

BikeBytes

AUGUST - 2011

The Monthly Magazine Of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

Welcome

August already! Hardly a month goes by without new members to welcome and July was no exception. So, welcome back to **Ray Sinclair** from Hardgate who rides a Honda Goldwing and an equally warm welcome to new member **Rab Easton** who lives in Aberfoyle and owns a Honda CBR600RR. We hope to see you both on many of the upcoming runs.

Coming up in the next few weeks:

Wednesday 10th August – Club night at the Black Bitch Linlithgow

Saturday 13th August – Janet & John's run to Bladnoch Distillery, nr Newton Stewart. Meet at Abington Services at 9.45am.

Saturday 20th August – David Jerome's Applecross overnighiter. Meet at Stirling Services at 9.45am.

Sunday 28th August – Ken Eddie's half day run. Details TBA. Meet at Stirling Services at 12.45pm.

Sunday 4th September - Possible run to the Alford Motorcycle Convention. No details, as yet, please check the website.

Saturday 10th September – Ken Eddie's Cat & Fiddle, Derbyshire overnighiter. Meet at Todhills Services South, M6 at 9.15am.

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

Steve MacKinnon
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Editorial

As Steve says, 'August already?'...this year seems to be flying past.

We've not had many biking activities lately, due to family trips and work, work, work...etc.

We had a great time at Kelso though, despite the weather. I had to call off the Saturday afternoon run though after only about 20 miles. The stinging rain/hail and lightning strikes only a couple of hundred metres away put paid to that.

Attendance on the Saturday was low, due to the weather, but the Sunday was good and the camping was another, record, high this year.

We're severely limited in Kelso for what kind of arena entertainment we can put on (yes, I know...terrier racing!). So, there maybe BIG changes for next year!

The opinion on the club village seemed to be quite positive, though there were a few complaints about people making too much noise in the wee small hours! (Not directed at the SMC!).

We'd really appreciate any comments that you have though to try to make next year's event even better (No comments about holding it on the French Riviera please!....Hold on though!!!)

Anyway, sorry it's a bit of a skinny issue again and, I haven't had time to put together a crossword again!

We really need more contributions from members...it's your magazine after all....so, **please**, put your thinking caps on and see if you can drop me a small article for next month's edition

All the best!

Ken Glendinning

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:

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Times of the sign

It occurred to recently that I hadn't seen one of these for a while:



Series of bends sign

They've all but disappeared from the road side, been expunged from the Highway Code and appear to have been replaced by:



Double bend sign with distance plate

Now, to me, this reads 'double bend, first to the left, for 1.75 miles' which is daft, so I assume we're supposed to infer a double bend sign with a distance plate means 'series of bends', though I never received that memo and the current Highway Code makes no mention of the combination.

So what does it matter if a sign has become obsolete?

Well, if it were any other then I possibly wouldn't have noticed, but I've always felt that, of all the signs in the book, this was the one that, as a motorcyclist, I welcomed seeing. It promised motorcycle fun ahead, a sequence of familiar or unfamiliar curves to be negotiated to the best of the rider's ability.

Thinking there had been a quiet conspiracy to pension off a perfectly sensible sign, I checked on t'internet and it turns out it was designated obsolete years ago (so much for observation on my part). As my interest in the old sign had been piqued, I wondered if there were any surviving examples. My search was in vain until the chip shop run to Callander. Slightly mildewed, a bit tatty at the edges

and obviously in need of some TLC, there it was in all its glory, a long forgotten, slightly shabby signpost standing sentry over the sinuous swervy ahead.



Of course, having become aware of their rarity, I quickly noticed another two on the back road from Deanston to Callander! Oddly enough, none of those I've found seem to have partners at the *other* end of the bends, so perhaps they have simply been forgotten by the roads department.

Are there (m)any more out there?

Coming up next month: 10 things you need to know about train spotting, top anoraks compared and a beginner's guide to paperclip cataloguing.

Steve MacKinnon

Bike Photos

John Hill sent in a few photos of a new bike that may be of interest to members.

In particular to those with an aversion to the Scottish climate or maybe to those with severe hay fever?



Looks like it corners well enough!



Easy access and great pillion comfort. (Don't like the 'training wheels look' when it's stopped though!)



At least they're wearing helmets!



