



# THE AYR CLASSIC NEWSLETTER

May 2022

ISSUE 246

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## **From the Editor**

I had intended to join the Wanlockhead run this year, but despite the BBC weather forecast indicating it would be sunny and warm, the rain was bouncing at least 2 feet high here in not so sunny Beith, when I should have been leaving. It would appear from the run report that I should have just gone, as once you leave the Beith environs it stops raining! I have lived here for 12 years and never known such an area for rain, when the forecast says it should be dry and sunny.

The first coffee morning run was a success and thank you to those that attended. The next one is arranged and details have been issued. It is good to see members participating in the club runs and hopefully this can be replicated at the Club's display at the Burns Museum and at the Tiger show. This prompts me to remind you that if you are intending to attend the Club's display at either show, then it would help if you could confirm your attendance to the organisers Niall Sommerville and Owen McGeary respectively.

Many thanks to David Rowell, Jim Hamilton, Owen McGeary and Drew Robertson for their run reports and articles this month.

Paul Wilkinson

*(Front cover: John Stewart with friends – Green Welly Run)*

## **Club Member of the Month**

Name – **John Stewart**

Club Position – **Member** Age - **69**

How old were you when you bought your first bike? – **16 years**

What was it? – **Honda 70**

Do you still have it? – **sold it years ago**

What do you currently ride? – **Currently own a Honda Pan European**



How long have you been a club member? - **Been a member for 3 years now**

What is your favourite club event or memory? - **Favourite thing meeting a nice crowd of boys**

What is your favourite motorcycling memory? – **My favourite memory was once out a quick run passing a police car which had drawn in a car in a layby and by the time I saw them, I thought awe naw I'm done. I've been caught speeding, back wheel was bouncing with abs going silly. They held up their hand and gave me a wave as I was on my ex-police BMW k1200 at the time.**



I hope I can give you and some of my fellow members a snippet into my biking life. Way before I was aged to ride legally at 16, I had the riding experience of early AJS / Matchless / Harley Davidson Aermacchi 350 motorcycles. Then this is where my folks got concerned - 16 and a licence to thrill. Well I thought so. Anyway, along came a Honda 70 cc, then a BSA Bantam, Tiger Cub and a BSA C15. Passed my test first time going around Wellington Square. Examiner watching going around 3 corners, stepped out in front for emergency brake, a few hand signals from book. Job done, Mike Hailwood here we go. Triumph 500S, then a Bonneville new from Cooper Bros of Troon and the oil tray was under the bike in the Showroom. Then along came the wife and kids. Bikes came and went. Car was the chosen choice, well so I was told for many a year.



Still dabbling on restoration - small bikes e.g. Yam 650 and Honda 750. Not much riding as wife worked in A&E, where as she said "donuts came in" right enough. I had a few spills in my time, silly slides but that said family grown up and as the boys in club will know trying to find my right bike from my list since joining the team quite a list BMW f650, F800, r1100, r1200, k1200 (ex police), r1200gs, r1150gs, Yam Tenere and Yam XSR. I was going to say finally my Honda Pan, but as the boys say still got your Pan that's a while now, sarcastically. Sorry I do not have old or up to date photos of myself as the boys tend to take photos while I'm not there - ha ha.



## **Stafford Classic Bike Show 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April – Paul Wilkinson**

Whilst some of you were enjoying an ad-hoc run to the Devil's Porridge Museum, I was recovering at home after attending the Stafford Classic Bike Show on the Saturday. I had travelled down on the Friday, stayed overnight in Stone and then drove home after the show. This arrangement meant that I was able to be at the showground early, join the queue and be in the main hall as soon as it opened.

The selection of individual bikes was as usual quite stunning. I am not sure though how many actually ever roll on tarmac. One bike that caught my attention was the New Hudson. This was a similar bike to the one that attended the Pip Squeak Run mentioned in the last newsletter.







I stopped at the BSA Owners Club stand as I wanted to find out where my latest BSA restoration (1971 B25SS) had been dispatched to. You may remember that it has a Dumfriesshire registration. Imagine my surprise when I was informed that it had been sent to H J Gifford in Basingstoke. However, the next bike on the production line had been sent to Lloyds of Glasgow, so perhaps there was an error. Who knows?

For those that have attended the show in the past I would say that the numbers of visitors were slightly down on the pre-covid levels, but the number of traders and the selection of parts was definitely less. There was no crush in the main hall until approximately one o'clock and that was probably because people were either looking to eat or were listening to a number of ex-racers talk about their exploits when racing against Mike Hailwood, who was the focus of this year's show.

