



THE AYR CLASSIC NEWSLETTER

November 2022

ISSUE 252

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From the Editor

By the time you read this the AGM will have been and gone and Christmas will be a few weeks away. I have agreed to continue as the Newsletter Editor for another year. Although it is hard work at the end of the month, I have enjoyed the challenge and hopefully it will continue to be a success. However, that success is only achievable through the articles I receive from you, the readers. This month I have two very interesting ones. The first is all about the birth of our club and the second is the story of Malcolm Rodgers' Ariel. I do, though, need more. At the AGM I suggested that if you have a story to tell, but don't think that your writing skills are sufficient then I would quite happily act as a "Ghost Writer" for you. If you think this would work for you then please get in touch.

As the AGM has taken place, it means that subscriptions are due for another year. The fee remains at £20. Please pay via the website, at the bank (sort code: 80-09-88, account no. 00105520) or a cheque made payable to Ayr Classic Motorcycle Club posted to me.

Many thanks to David Anderson and Malcolm Rodgers for their articles this month. Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the newsletter throughout the year, plus the help of my proof reader. Your help is appreciated.

Paul Wilkinson

(Front cover: Sid Brierly on his Ariel Arrow)

Club Member of the Month

Name – **Sid Brierly**

Club Position – **Member**

Age – **73**

How old were you when you bought your first bike? – **12**

What was it? –

James 98cc

Do you still have it? – **No.**

What do you currently ride? – **2012 BMW F798GS, 1964 Triumph 5TA, 1959 Triton Rickman 8 valve 750cc, 1961 Ariel Leader, 1981 BMW R100RS, 1975 Honda CB400/4**

How long have you been a club member? – **12 years**

What is your favourite club event or memory? – **Glenties, Donegal Trips.**



What is your favourite motorcycling memory? – **Speedway GP, Belle Vue, Manchester, 2 up on my Ariel Square 4.**



Any other information – Passed my test on an Ariel Arrow 250cc in 1965 at Renfrew. Quickly sold on for a BSA Shooting Star, then a 1966 Triumph Thunderbird with Avon Dolphin, then an Ariel Square Four bought from Kings of Oxford on London Rd, Glasgow.

Club Beginnings – David Anderson

Back in mid-1988 Dick Hodge was selling a Royal Enfield Turbo Twin, so he placed an advert on the community Sales Board in Safeway supermarket in Ayr. Two people came to see it, they were Douglas Stanley and Peter McCrorie

Peter already had a Tiger Cub and Dougie was looking for a bike to get back into motorcycling, but he didn't buy Dick's bike. As they were leaving Dick remarked that he thought there was maybe enough interest to form a local club, Peter said "Well why don't you go ahead and do it"

Dick booked a meeting room in the County Hotel and put an advert in the Ayrshire Post and phoned a few of his motorcycling pals. The response to the Post advert was very encouraging with lots of phone calls expressing interest.

On the advertised meeting night, around 20 people showed up at the County Hotel. Amongst those were Dick Hodge, Neville Stone, Graham Bisset, Bob Blackley, Jimmy Morton, Ian McKenzie, Grant Allan, Ian McClue, John Sykes, David Anderson, Dave Moffat, Campbell McCreath, Andy McGavin, and Jack Telfer.

Officials appointed then were Chairman, Neville Stone with Dick Hodge as Vice Chairman, Secretary, Douglas Stanley, and Treasurer Peter McCrorie who opened our bank account with the Dunfermline Building Society.

We decided from the start that monthly meetings would be in the County Hotel on the first Tuesday of each month. The first ever Regular Meeting was on November the 16th 1988 and there were 10 people present. Those were Dick Hodge, Douglas Stanley, Peter McCrorie, David Anderson, Harry Cochrane, Neville Stone, Graham Bissett, Bob Blackley, Ian McKenzie, and Grant Allan.

In July 1989 the council sponsored an event at the Dam Park Hall called "Wheels 89" and a good few bikes were exhibited, also it involved a bike cavalcade from Prestwick shore to Dam Park Hall.

The photo which was taken at Prestwick by Dick's pal shows Graham Bissett, Dick on Velocette 350 Mac with David Anderson BSA behind. The BSA Bantam at the left was ridden by Evelyn Scott of Barrhill.



That event gave us the idea of having our own Classic Bike Show and we held the first one in Dam Park Hall in June 1990.





April 90 Sixties Weekend at Butlins



July 90 New Galloway

34 years later and the club continues to encourage the appreciation of "classic" motorcycles.