Air conditioning, music system...what else could you want?



Colourful riding gear!

Ken Russell has been to Gabon (a holiday trip?) and took some photos of some of the two-wheeled transport in use. Probably Chinese manufacture, but Ken admits his French wasn't up to too much detailed questioning!



Looks like a clone of something more familiar!

Events

If you check the calendar of events on the website site you will see there are a few free spots in the coming and future weeks. If you fancy organising a run or other type of event, or just suggesting something that we can arrange for you, then please let us know at events@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk and we'll see what we can do.

20mph Speed Limits

Judy Broad posted the following on the club forum recently...it may be of interest to members and the IAM would value your opinion:

Dear IAM Poll Subscriber:

It's time to vote

You have subscribed to our list of people willing to take part in the IAM polls. We would be grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to complete our new poll on

20mph speed limits and pedestrian zones

www.iam.org.uk/iam_poll/20mphspeedlimitsandpedestrianzones.html?utm_source=IAM+Polls+Subscriber&utm_campaign=5cb586ac58-IAM+Polls+8_03_2011&utm_medium=email

Feel free to pass it to anyone you know who is not an IAM member, as we are seeking a wide range of views. Please do not reply to this message as it is an auto reply and we will not receive it.

Many thanks
IAM Marketing and Communications

Run reports

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

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

Here's some extracts from the website on recent runs.

6/8/2011 - Half day run

I think I am right in saying that nine bikes / ten riders arrived at Bowtrees RV on an overcast but warmish day for the afternoon run to Crieff Visitor Centre.

Very heavy rain was forecast and we expected it to start at any minute however it remained dry up until the last hour or so.

Ken led the group and Steve P took up the duties of TEC.

The run up to Crieff went very well and we all arrived fairly close together - During our T&P stop the sun came out and it warmed up very nicely but started to darken down again just as we were leaving.

The home run started off well and I had Michael and Steve in my rear view mirrors for a good number of miles but eventually the main group in front of me drew ahead. I kept a steady speed to keep pace with Michael and Steve P but I eventually drew ahead and lost sight of them and at one point later on Steve streaked past and ahead of me to take advantage of the good roads.

Shortly after he stopped up ahead to resume the TEC position at which point I carried on past him and rode for quite a while on my own until I came upon the main group once again.

At that point I decided to stop, beside a road sign that indicated 4 miles to Auchterarder, to allow Steve and Michael to catch up which they did not long after.

Unfortunately I had stopped at a junction and Michael took it to mean that he should turn left which he did with Steve hot on on his tail.

We should however have carried straight on but I had not cottoned on quick enough to the situation and also there was no way I could communicate with either of them as they were long gone.

At that point everything went downhill - I caught up with them and after a good number of miles we ended up at a junction with the main M9 Perth / Stirling road and decided to turn right towards Stirling and the Auchterarder junction but there was little chance of rejoining the group.

We stopped at a layby on the M9 near to the Auchterarder cut off when Steve managed to get a hold of Ruby on the mobile to give the main group a SITREP.

At that point the rain started and so we decided between us to head for home.

A good decision because not long before I arrived home the heavens opened up and has not stopped since.

Anyway another enjoyable albeit a confusing outing.

Thanks to Ken and Steve for leading and Tecing.

George Kay

Articles for BikeBytes

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

bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

FOR SALE

Alisdair Wood posted the following on the club forum today (7th August):

Hi,

I have a second pair of boots that to be honest I never use. I had bought them from a friend but I much prefer the Alpinestar boots that I have.

Therefore I am looking to sell them on and would like to offer them to a member of this club, otherwise they will find their way onto eBay.

Oxtar SS Performance Boots, Size 9 (Eur 36), Waterproof, Oil and Petrol resistance soles, good condition throughout but as expected a few scuffs here and there. They are black with silver toe sliders.

I am looking for no more than about £40 for them or at least a reasonable offer, so if you are in need of a replacement set of boots and these may fit the bill then drop me a line.

I'll be at the club night this Wednesday and can bring them along for viewing.



You can contact me either by posting a reply here or call me on 07500 068779.

Please let me know if you've anything, bike related, that you want to advertise for sale.

BikeBytes Crossword

Sorry, I've had no time to put a quiz together this month.

A new quiz next month.