BikeBytes

The Magazine of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

WELCOME …

The season is well and truly underway and there have been many, well attended Club runs, even though the weather has been very mixed (sometimes lots of rain, sometimes a little). The main event since the last edition has been the transfer to our new website. Hopefully you have all had a bit of a wander through it, but if not, there are some tips later about how to the get the best from it. Alasdair Wood has done a fantastic job! As usual, let me have any comments, interesting articles/photos/links that you come across that would be of interest to everyone.

Cheers, **Janet Moss**
bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome Bill Pearson, who rides a Yamaha Dragster 1100 and Kenny Anderson, who rides a Triumph Tiger 1050 to the Club. It has been great to see them both out on recent Runs and this now brings the membership up to 61.

CLUB NIGHTS

We had an interesting and informative Club night in July with the talk from Ron Spalding at Blood Bikes Scotland. The Club has since given a donation to this worthy cause.

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Alasdair was unable to give his talk about the new Website at the August meeting. As yet, we have nothing booked for September's meeting but come along anyway, enjoy a chat with other members and enjoy the free refreshments on offer!

As advertised in the June issue, Martyn Wade will be giving us another film show, with a new collection of vintage footage at the October night (10th).

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RABBIT IN THE HEADLIGHT

This month our 'rabbit' is with Membership Secretary, Steve MacKinnon



How long have you been a member of the SMC?

I joined shortly after having a chat with the folk on the SMC stand at the 2004 Kelso Bikefest.

When did you pass your test and what was your first 'proper' bike?

In 1972 I decided I wanted a motorbike and my parents reluctantly agreed on condition that I had proper training. The nearest RAC/ACU training centre was in Titwood Road, Shawlands on the south side of Glasgow. I still find it slightly ironic that, from our rural backwater, I had to ride my new-to-me Honda CB250K to and through the city centre traffic, to be taught the rudiments of motorcycling.

What would be your dream bike?

A bike with all the power, comfort and touring credentials of a Pan European, but with a weight of no more than 200kg. Is that too much to ask?

What is your favourite biking road?

The A87 Glen Shiel road, as it swoops past the Five Sisters of Kintail, partly because it's a magnificent route through stunning scenery, but also because it leads to Skye and the stunning North West coast of Scotland.

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Where were you born and when (optional)?
At the family home in Strathblane, about 4am.

What do you do for a living?
I do a bit of cycling, walking and volunteering and, once a month, I check that the nice trustees of my pension scheme have seen fit to lob a few shekels into my bank account.

What's your favourite film?
It's a toss-up between Pulp Fiction and The Accidental Tourist.

What's your favourite food/drink?
A fine South Indian curry washed down with a few pints of Jenning's Snecklifter.

What's your pet hate?
Door to door sales people whose opening gambit is, 'Don't worry, I'm not trying to sell you anything'.

What 3 things would you rescue from your house if it was burning down?
Since Linda can show a surprising turn of speed for an IT geek, I'd have to say:
My back-up hard disc, containing all my data and photos
Family mementos
My signed photo of Trigger the Wonder Horse

Who from history would you like to meet and why?
It's really difficult to pick just one person from history, but it would be an honour to meet a genuine hero, someone who triumphed over incredible adversity and saved others in doing so. I can think of no one who embodied that spirit better than Ernest Shackleton.

MILAN SHOW 2012.

Don't forget the chance to visit Milan for a weekend in November to take in one of the biggest bike shows there is. The plan is to go out on Friday 16th (Easyjet from Edinburgh) and back on the Monday giving 3 nights with a full Saturday for the show and a free day on Sunday perhaps for wandering around Milan or taking a short train run up to Lake Como. Bring your other half if you have one - we can even arrange something non biking on Saturday if required. Further details in the calendar or contact Alan Hopper on alan.hopper@hotmail.co.uk

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Here's the solution to the word search in June's issue. Check out a new crossword further on.