AGM Club Night 8th November – Brian Baillie

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of Ayr Classic Motorcycle Club

Held on Tuesday 8th November 2022 in Glenburn Miners Club, Prestwick

Meeting opened at 19.45 with 31 members present.

Robert Mitchell gave a warm welcome to the assembled company and opened the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Ricky Leiper, Nigel Wanless, and Kevin Woods.

Robert read out the chairman's report. Ricky wished to thank the committee for their support in his first year in office. Thanks to Niall for organising the Burns Display and also the club meal that was organised in February. Thanks to Paul for the excellent newsletter and for success of the morning coffee meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Stuart gave a thorough report on the finances of the club. Detailed Accounts were provided, bank balance is healthy.

Stuart thanked Kevin Woods for auditing the accounts; he then gave a detailed breakdown of figures.

Robert proposed the acceptance of accounts seconded by Brian B

Club membership stands at 116 members.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee:

Chairman	Ricky Leiper	proposed by Davie A	seconded by David R
Vice Chairman	Robert Mitchell	proposed by Brian B	seconded by Stuart M
Secretary	Brian Baillie	proposed by Robin B	seconded by Robin C
Treasurer	Stuart Miller	proposed by George C	seconded by David R
Auditor	Kevin Woods	proposed by Robin B	seconded by Stuart M
Newsletter Editor	Paul Wilkinson	proposed by Brian B	seconded by Robert M
Show Co-ordinator		Robin Burnside and Committee	
Membership Secretary		Paul Wilkinson	
Webmaster		External support Nick Taylor	
Runs Co-ordinator		David Rowell	

Committee members: 14

Office Bearers

Ricky Leiper (Chair), Robert Mitchell (vice chair), Brian Baillie, Stuart Miller, Paul Wilkinson, Kevin Woods and Robin Burnside

Committee members

Nigel Wanless, Alan O' Pray, Iain Howie, David McLeman, David Rowell and George Campbell,

New committee member:

Gail Hunter proposed by David Anderson seconded by Robin Campbell.

Those stepping down from committee:

Ken Robson, Niall Somerville, Scott Robertson, David Wilson, Neil Kershaw and Owen McGeary.

Constitution

The proposed alterations to the constitution were read out by Paul Wilkinson. These included changing the date of the AGM to November, the financial year is 1st November to 31st October, club fees must be paid by 31st December and the requirements for Honorary Membership. The motion was passed by the members present.

Show for 2023

Robert gave an accurate account of complex rules that need to be followed to hold a show at the racecourse. A show committee has been formed and 47 willing members have signed up to organise and help on the day.

Club Dinner 13th December 2022

The meal will be held in Western House Hotel, the cost of the meal will be subsidised by the club. 52 members have booked tickets for this event.

Club runs

David Rowell gave a short presentation to the membership explaining the proposals. He answered some questions from audience; he has fleshed out a programme with a number of shorter runs to hopefully encourage more classic bikes out and about. Safety issues were raised and members were reminded of the protocol when out on a run.

Coffee meet

Thanks to Paul for this very successful venture. It is his intention to keep this going over the winter months.

The first meeting of the new committee and show committee will be on Tuesday the 15th November at 7.30pm at the Glenburn club hall.

Vote of thanks to all by Robert.

The meeting closed at 21.10.

Club Accounts 2021 -2022 – Stuart Miller

AYR CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE CLUB

These are the accounts for Ayr Classic Motorcycle Club covering the 1st November 2021 to 31st October 2022 accounting period. They include the costs of holding the Annual Dinner in 2022 but not the deposit to Ayr Racecourse for the 2020 Scottish Classic Motorcycle Show, this was shown in the 2018/19 accounts and has been carried over to 2023.

Summary of Club's Accounts for 2021-2022 (2020 - 2021 figures in brackets)

The Club accounts were checked by the Auditor and found to be correct.

The Club continues to have a healthy Bank Balance of £13,684.76 (£14,366.33) though a decrease of £681.57 (decrease of £561.02). In addition, the Club is holding cash in hand of £134.43 (£108.74).

The deficit for the year was £655.88 (Deficit £632.87).

There were no Show Costs in this period £0 (£0).

We continue to show a healthy bank balance for a club, the committee has managed expenditure to best of ability with outgoing in the main limited to required items and committed expenses.

A review of the Club accounts reveal the following:-

Club Income - £2,879.02 (£1,047.85).

