

The Monthly Magazine Of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

Welcome

Welcome to the April edition of **BikeBytes** and the start of the SMC 2010/2011 season.

I hope by the time you read this that spring has finally started in earnest. We had a beautiful day for Ken Eddie's South West Loop run followed by a chilly Sunday for Steve Middleton's Loch Rannoch trip.

After that, winter returned with a vengeance and, as I type this on a frosty Good Friday, I wonder what sort of weather is in store for the run to Lindisfarne on Easter Sunday.

Events coming up over the next few weeks:

Sunday 4th April – Steve MacKinnon's Easter Lindisfarne run, meet at Old Craighall Services at 09.45am.

Wednesday 14th April - Club night/ AGM, Black Bitch Tavern, Linlithgow at 8pm.

Saturday 17th April – Ken Eddie's run to Banchory. Details TBA – please check the website.

Sunday 25th April – Susan's Perthshire Bimble, meet at Kinross Services at 09.45am.

Saturday 1st May – Ken Eddie's East Coast Half Day run, meet at Dreghorn Services at 1pm

Thursday 6th May – Alex Muir's Chip Shop run to Coatbridge, meet at Dobbies, Stirling at 6.45pm.

Finally, a reminder that SMC membership renewals for 2010/11 are now due. If you haven't already taken advantage of the early payer discount, please send your renewal form and cheque (for only £12) to me before the end of April. The membership fee will revert to £15 from May 1st.

Renewal forms and details can be found on the website: www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Steve MacKinnon
secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

FREE RIDE WITH RIDE ON

This website encourages new riders to take up biking by providing useful information, plus a link to getting a one-hour taster session on a motorcycle. There's a search facility to find the nearest centre for a free introduction lesson.

So, do you know anyone who has a hankering for two wheels but just doesn't know where to start? Show them this site and encourage them to try it out - even take them on your bike to the session to show support and give them a chance to talk about it before and after.

Take a look here:- <http://www.geton.co.uk/>

Steve Middleton

Edinburgh Bike Parking – Update

The BMF and MAG have recently had a meeting with the Edinburgh City Council executive officers regarding the proposed changes to the City's parking order which would have resulted in the removal of the vast majority of the solo motorcycle parking spaces.

They mentioned that they'd had 'a large amount of correspondence' on the issue of solo motorcycle parking bays in the proposed traffic order and congratulated us on mobilising support! So, many thanks to all SMC members who lodged an objection.

We presented a list of the City's motorcycle parking places, which had been surveyed by MAG members, which was much more detailed than anything they actually had!

It is their intention that the existing motorcycle bays in the central zones are retained and that, in conjunction with ourselves, the bays in the peripheral zones (5 to 8) would be examined with a view to some of the less suitable motorcycle bays being converted to shared use and to retain as many

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:

Steve MacKinnon

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

secure bays as possible. These proposals would be put to the Transport Committee meeting in July.

The issue of signage for PTW riders was also discussed and although they were not sure what changes they could make to the actual posted signs, it was intended to add motorcycle information to the parking meter labelling in shared areas so that riders would know that they could park for free.

In which case, it means no change in the central zones and any changes to the peripheral zones will be agreed with us at future meetings.

We're looking at moving our proposed demo run from May to sometime before the committee meeting in July just to keep the issue 'alive'.

For those visiting Edinburgh, this link to the City Council's web site gives details on the current situation:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Transport/Parking/Parking%20in%20Edinburgh/CEC_motorcycle_parking

Ken Glendinning

Potholes



Definitely a hot potato at the moment and there aren't many roads that that have been left unscathed by this winters frosts. I notice that MCN are mounting a campaign to highlight the issue.

Now, the times that I've reported potholes to Edinburgh City Council, they've been dealt with pretty quickly and, from what I hear, this is the case with

other local authority areas. I wonder whether this is another instance of road users of all kinds being happy enough to moan and whine about the state of the roads, but not being sufficiently motivated to actually report things through the correct channels.