R	E	D	I	R			B			I				T
		F					I			S				R
B		E	L	O	C	H	K			L				A
R		R					E			A				F
I		R					S			N				F
D		Y								D				I
G					B	R	A	K	E	S				C
E	R			S								S		
	O				H	H	E	L	M	E	T	R		P
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CLUB SHOP

Ken Eddie sent out an email to everyone on the 11th July with the SMC Club shop catalogue and details about ordering Club merchandise. He can only order items when he has collected several orders, so have a look at the attachment to his mail and get your orders in now. If you have any queries (or have deleted his mail by mistake), send them to him at shop@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk A catalogue and order form should be set up on the website soon, but get your orders in asap!

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WEBSITE

The vast majority of members have logged into the new website but if you haven't yet, do give it a try.

Log onto www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk. You can't use any bookmarks, shortcuts or favourites that you might have saved for the old website; they must be updated to the new address. Go to Member Login and put your first and surname in the Username, as you did on the old website. This is not case sensitive. For first time users, use the password letmein, then click on the Log in button. To change your password, in the Member Login box, click on My Profile. When your profile page opens up, move across the blue strip containing the text 'Profile for…' and click on Edit, which is at the right hand end of the line. You can then change your password in 'Edit User Information'. Note that passwords are case sensitive.

The Home page of the website displays featured articles and any important Club news will be displayed here for you. At the moment there are details of the Applecross Weekend and also a link to Documents to assist you with uploading photos and creating Run Reports.

It is important that:-

when uploading photos check that no one has already created a sub-category (i.e. gallery) for the same event. Photo sub-categories are in alphabetical order. If a sub-category has been created, just click on User panel and upload further photos to it. If you are the first to add photos of an event, you will need to create a new sub-category. Make sure you put the date of the Run as well in the title e.g. 'Glen Fruin 19/08/12'

Run reports are displayed with the most recent report at the top of the list. If someone has already written a report for the same event, just make a new one, giving it the same title

Any feedback, good or bad is welcomed in the forum as it assists with the ongoing running of the website, and it's your website after all! Any problems, contact Alasdair: webmaster@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk or Steve MacKinnon: secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk and they will endeavour to help you.

It's also worth pointing out that since going live the website has had over 100 unique visitors, fast heading towards double the membership numbers. Hopefully some of these visits could turn into members. The visits have come predominantly from the UK but also from around Europe and the USA.

EDITOR – thought you might like to hear about our recent trip to the Emerald Isle.

FOUR DO IRELAND (OR MOST OF IT) IN A WEEK

Day 1 – Ken and Fiona Eddie, John and I set off bright and early from Stirling Services to catch the ferry from Troon (£80 return/bike and rider). First in the queue for the cooked breakfast and with that and a valiant attempt at the mega crossword under our belts, we were ready for the off when we landed in Larne. Across to Omagh, then round the

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delightful Fermanagh Lakes, down to Enniskillen and onwards to Mullingar for our first night. B&B in the Austin Friar Hotel, €90 (£76) per couple, which was the most expensive place of the week. About 270 miles in all. Highlights – first pint of Guinness and getting Ken's disc lock cut off by our hero, Pat McGovern.



Day 2 – Westwards to Westport and onwards into the Connemara National Park, the landscape changing from flat and open to green, wooded and spectacular hills. That is if you could see it, as the weather had deteriorated to mist and heavy rain. So after lunch at the National Park Visitor Centre, we headed directly onto Galway and then Athenry for our stay at the Castlegate Hotel. €50 (£43.50) per couple for room only. Not somewhere I would recommend but the Guinness and local chat in a nearby pub and a great Italian dinner made up for it. Around 214 miles today. Highlights – not being murdered in our beds, great pancakes and french toast at The Old Barracks in the morning.