1. Subscription income at £2,078.79 (£1,047.85) shows a major increase due to increase in membership cost, our Membership Secretary keeping the membership numbers accurate and stable year on year with a number of new members this year and the use of PayPal payments through the website accounting for 37 (32) members.
2. We received £200 from the Motor Show for use of our barriers, thanks to the members who worked to arrange and repair these.
3. No Show income has been reflected in the overall Club income.

Club Expenditure - £3,534.90 (£1,690.72).

1. Show costs were £0. Ayr Racecourse have been good enough to allow the transfer of the £300 deposit to 2023.
2. We made a £50 donation to the Ayrshire Hospice after we had their collection buckets on our stand at the Burns Centre and a £50 donation to the Glenburn Miners Club.
3. The Club Christmas Dinner was held in February 2022 at a cost to the club of £386.00
4. BMF affiliation fees are due in December as normal.
5. Club merchandise purchases accounted for £444.87 (£0)
6. Club nights and meetings cost £413.18 (£70) with increased numbers attending
7. Our webpage and miscellaneous expenses cost £1,167.45 (£1,168.72).

My Motorbike, 1950 Ariel VG500 – Malcolm Rodgers

Registered on the 27th May 1950 in Bristol, my VG was the last of the line of the “instrument in tank” bikes produced by the Ariel Motorcycle Co, Selly Oak, Birmingham. In fact, the VG500 was deleted from their listings in the same year. The VG was the overhead valve equivalent of the VB 600, side valve machine, which were ostensibly used as sidecar tugs.

My particular VG, was discovered in a coal bunker, partly dismantled in the late eighties and had remained in the first owner’s ownership since 1950. Sympathetically restored by a gentleman on the Isle of Wight, all of the paint and chrome wear and tear was retained which gives her that wonderful period look.

I acquired ‘NAE’ in November 2016 from a dealer in Northwich, Cheshire.



I remember being seduced by how balanced and original she looked in the photo. Shortly after bringing her up to Ayrshire, she developed an annoying seizing trait which I immediately investigated. At some point, someone had fitted a high compression, short skirt piston, probably to try and gain an extra two or three horse power which didn't sit well with her. Although the piston had picked up on the rear, the cylinder just required a light honing and I replaced it with a correct, low compression, long skirt piston - she never looked back after that and has been one of the most reliable classics I've ever owned. In fact, with the advance/retard lever pulled right back she'll sit at an insanely slow tickover that seems to defy science!

In the middle of 2017, she got a 'Highly Commended' rosette at the 28th Classic Bike Show, Ayr Racecourse, which I was delighted to receive.



It was not long after that, a Velocette MAC 350 and a Velocette Valiant presented themselves which I couldn't resist. I reluctantly put 'NAE' on the market to raise the cash and off she went back home to her place of birth, Birmingham. I said to the chap who bought her, "if ever he was putting her up for sale to give me first refusal". And, three years later he rang me and said he was putting her on the market to raise cash for an expensive BSA DBD34 Goldstar which he'd had the chance to acquire. So, in 2020, back to Scotland, she came. I couldn't believe how lucky I was to have a second chance of ownership. From now on, she'll always remain a permanent fixture in my collection.

For a rigid frame with relatively primitive teles' up front, she's a remarkably sharp handling bike that holds her line through corners brilliantly. Coupled to a very tractable, torquey engine and well ratioed gearbox – she's an absolute delight in every sense!



31st Scottish Classic Motorcycle Show – an update

The second show committee meeting was held on the 15th November and the following items were raised / discussed.

The official flyer for the show has been agreed on. This is not the flyer that has been displayed on the club's Facebook page. The correct one is currently having additional wording and logos added to it and it will be issued shortly.

The additional logos are for the stunt rider: Graham Houston (Scottish Wheelie School) and the Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikers who will be the charity beneficiary. We have also

asked them to provide representatives and the blood bike dedicated to Alan Shaw (former member) at the show.

The treasurer is investigating the use of hand-held card readers for the payment of entry fee which hopefully will reduce waiting time and the hassle of us dealing with change.

The web site will be updated so that both bike entries and traders can either submit their forms on line or download and post them. All previous exhibitors and traders will be notified of the show either by post or where possible e-mail.

To promote the show, we are considering returning to the Haggis Gathering, Lanark in February and the Scottish Motorcycle Show, Ingliston in March, but for both we will need volunteers to help man the stand. Further details and a request for help will be issued shortly.