Overall, I enjoyed the day, but I was disappointed that a number of trades that I would usually visit and buy from were not present.



10 O'clock



1 O'clock



## Green Welly Run 1<sup>st</sup> May – David Rowell

Sunday's run was the longest in our calendar, so it was good to see seven riders at our muster point, namely Dave Anderson; Robin Campbell; Andy Chalmers; Owen McGeary; Alistair McQueen; Jim Hamilton and myself. I have added Jim into our WhatsApp Club Runs group, which now has 26 active members - to join come with us on a club run. We kicked our stands up at 10:02 and headed north towards the Erskine Bridge, along the way John Stewart & Quintin Lockhart popped up in my rear-view mirrors, which was a nice surprise.



We made a brief stop in Dumbarton, then got back on the A82 to Crianlarich. It was cloudy, but dry and traffic was lighter than we anticipated, so we got to The Green Welly Stop in good time for lunch. We all managed to squeeze into the primary motorcycle parking area and enjoyed 'bike-talk' with other riders, before heading off onto the A85 Oban route (what a road) before branching south on the A819 to Inveraray. Some



of us preferred the sweeping curves of the A85, while others preferred the twisty bits of the A819, but we pretty much had exclusive use of both roads and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.





More relaxation and reflection in Inveraray, amongst other groups of bikers, before catching Western Ferries sailing from Dunoon to Gourock. We were still having fun, so stopped off again in Largs, but all good things have to come to an end. This was an exhilarating 194-mile circuit in good company, which we will probably do again, either ad hoc later in the season, or maybe tagged onto our Aberfoyle run in June?



## **Club's Pedestrian Safety Barriers – Paul Wilkinson**

As the club are leasing their pedestrian safety barriers to the organisers of the Ayrshire Motor Show it was considered prudent to check their condition and numbers. Consequently, following a request for volunteers to undertake the task, 11 members turned up at the race course on a sunny morning. It had been agreed that once the barriers were checked, that they should be marked in some way to indicate that they were ours. A stencil was created by Ricky – ACMC and every useable barrier was marked with black paint. In total 189 barriers were considered to be acceptable. The rest, and there was quite a large pile of damaged barriers, i.e. legs missing, no hooks or eyelets, were set aside and Niall Sommerville said he would take them to his home and would repair as many as he could.



## **Ad-Hoc Club Run 8<sup>th</sup> May – David Rowell**

Day Trip to Tarbert - just back and happy to report we had 8 members on run today, as well as 5 aspiring members riding with Grant Allan and Dave Anderson. We picked up 4 of the new guys at Wemyss Bay Co-op when we stopped to buy our ferry tickets. We rolled straight onto the ferry, after another photo' opportunity.





Then we rode 40 miles to Inveraray plus 40 miles to Tarbert, where we enjoyed an al fresco lunch. Grant and his crew went the extra mile and ordered in from the local cafe. Then back again, stopping at Inveraray this time, before getting back on the ferry. Members on today's run were Mr Anderson; Grant Allan; Jim Hamilton; John Stewart; Lyn; Owen McGeary; Quintin Lockhart; and myself. We covered 234 miles in dry and mainly sunny 16c temperatures - another fantastic day, just a wee bit sore now.



## Ad-Hoc Club Run 8<sup>th</sup> May – Jim Hamilton

To Tarbert and beyond ...

Sunday's run beat the prior weeks with a mileage of 240.1 in mostly glorious sunshine. We had 8 members on the run with 5 tagging along (at least 1 might join the club). The muster point was 10am Monkton then a sprint to the Co-Op at Wemyss Bay to buy our ferry tickets and pick up the other riders.



Once on the Dunoon ferry there was much talk if the new Ducati Panigale naked would make the distance without running out (somebody mentioned they had a bigger bum bag than its fuel tank!). Anyway, once we got rolling Dave R decided to see if the Ducati could make it and I think was conducting a bike seat comfort test as we sped along beautiful lochs and mountains. On the last 20 miles to Tarbert there was much standing on peg photo opportunities and seat positioning as we neared the finish line. It was a great run and we all parked up at the harbour for lunch.



During lunch I was unanimously elected as a member of the grumpy old man's club, and interestingly big John was re-elected as Emperor of the grumpy old man's club. I think Quintin was re-appointed as secretary. We all looked in envy as the fish and chip brigade tucked in and we knew they were all wishing they had the pieces and beetroot (yes beetroot) big John had (I think it will feature soon in SUBWAY sandwich shops).