Day 3 – Set off round the coast through an area called The Burren, which is like a lunar landscape of limestone fields and hills. Fantastic scenery until we got to the The Cliffs of Moher, which were apparently some spectacular 214m high cliffs. The mist had come in so it was left to the imagination. Good visitor centre though. Turning inland, the sun came out and we headed down to Killimer to get the ferry across the Shannon to Tarbet (€9 each). Then onto Tralee and Killarney for our next night. Brilliant B&B, Ashville House, €82 (£70) per couple. Killarney is a bustling small town, quite touristy with lots of little

shops/pubs/restaurants. Very picturesque, shame about the Americans. 180 miles today. Highlights – taking photos outside Father Ted's Parochial House, excellent steak dinner, listening to live Irish music in the pub whilst playing cards and dominoes Definitely come back here and stay a few days.



Day 4 – After a recommendation by mine host, we changed our route and instead of doing the whole of The Ring of Kerry we just did the Killarney Lakes, through the National Park and along Moll's Gap, which was a good idea because, again, the rain came down. This time though the mist stayed away and we were able to see some of the amazing scenery this country has to offer. Kinsale was our stop for the night. A nice, if small, B&B over a cafe where we had breakfast. Tierney's Guesthouse €80 (£61) per couple. A pretty, quite upmarket, harbour town, with some very nice yachts in the marina. We had time to explore the town, with its Carmalite Abbey, wine museum and quaint shops. A good dinner and a sampling of the Irish whisky was a lovely end to the day. 150 miles today. Highlights – riding through floods and leaving our bikes overnight IN the tile shop run by the B&B owner's husband!

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Day 5 – On towards Cork where we made up a bit of time on the toll motorway (€1) and did a tour around the cathedral at The Rock of Cashel (free to get in 1st Wednesday monthly). Then to New Ross and a tour of the Dunbrody, a replica Famine Ship. Our B&B was The Old Bridge House in Enniscorthy €60 (£50) per couple. A Georgian townhouse, right on the river, furnished with a quirky, eclectic collection of furniture and memorabilia. They also owned the cafe next door where we had breakfast. On-road parking but down a quiet side street. About 146 miles. Highlights – being undercover when the only heavy shower of the day hit, the party of bewildered senior citizens who were on the ship tour and a great curry for dinner.

Day 6 - Weather dry and clear as we headed up to Avoca (where Ballykissangel was filmed) then Glendalough which was a beautiful glen with lakes and a waterfall. Up through the Wicklow Mountains with its stunning scenery and to Trim for the night. Our B&B was Brogan's Bar and Guesthouse, which looked great, except the plumbing was a bit suspect. (€65) £54 per couple. They let us park the bikes in a courtyard behind, which was locked up at night. We explored the town with its massive castle and had an amazing dinner in La Scala Italian restaurant (€18.95 for 3 courses!). More cards, dommies and Guinness in the pub. Probably about 120 miles today, including several U turns. Highlights – excellent service from the Latvian waitress in the restaurant, donkeys in a field by the castle – Ken- “I want a donkey” Fiona- “If I can't have a koala you're not having a donkey”.

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Day 7 – Damp start with a visit to Bru Na Boinne, a huge 5,000 year old burial mound and a bit of a wet ride to Strangford Loch (where the sun came out) and a ferry ride to Portnaferry and up the coast road to Bangor. The Salty Dog was our hotel for the night (€83.61) £70 per couple. Our bikes were safe and secure in the gated beer garden behind. Dinner was some excellent fish and chips. 150 miles. Highlights – being made to pay for our dinner before they brought it to the table! A Guinness total for the week for John of 25 pints (or 3 gallons). I think Ken's was slightly more.

Day 8 – Our last day! An early start and off in the rain to Belfast and the Titanic Exhibition, with a little detour to see Samson and Goliath (the 2 yellow Harland and Wolff cranes) on the way. The exhibition was brilliant. As well as being about the Titanic, it covers life in Belfast and the shipyards. Definitely worth seeing. We returned to Larne and arrived in Cairnryan about 2.40pm. Then it was down the road and home about 5.00pm. 220 miles today, which brought the total for the week to around 1450. Highlight – parking the bikes underground in Belfast out of the rain.

Highlights of the week - lots of laughs and great company with Ken and Fiona and most of all, the people we met over the whole week who were so welcoming, helpful, friendly and went out of their way to make our holiday so memorable!