Anyway, potholes can be a problem, but....appearances can sometimes be deceptive.....Art can be wonderful sometimes!



Run Reports

Now that we're at last into Spring (?), the website is being regularly updated with run reports and photographs, so why don't you log-on and read some of the recent run reviews at:

<http://www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk/>

Articles for BikeBytes

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

bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

BikeBytes Crossword

No new crossword this month....May's issue will have a new brain twister for you. However, the clues for March's crossword are below, following the answers to Steve Mid's VFR800 'Spot The Changes' quiz....

CHANGES TO STEVE M's VFR800FiY

Here are the answers to the "Spot the Differences" puzzle in March BikeBytes. See the annotated picture.

Five "obvious":-

1. Pillion grips removed
2. Seat cowl installed
3. Remus high level can & link pipe
4. Fabbri double bubble screen
5. Front "Dumbo" indicators painted

Four needing care to recognise:-

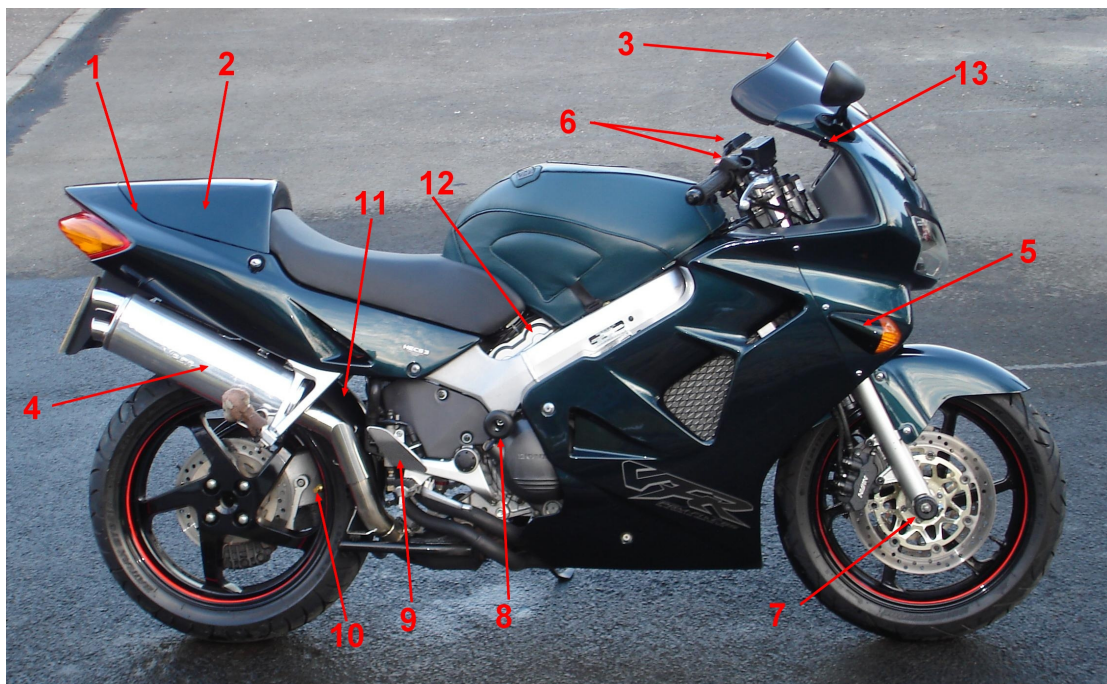
6. Oxford hot grips
7. Front axle protectors (eBay)
8. Thurn frame protectors (crash bungs)
9. Carbon fibre heel plates (DIY)

Four needing close scrutiny:-

10. Right-angled tyre valve anodised in gold
11. Carbon fibre hugger (eBay)
12. Loose wires/pipes tidied
13. Battery condition monitor light

Also fitted but not visible is my Penske shock with its remote compression reservoir hanging below the pillion seat on the left side and, of course, a Scottoiler with the reservoir under the seat.

Steve Middleton



March's BikeBytes Crossword....The answers

How did you do?