Anyway, we bunged the lady in the pub a small tip so we could all relieve ourselves, jumped on the bikes and legged it to Inveraray (via a fuel stop and the BUM BAG fuel tank Ducati did make it). Once there more biking chit chat took place, much shiny bike metal was on display and John pondered if he should order something immediately from Amazon to celebrate or wait until returning home.

It was then a wonderful run to catch the ferry again, a drive along the coast through Largs and back home. Near the end Quintin, big John and myself shot off and decided to see whose bike (BMW, Honda, Triumph) had the longest legs on the A78 back towards Monkton, but that's a story for another day.

## **Tiger Motorcycle Show, Kilmarnock 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Owen McGeary**

The club has been generously invited by Marty Carmichael to have a stand at the Tiger motorcycle club's "ride in" show on Saturday the 2nd of July. It is being held at the Kilmarnock Rugby Club, Queens Drive, Kilmarnock.

I have already booked an auto jumble stall at the show and will also take one of my bikes. I will collect the club Gazebo and banner and will take them to the show when I go to set up. If any club member would like to come and show their bike, they would be most welcome. The only thing the Tiger club have asked, is for the bikes to be from the 80's and older. Other club members are more than welcome to attend on more modern machines to the show, which is **free entry**. They will be very welcome at the club stand for a chat. If you have anything you want to sell, let me know and I can possibly put it on my autojumble stand.

If any club member is interested please let me know (07706797863). I have always had a good day and a catch up with friends when this is on.

## Coffee Morning Run 12<sup>th</sup> May – Paul Wilkinson

Prior to the first coffee morning run for retired bikers, I was getting a little worried as only one member, David Wilson, had said that he would be attending. However, I should not have been worried as on the day 13 members turned up. 11 came by bike and Robin Campbell and his wife, Jo, came by car. There was a good selection of “Classic” and modern bikes in the car park. The venue was Boswells Coach House and they provided some excellent food and the chance for a very pleasant chat.

Present – Ricky Leiper (Moto Guzzi California), David Wilson (Moto Guzzi SP1000), Alex Crawford (BSA A7), Jim Fulton (VSA A10), Owen McGeary (Benelli Tornado), Ian Howie (Triumph Street Triple), John Stewart (Honda Pan European), Chris Jackson (Suzuki GS750), “Taffy” Bee (Honda Pan European), Ken Robson (Yamaha FX6), Paul Wilkinson (Triumph T160) and Robin & Jo Campbell (car).







## Wanlockhead and Leadhills Club Run 15<sup>th</sup> May – David Rowell

Good numbers for Mennock Pass, Wanlockhead and beyond ...

Despite forecast sunshine, on Sunday we encountered rain early on and the Girvan guys got wet. On the day we were told to expect rain most of the day, but I'm glad to say they got it wrong again, because it was dry all day and we even got some sunshine. We had ten members at muster in Cumnock, including David Mcleman on his first run this year and former member John Webster, who I'm hoping might become a member again?



Aside from multiple traffic controls and road works our ride through Sanquhar was uneventful and we turned onto the B797 up the Mennock Pass. Even this early in the season there were lots of campers alongside Mennock Water, presumably some of them were gold panning. The last major find was reported in 2002 when a Canadian prospector found an 18g nugget worth almost £1,000.

We stopped at the Lead Mining Museum and enjoyed a good natter over our sandwiches. David Anderson was riding his 'old' Ducati S2, in fact more than half the group were on Classic motorcycles, which was great to see. Some of the guys headed for home after Wanlockhead, but six of us travelled on to Leadhills and took the B7040 to Elvanfoot - I'll be back there again, only 5 miles but a great wee road.



I asked Campbell to take the lead on this part of the run, because I'm less familiar with the roads, so I was tail gunner on the way to Moniaive on the A702. We lost Dave Mcleman when he made a fuel stop in Thornhill - sorry Dave. The road conditions on the B729 to Carsphairn were painful on bums & bikes, but we had a clear approach to Dalmellington through the bends. After stopping for fuel, we elected to follow Campbell and Lyn across to Girvan, for more refreshments and bike talk at David's Snack Bar.

We were entertained by bike traffic returning from the North West 200 off the ferries at Cairnryan, There must have seen over 100 bikes drive past, which was only a fraction of the total traffic. Maybe next year ...

## **Ad-Hoc Club Run 22<sup>nd</sup> May – David Rowell**

Ad Hoc run to the Wigtownshire Transport & Machinery Historic Rally. Nice wee run down to Girvan meeting up with David Wilson, Niall Somerville and Brian Bailey. As soon as we took our group photo' David Anderson, Robin Campbell and John Stewart arrived. Shortly thereafter we headed down to Stranraer to visit the transport of yesteryear rally. There were some great exhibits. Most of us headed back up the road to experience the Ayrshire Classics Car Club display at the Burns Heritage Centre, except for Dave & Robin who headed onto the Southwest Coastal Route. So, we had 7 members on the run today, covering just over 100 miles.