If anyone wants route maps of our week, just let me know and I'll email them to you.

Janet Moss

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Bridge Challenge News

The members taking part in the Challenge have made a surge in the last week or so and we now have 184 bridge visits recorded by twenty active participants as at 19th August. Three members have already completed the full Gold Challenge to visit all sixteen bridges, and two more have stepped up to the Silver to make ten with twelve visits.

If you have not yet taken part, there is plenty of time to do so. The 2012 arrangements are similar to last year's Distillery Challenge, and the full details of how to take part are on the website under the Club Articles button, with the Bridge Challenge forum now open for business in the SMC Annual Challenges section.

A record spreadsheet showing the visits made so far is regularly updated and posted under the Club News button. The full GOLD challenge has been completed by Janet and John Moss during Steve Mac's run on 10th June, and Ken E has stirred up the Beemer and completed the third GOLD - well done all. The Scooter Boyz George and Michael completed the Silver award with twelve visits back on 13 April - excellent. Jonathan Douglas has chosen from his selection of bikes and got the next Silver. Steve Middleton was next on 25 July, just beating Sarah Eddie bagging her 12th bridge on Sunday 29th for the eighth Silver. Tommy Taylor has recently made forays down south and west to bag Silver #9. Chair John quickly got from Bronze to the tenth Silver after some mid-week tours to historical sites at Glenfinnan and Wade's. Helena Morton has been quietly racking up visits, mainly alone, but clocked two on John's run to get the tenth Bronze - well done. Alex Muir has come in for Bronze #12. Who's next?

Steve Middleton

BRIDGE CHALLENGE ON THE NEW WEBSITE

The new website operates in a different way to the one where the photographs started to be recorded. As a result I ask you to follow the following guidance when uploading an image to claim a visit or to enter the Best Photograph competition. This will make viewing the pictures a consistent experience and my recording of visits easier.

When you add a new visit picture, please record your first name and the date of the visit in the Title area. I need these items to record the visit in the spreadsheet, and others viewing the pictures want to see the name of the author easily without having to scroll down to the fine detail below. The name of the bridge is not needed; it is shown in the sub-category in the heading. See my entry for C - Clachan Bridge, appearing first. (Here: http://www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk/index.php/photogallery/smc-annual-challenges/2012-bridge-challenge/c-clachan-bridge)

Pictures in the Best Bridge Photograph competition need the list letter and name of the bridge in the Title (plus a #1 or #2 if you submit two). The visit date can be added for the viewer's interest. This labelling is needed for managing the competition. See my entries for C - Clachan Bridge, appearing first. (Here:

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http://www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk/index.php/photogallery/smc-annual-challenges/2012-bridge-challenge/best-photograph-competition) Other details will be recorded in the author area automatically, but if you are uploading for someone else, state "Taken by" and their name in the Description area.
To add a picture:-
1 Note that there is a maximum file size of 5.3 megabytes. If yours is larger than this you must reduce its size first. I suggest you copy the original, rename the copy with "small" added to the filename, and then reduce it. Since the size on the Club site will be limited there is no reason to have it larger than 1500 pixels wide.
2 When the image file is ready, navigate into the appropriate sub-category and click on the User Panel button at the top left, then the Upload button and then fill in the appropriate data. Note the copyright warning and that your picture may be visible to the general public, i.e. not limited to Club members.
3 If you want to keep the image private to Club members you need to change the settings after upload using the Edit button below the thumbnail. Go to the Publishing box and use the Access list to select Registered.

General comments
Pictures appear in the order in which they were uploaded, with the latest at the bottom.
Visit pictures transferred from the old website have a letter R below them in the Title area and contain no information about Author, but have been recorded on the record spreadsheet. I have access to the details if necessary, but transferring them would be a major task for webmaster Alasdair.
Visit pictures added direct to the new site include full details. If there is a (R) in the Title it means I have recorded the visit on the spreadsheet.
Best Photo entries transferred from the old site have had the details added by Alasdair.
I reserve the right to edit entries in the Challenge to match my requests above and to make managing it easier. An abbreviated version of the above is on the website in Club News at the end of the Bridge Challenge News item.

