from 1935 to 1937 and 350cc European Champion in 1937 with victories in the 1936 Senior and 1937 Junior TT races and at the 1937 Belgian GP.

Tragically Jimmy's racing career was cut short while competing in the 1937 German Grand Prix at the Sachsenring course in August of that year. There is a memorial to Jimmy at the point where he retired from his last IOM TT race, another at the site of his fatal accident in Germany and a bronze statue in his native town's Wilton Park.

Some 25 years after Jimmy's death, another champion was born in Hawick. **Steve 'Hizzy' Hislop** was born in 1962 and lived just outside the town in Bedrule. Steve's father was a keen racer and inspired both his sons to take up racing. Tragically though, Steve's brother Garry was killed in a racing accident at Sillioth in 1982 which temporarily halted Steve's racing career.

Steve worked for a while as a mechanic in Oliver's garage in Denholm, around the time, co-incidentally where I bought my first little scooter!

In 1983, Steve took a holiday at the Isle of Man and was mesmerised watching Joey Dunlop and others 'That was it!', he said, 'I just had to have a go!'. Steve bought an old Yamaha TZ350, got a racing licence and finished second in his first Newcomers Manx Grand Prix.

In 1987 he had the first of 11 TT wins in the Formula Two TT on his private 350 Yamaha, a result which brought him to the notice of Honda's Bob McMillan. By 1989 he was a Honda Britain rider.

Riding quality machinery for the first time, Hizzy shot to fame by winning three TT races in one week in 1989. In 1991, the year he repeated the same treble, he set an unofficial TT lap record, 124.36mph, which wasn't eclipsed until 1999. Most memorable of all was his improbable Senior TT win for Norton 12 months later. He last contested the TT, again for Honda, when he won the Formula One and Senior races in 1984.



Though the TT was the making of his career, Steve was probably best known as a short-circuit rider and was British Superbike Champion in 1995 and 2002. He won the Macau Grand Prix three times and had several victories at the North West 200, the Ulster GP and won the Le Mans 24 Hour race in 1999.

Many will remember Steve as a 'flawed genius' because he had many bust-ups with team bosses and never saw the real financial reward for his talent due to a commercial naivety. However, his fans loved him as getting on and riding always meant more to him than off-track politics.

Tragically, Steve's life was lost, not on a bike, but in a helicopter crash at Teviothead, just south of Hawick, in July 2003. He had been talking of retirement and was keen to take up flying commercially.

Thousands of riders turned out in Hawick for Steve's funeral and every year since, a memorial run has been organised in his honour.

There is a statue to Steve on the Isle of Man course at Onchan Head, but, more poignantly, a statue also stand in Wilton Lodge Park in Hawick, looking across to that of fellow 'Teri' racing champion, Jimmy Guthrie.

What of the future?...Well, Jimmy and Steve's legacy lives on. Stuart Easton, who was born in Hawick in 1983, was British Supersport Champion in 2002 and was third in British Superbikes in 2009. Stuart successfully defended his Macau GP win of 2008 in 2009 and is a hot favourite to take the BSB championship in 2010 riding for Hydrex Honda.



Maybe it's something about the fantastic riding roads in the Borders or maybe it's a proud sporting history, but Hawick has provided motorcycle racing with some very worthy champions over the years.

Ken Glendinning

BMF Discount Code

Because the bmf year runs from January to December and the SMC year runs April to March, the bmf Discount Code printed on our membership cards is out of date as of January 1st. To receive discounts on advanced tickets to bmf shows, insurance, travel, breakdown cover and other bmf benefits listed on the bmf website, please quote our 2010 Discount Code:

SCO10C736

This new code will, of course, appear on the new membership card for club year April 2010 to March 2011.

Steve MacKinnon

BikeBytes competition

Run Reports

The website is being regularly updated with run reports and photographs, so why don't you log-on and read some of the reviews at:

www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Last month's **BikeBytes** quiz completely stumped me for a while (until Janet gave me the answers!!) and I'm sure that there will be many of you in need of an answer or two to complete the thirty clues. So, the quiz is re-printed here, with the correct answers added:

Articles for BikeBytes

Send any articles, pictures, funny stories or anything vaguely motorcycle related to:

bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

:

December's Simile Quiz....The Answers!

