MAY - 2011

BikeBytes

The Monthly Magazine Of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

Welcome

My apologies if I caused confusion by wishing everyone a 'welcome to the May edition', in April's BikeBytes. Thank you to all those people who didn't notice my mistake, to those who did notice but refrained from mentioning it and to Janet for pointing it out ☺.

Well, this month I really mean it. Welcome to the May edition of BikeBytes!

It's been a great start to the year; interesting runs, excellent weather and three new members to welcome. First up is **Alexandra Eddie,** daughter of Chairman Ken and rider of a Peugot V-Clic moped. Secondly, it was a pleasure to meet **Alasdair Wood**, on his VFR 800 VTEC, who came along as a guest on the Three Distilleries run and promptly signed up as a member. Our third new member is **Robert Butler** who hails from Newton Mearns and rides a Suzuki M800 cruiser and a Yamaha XJ600N Diversion. A very warm welcome to you all.

Thanks to the many people who have renewed their membership. The renewal rate has been extremely high but if it has slipped your mind and you'd like to continue receiving BikeBytes and other club communications after the end of May please send off that £15 renewal cheque or pay directly into the SMC account. Details from secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk .

Coming up in the next few weeks:

Wednesday 11th May – Club night. Black Bitch Tavern, West Port, Linlithgow. 8pm. Archive film show and photos from the Go Ape day out.

Saturday 14th May – Paul Broughton's Annual Treasure Hunt. Meet at Dobbies Garden Centre, Stirling at 10am.

Saturday 21st May – Ken Eddie's half day run. Meet at Kinross Services at 12.45pm.

Friday 27th May – Ken Russell's long weekend trip to Ulster. For those who have booked with Ken, meet at Troon ferry terminal at 9.30am.

Thursday 2nd June – Chip Shop Run. Details TBA.

Saturday 4th June – Steve MacKinnon's Distillery Challenge run to Glengoyne and Glenturret. Meet at Stirling Services (Pirnhall roundabout) at 12.45.

Please keep up to date by checking out the website: www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Steve MacKinnon
secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Editorial

Hello again and I hope that everyone's been making the most of the great weather.

Firstly, an apology! For various reasons, I haven't had a chance to get the crossword finished for this month, so it will have to be moved to the June edition….sorry about that, but it's been a busy time.

Quite a 'photo-laden' issue this month, with Janet and John telling us about their trip to beautiful Islay for some distillery 'bagging'.

One thing that's been taking up my time is a visit to Fort William for the Pre- '65 and Scottish Six Days Trials event.

Last weekend was the 'Pre '65', which is based in and around Kinlochleven and features machines that were built (originally) before 1965. Quite a number of these bikes have been heavily modified, so that the frame and engine casings are probably the only things that date from that time. Some of the characters riding the bikes though, easily qualify!

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There was modern front and rear suspension on most of the bikes, but some rigid bikes were still being ridden….whether the riders had any fillings in their teeth afterwards is anyone's guess!



There were some beautiful bikes and some famous but long-gone names represented: Norton, BSA, Triumph, James, Matchless, Greeves, Velocette, AJS, Ariel, Rudge, DOT were all there in various disguises.





I've probably mentioned before that the idea with Trials riding is that you get through each section with the minimum number of 'Dabs', that is, putting your foot down to stop yourself falling off. So, the lower score the better. The maximum score in each section is five, which is also what you get for falling off!

All of the sections were based around Kinlochleven, so that the riders didn't have to ride too far on these old machines, but there were still a lot of challenging bits with fourteen sections on each of the two days and up to four stages in each section.

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Some riders really got into the character for the sections and the weather was absolutely fantastic with sunburn being major risk factor.

Some of the sections were extremely tricky, even for modern trials machines, but with these older, much heavier, bikes, it was quite a struggle to get through the rocks with a low or clear score. Everybody received huge cheers though and the camaraderie was fantastic.

One of the most beautiful sections was the 'Pipeline', just behind Kinlochleven and the views from the top were fantastic.

The two days ended with an award ceremony and party at Kinlochleven school and the local people really value the event as it brings lots of extra business to the town's shops and B&Bs.

I dare say that watching Trials isn't everyone's cup of tea, but the riding skills were extremely impressive and the attention that the bikes were given in the pits after the day's riding was second to none.