Steve Middleton

FIRST BIKE ON SCENE FIRST AID TRAINING

This was an excellent session held on Saturday 18 August at the Black Bitch Tavern in Linlithgow.

The course was run by Derek McNaught of Spectrum Training who has a wealth of experience, not only on the training side, but in actually being involved in giving first aid. This enabled him to give the 10 of us who attended first hand, real life experience of what may be encountered, together with very practical ways of carrying out the tasks involved. This was not just a sit down and listen day, as we were kept busy putting each other in the recovery position, applying bandages etc. Fortunately practising resuscitation (CPR) was carried out on the dummies that Derek had brought with him and not on each other!

The whole course was well presented, ensured that everybody got involved, but above all

it was enjoyable. So everybody came away with their First Bike on Scene First Aid certificates having greatly benefited from Derek's knowledge. He also kindly handed over some spare bandages, plasters, etc for the Club to use.

It was pleasing to see the commitment of those who gave up their Saturday, and £20 each of their own money to learn skills which may one day benefit others. It is these first minutes after an accident that are so vital in helping somebody and perhaps even saving somebody's life.

Our thanks also to John Moss for organising the event and thus confirming the Club's commitment to safety and training.

John Hill
Chairman.

Ed – We do have an SMC first aid kit, which we obtained from monies donated by Jerry Dawe's family, which John Moss usually carries on his bike. If anyone else would like to take custody of this, let me know.

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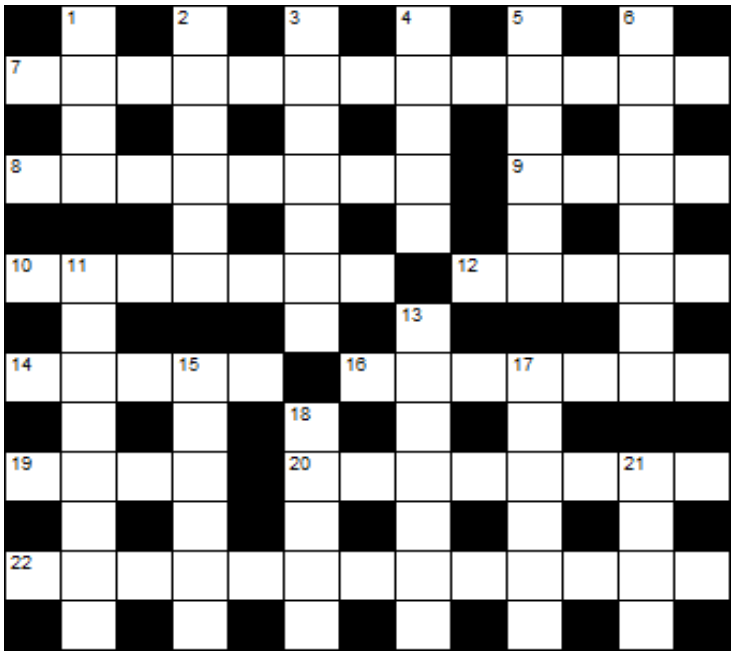

Across

7 What motorcyclists do at the beginning of a ride out (5,8)
8 Accelerator (8)
9 Rubber outer wheel (4)
10 Ducks that might be read as Scottish (7)
12 Awake and on the move (5)
14 Spanish (boy) friend (5)
16 More snug (7)
19 Note of information (4)
20 This vehicle has three wheels (8)
22 What motorcycle groups are expected to do on the road (4,2,3,4)

Down

1 Irritation (4)
2 Experiment (6)
3 Natural height (7)
4 Say 'Aye' (5)
5 Says (6)
6 Left side looking forward (8)
11 Roads are gently curved like this (8)
13 This evening (7)
15 Collections of things or people (6)
17 Big breakfasts (3-3)
18 Breaks en route (5)
21 Security item (4)

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