	CLUE	No of letters	YOUR ANSWER
1	Big Ben is	2,7,2,9	As Regular As Clockwork
2	Kojak's waterfowl	2,4,2,1,4	As Bald As A Coot
3	Clue number 1 is	2,5,2,1,4	As Sound As A Bell
4	Going 'Cheap'?	2,4,2,1,4	As Free As A Bird
5	Cheerful 86,400 seconds	2,5,2,3,3,2,4	As Happy As The Day Is Long
6	Crazy head man	2,3,2,1,6	As Mad As A Hatter
7	Strutter with a fantail	2,5,2,1,7	As Proud As A Peacock
8	Silly Basil	2,4,2,1,5	As Daft As A Brush
9	Can't see what cricketers use	2,5,2,1,3	As Blind As A Bat
10	Unadulterated precipitation	2,4,2,3,6,4	As Pure As The Driven Snow
11	Eager to try a pungent condiment	2,4,2,7	As Keen As Mustard
12	Teetotaller on the bench	2,5,2,1,5	As Sober As A Judge
13	Powerful Clydesdale	2,6,2,1,5	As Strong As A Horse
14	Ssshhh! Tom's around	2,5,2,1,5	As Quiet As A Mouse
15	Quite frequently	2,5,2,3	As Often As Not
16	Another precipitation that isn't left	2,5,2,4	As Right As Rain
17	Extinct Mauritian	2,4,2,1,4	As Dead As A Dodo
18	Punctured on a special Tuesday	2,4,2,1,7	As Flat As A Pancake
19	Weightless plumage	2,5,2,1,7	As Light As A Feather
20	That was a close shave!	2,5,2,1,5	As Sharp As A Razor
21	Clever coat fastener	2,6,2,1,6	As Bright As A Button
22	You won't hear of this mail	2,4,2,1,4	As Deaf As A Post
23	A smiling puppet-show character	2,7,2,5	As Pleased As Punch
24	A Welshman is no crook!	2,8,2,1,3	As Straight As A Die
25	You're blushing	2,3,2,1,8	As Red As A Beetroot
26	Arid material for stiffening corsets	2,3,2,1,4	As Dry As A Bone
27	Unwell snooker player	2,4,2,1,6	As Sick As A Parrot
28	Inebriated toff	2,5,2,1,4	As Drunk As A Lord
29	That explanation was terrible	2,5,2,3	As Clear As Mud
30	Over in a flash	2,5,2,9	As Quick As Lightning

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

The Notices for this year's AGM are being emailed out this month. The AGM will be held on **Wednesday, 10th March** in **The Black Bitch Tavern, 14 Westport, Linlithgow EH49 7AZ** starting at **8pm**.

A form for Nominations, Motions and Proxy voting is included with the Notice. If you wish to make a Nomination, propose a Motion or vote by Proxy, I need to receive your form by Club Night on Wednesday, 10th February. Nominations for all posts are welcome. For info, I've noted below those current committee members who are prepared to stand for re-election but all posts are open to all members as the committee members retire annually. A strong hint: at present, unfortunately, there are *no* female members on the committee.

The eight Committee Posts are:

Chairperson	(Ken Eddie will stand for re-election)
Editor	(Ken Glendinning will stand for re-election)
Events Co-ordinator	(John Moss will stand for re-election)
Meetings Secretary	Vacancy
Membership Secretary	(Steve MacKinnon will stand for re-election)
Treasurer	(Alex Muir will stand for re-election)
WebMaster	(Paul Broughton will stand for re-election)
Committee member w/o portfolio	Vacancy

Please try to attend the AGM, to join in the discussions and to help shape the club for the year ahead.

If you need more information or have any questions about any of these posts please contact me at secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk or call me on 01786 475948.

Steve MacKinnon



Scottish Motorcycle Club 10th Anniversary Dinner.

Atholl Palace Hotel - Pitlochry. 6th February 2010 7pm for 7:30pm

£45 per person.

Booking and Payment Form.

Please fill in the booking form below and return it to the events coordinator, to arrive by no later than Friday 29th January 2010 with your full payment.

Please make cheques payable to Scottish Motorcycle Club.

NAME(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER ATTENDING DINNER @ £45 each.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

SEND FORM AND CHEQUE TO: JOHN MOSS, 38 LOVELLS GLEN, LINLITHGOW, EH49 7TD, TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN THE 29th JANUARY 2010.

ANY QUERIES YOU CAN MAIL events@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

We have negotiated a special bed and breakfast rate of £55 per person at the hotel. To take advantage of this, members should deal direct with the hotel, booking either on their website www.athollpalace.com or by phone on 01796 472400, quoting Event Booking Code 060210SMC.

Please Tick here if you will take advantage of this offer