Coffee Morning Run 16th November – Paul Wilkinson

The last coffee run of 2022 was held at the Puffers Café, Maritime Museum, Irvine. The café had been the winners of the Scottish Enterprise Small Café Award for 2021 and perhaps this explained the good turnout – 20 people were present. This number included the two Annes, (Brian and Ricky's wives), plus Hugh Adams. Hugh is not a member, but I am sure most of you will know him for selling classic motorcycles from his Kilmarnock garage. He did inform me that he had heard how good these gatherings were and had decided to check it out for himself. I believe he was suitably impressed.



I had suggested to the committee, back in April, that the club should consider arranging coffee runs for retired motorcyclists. This was because I had been attending a similar event arranged by the Trident & Rocket 3 Owners Club and I had thoroughly enjoyed meeting like-minded enthusiasts. The idea was to encourage a social gathering where people could meet and have a blether, plus because all of the venues have been in Ayrshire it was an opportunity for some of us to get our older classic motorcycles out.

To date we have met eight times at a selection of cafes that have all made us very welcome. In terms of number, the lowest turnout has been 10 and the highest 23. On every occasion a number of classic motorcycles have been present.

Although I had anticipated this just being a summer activity, members have requested that it continue each month and so it will. We will have a break in December, but will recommence on Wednesday 18th January 2023. Next year I hope to see many more of you at these gatherings.

Wanted

Brian Robertson is looking for something “cheap” to rescue. Preferably a Honda, but open to other suggestions provided there is a good chance of getting it running fairly easily. Possibly a CG125 or perhaps something in the CB range. A CB500 or larger would be ideal. It needs to be something fairly straightforward that he would have a chance to get going without too much cost.

If you have something suitable then please contact Brian at bikedaftow@gmail.com

For Sale

Motorcycle Trailer

Excellent trailer with additional Load Platform to facilitate carriage of non-motorcycle items. Has been used in the past with one or two large Tote Bags for disposal of garden waste, collection of logs etc. Plenty of tie-down hooks and also holes in the side angles for fixings.

Fitted bracket for spare wheel, which is included but will need a replacement tyre. There is a loading ramp for motorcycles which stows at the rear off-side. I will also include two-wheel wrenches and a visibility rod which attached to the rear off-side to facilitate reversing with no visible load on the trailer. No brakes.

Fitted with side, brake, and indicator lights, plus large rear fog light.

The trailer has, until the last month or so, been stored inside my garage. It was raised on its rear end against a wall and the wheels removed. Unfortunately, it is too long to fit in my garage now that I have moved house.

Dimensions are as follows:- Overall Length - 2600mm. Overall Width - 1420mm. Platform Length - 1830mm. Platform Width - 1030mm. Tyres fitted are 160/65 R315.

Offers Over £150.00

Please contact – Bob Young, M: 07779 765 022 E: quarryhead2@gmail.com



Events Calendar

Date	Event
9th December 2022	Games Night 7:30pm at Glenburn Miners Welfare Club, Prestwick
13th December 2022	Club Dinner 7:00pm for 7:30pm at Western Hotel, Ayr
8th January 2023	Braveheart Run Boars Head at Colmonell Girvan at 11:00am
10th January 2023	Bring and Buy Club Night 7:30pm at Glenburn Miners Welfare Club, Prestwick
18th January 2023	Coffee Run 11:00am Venue to be advised
8th February 2023	Inter Club Quiz Night Hosted by the Hillbillies 7:30pm at Kilmarnock Support Club, Mauchline
16th February 2023	Coffee Run 11:00am Venue to be advised

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

Chairman	Ricky Leiper E: rix37@hotmail.com T: 07866 468 222
Vice Chairman	Robert Mitchell E: Robert.mitchell@bt.com T: 01292 443 891
Secretary	Brian Ballie E: bbaillie44@yahoo.co.uk T: 01292 289 518
Treasurer	Stuart Miller E: stuartjmiller3@hotmail.com T: 01292 475 909
Membership Secretary	Paul Wilkinson 5 Roebank Road, Beith KA15 2DX E: membershipsecretary@ayrclassicmc.com T: 07753 951 061
Newsletter Editor	Paul Wilkinson E: newslettereditor@ayrclassicmc.com
Runs Co-ordinator	David Rowell E: rowell-d@sky.com T: 07836 573 743
Show Co-ordinator	Robin Burnside E: jan.ayr@sky.com T: 01292 284 174

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

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

Club Community Page - <https://www.facebook.com/AyrClassicMotorcycleClub>

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