Most of the bikes have been lovingly looked after since they were first new, but, you can still buy a Pre '65 machine, brand-new, as it were. A beautiful DOT machine was on sale, with all the trick suspension, for seven and a half grand!

Anyway, next month I'll tell you about the main SSDT – Scottish Six Day Trial….a more challenging event altogether!

With plus-one hundred mile days and sections that were remote and scary to even look at, the SSDT is a task for a slightly younger class of rider!





Ken Glendinning

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The Moss' Islay Whisky Oydssey, 14th - 16th April 2011

Down to the ferry at Kennacraig in just over three hours:- via Callendar, a break at the Green Welly in Tyndrum (surprisingly the Good Food Cafe didn't open until 11.00!), Dalmally (major front wheel wiggle on the greasy road), Inveraray and Tarbet.

A two hour ferry crossing and by 3.00ish we were in our first distillery, Caol Ila.



Some photos and a purchase for later consumption and it was onto No. 2 - Bunnahabhain for the same again. The roads to both distilleries were single track and fairly clear of gravel/grass. The only obstacle going to Bunnahabhain was a black Highland Coo who had decided to have a rest right at the edge of the lane.





After booking in at our B&B (The Inn Overby, which is owned by and across the road from the Harbour Inn) in Bowmore we had a wander round the town and did No. 3.



Early evening saw us sitting in the conservatory at our B&B listening to the sea lapping onto the shore outside the window and sampling the Caol Ila we had bought earlier. Dinner at the Lochside Hotel, accompanied by a pint of Islay Ale, then it was off to a nearby bar for another wee dram before bed.

Day 2 dawned with clear blue skies and no wind. After the usual full Scottish and a stock up of sandwiches for lunch at the nearby Co-op, it was off to Kilchoman (no. 4) to visit the island's newest distillery.

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The road to Kilchoman was a bit of a rutted nightmare and it's unusual because it's on a farm and not the coast.

Another purchase/photos and we were off to Bruichladdich (No. 5) for the main reason of our trip, namely to buy a cask as a 50th birthday present to each other.



Unfortunately we won't be drinking it for 10 years, so the drinks are on us for our 60ths!!

Lunch was eaten on a gorgeous beach at Kintra, then it was off, in the hot sunshine, to visit Laphroaig (no. 6), Lagavulin (no. 7) and finally Ardbeg (no. 8) for the usual momentoes. The weather then turned a bit drizzly and after getting a splash of petrol in Port Charlotte (149.9p!!) we returned to Bowmore for more sampling and dinner.







Our last day saw the roads slightly damp but the weather dry. After a paddle in the sea and breakfast, it was off to the RBPB centre at Gruniart for a bit of bird (and deer) watching before getting the ferry back from Port Askaig to the mainland. A good trip home via Loch Fyne, the military road, Balloch and Stirling saw the end to our Islay Oydssey.

Around 428 miles in all (not counting ferry miles) and still plenty of whisky to enjoy and remind us of our trip.

Janet and John Moss

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Steve Middleton

Run reports

Remember, there's lot's of reports online and photos in the gallery!

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

Cairn O'Mount

Great run, fantastic weather. Nasty moment on the Friarton Bridge for David Jerome when a bus knocked a traffic cone into his path. David neatly parried this with some fancy footwork and was none the worse for the scare. The Banchory to Fettercairn stretch is an excellent stretch and the view from Cairn O' Mount was, uh, awesome.

Another excellent choice from Ken Eddie's encyclopedia of motorcycle runs.

245 miles door-to-door.

Fuel cost approx £23.30, morning coffee break £3.50, lunch £8.20. Total approx £35

Steve MacKinnon

Articles for BikeBytes

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

bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

BikeBytes Crossword

As I said, I'm sorry that there's no crossword this month….normal service will be resumed in June!

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Scottish Motorcycle Club

SMC Membership Renewal Form

Current membership fee = £15 for each member
Early payer discount fee = £12 if paid before the end of April 2011

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name					
Signature					
Address					
Town					
Postcode					
Telephone Number			Date		
Mobile Number					
E-mail Address					
Membership Number					
Motorcycle(s) Currently Owned					
Do you use your bike for?	Commuting		Saturday runs	Sunday runs	
Are you a member of:	RoSPA	IAM	BMF	MAG	Other Club (please specify)
What length of run appeals most?	<150 miles		150 – 350 miles	>350 miles	
Annual mileage			Year of full licence		
Do you have a suggestion for a ride out route or destination?					

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

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