## **Technical Article – Drew Robertson**

Paul told me about his experiments to remove the alcohol from E10 petrol. (*Article next month – PW*). Personally, it doesn't bother me 'cos the Spada runs fine on AOS (any old "stuff") oil or petrol. Eleven thousand feet up in South of Spain, fag lighter wouldn't work, girlfriend got agonising stomach wind, but me and the Spada it made no difference. Ghastly E10 doesn't bother it either. However, there are some club members slightly more considerate towards their machinery (and girlfriends) than I am and especially with precious steeds they rightly may be concerned about the deleterious effects of E10. There are many irreplaceable parts in old kit likely to suffer, carb rubbers, plastic tanks and even metalwork. What does one do? Paul's route may be successful but there is another alternative which it seems not a lot of people know about -- Aspen Petrol.

If you delve into the interweb you can read up about it. Can be purchased in Scotland. Needless to say, it's hideously expensive but if you are only running your shiny rosette winner a few times a year you will at least be confident of not doing very expensive damage. It doesn't go off either so you could keep a couple of gallons in the shed.

## Events Calendar

Date	Event
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2022*	3 Towns Scooter Club Charity Fundraiser (Ardrossan – Saltcoats – Stevenson) Winton Park, Ardrossan Gates open 1pm Tickets £5 Ride out starts at 2:30pm
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2022*	Ayrshire Motor Show, 1:00 – 5:00pm Ayr Racecourse
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b>	<b>Castle Douglas &amp; Kirkcudbright</b> <b>Approx 100 miles</b> <b>Dalmellington lay-by at 10:00</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> May 2022*	Live Steam Open Day Heritage Centre, Cumnock
29 <sup>th</sup> May 2022*	Scottish Italian Car Day, Hopetoun House, Edinburgh
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2022*	The Shetland Classic Motor Show
<b>12<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>	<b>Aberfoyle, Dukes Pass &amp; Loch Katrine</b> <b>Approx 140 miles</b> <b>Girvan at 9:00, Monkton at 10:00</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2022*	Drumlanrig Off-road Motorsport Festival, Drumlanrig Castle
18 <sup>th</sup> June 2022*	VMCC Clyde Valley Rock “n” Roll Run, 50’s & 60’s themed bikes, Meet at The Oven, Overton Farm, Rosebank
19 <sup>th</sup> June 2022*	Hawick 7 Border Motorcycle Club, 61 <sup>st</sup> Annual Jimmy Guthrie Memorial Run, The Green, Denholm, Hawick
25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2022*	SCRMCLtd Bob McIntyre Memorial Classic Races, East Fortune Raceway
<b>25<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>	<b>Burns Museum Club Display</b> <b>Burns Museum, Alloway</b> <b>10:00 – 16:30</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>	<b>Glenbuck Heritage Village</b> <b>Approx 40 miles</b> <b>Cumnock Bus Station at 10:00</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022*	Tiger Motorcycle Show Kilmarnock Rugby Club, Queens Drive, Kilmarnock
<b>10<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>	<b>Isle of Whithorn</b> <b>Approx 120 miles</b> <b>Dalmellington lay-by at 10:00</b>

Items in **bold** are club events. \* Alternative event, sometimes on club run days.

## Club Tools

The club owns a selection of tools which are available for borrowing by club members.

To borrow tools, please contact Ian Howie (pictured)  
M: 07792 827 835

In addition, some members may have specific workshop tools that are relevant to the marques they are interested in. Contact the specialist for more information.



Valve Lifter  
Engine compression tester  
Battery Charger  
Oil Filter Wrench  
3 Jaw Ratchet Wrench  
Multimeter  
Carb Balancer (4,3 or 2)  
Impact Driver  
Norton Clutch Tool  
Tyre Bead Breaker  
Motor Cycle Wheel balancer

Gudgeon Pin Remover  
Torque Wrenches, Med& Large  
Voltmeter Ohmmeter (self powered)  
3 Prong Puller  
Set of Circlip pliers  
2 Micrometers  
Timing Disc  
Set of Taps  
Norton Exhaust C Spanner  
Chain Breaker and Riveter  
Valve Grinders (suction cups with paste)

## Contacts / Useful Links

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**Club Website** – <https://ayrclassicmc.com/>

**Club Facebook Page** – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AyrClassicMotorcycleClub/>

**Club Flickr Photo Stream** – <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ayrclassic>