



THE AYR CLASSIC NEWSLETTER

February 2023

ISSUE 255

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From the Editor

This month I am pleased to advise that our membership has continued to grow. We now have, in theory, 124 members, but I am disappointed that there are still 43 of those who have not yet paid their subscription. More surprisingly is that some of these are long standing members. (I expect you know who you are.) Perhaps some of you have forgotten the change to the date that renewals were due? Can I encourage you all to remedy this situation as soon as possible?

At the February committee meeting it was good to hear that, to date, 30 motorcycles and 14 traders had committed to the show. Since then we are pleased to announce that the Triumph dealership at Hillington have agreed to be present, bringing a number of bikes to display along with their articulated trailer selling merchandise and clothing. This is quite a coup for the club and thanks must go to Gail Hunter for the hard work she has put in to encourage the Triumph team to attend. Perhaps we can now persuade some other dealers to attend?

The monthly coffee mornings continue to be well attended and appreciated. In fact, if we continue to get the same numbers, or if they grow, then I am going to struggle to find locations large enough to accommodate us all. If you are aware of a suitable café then please let me know.

And finally, I would like to thank the following for their contributions this month – David Rowell, Niall Sommerville and Stuart Dykes.

Paul Wilkinson

(Front cover: Stuart Dykes with his 1978 Honda CB400F2)

Club Member of the Month

Name – **Ian Bell**

Club Position – **Long-time “remote” member, and Show Volunteer.**

Age – **71**

How old were you when you bought your first bike? – **15**

What was it? – **1963 Suzuki 50cc, model M15 with all of 4.2HP. But it would do 50mph downhill and keep up with my mates on their newer sports 50s around Ballymena. It was a wreck traded in to a local car garage by a farmer whose son had proved incapable of keeping it upright. I rescued it and had it on the road for my 16th birthday. This wee bike, and living in NI in the 60s and 70s, started my lifelong interest in biking.**



Do you still have it? – No, it was sold when I graduated to a 300cc BMW Isetta to commute to Queen’s University, Belfast in 1969. That’s where I studied Mechanical Engineering, in the presence of the legendary Dr G.P. Blair, and Ray McCullough at the height of the QUB 500 days.

What do you currently ride? – Generally my 2011 Honda VFR800X for touring, or my 1978 Honda CB400F2 for Classic ride-outs / shows, or my 1992 Honda CB400 SuperFour for narrow road fun.



Having retired from a 39-year career in Engineering, I now spend more time restoring a collection of classic bikes, all small two strokes. I have 3 Excelsior machines from a 1949 Autobyk to a 1960 Consort, as well as 4 Ambassador projects, from 1949 to 1954. I am active in various Villiers owners’ forums and enjoy making hard to find parts for fellow anoraks of these once popular makes.



How long have you been a club member? – **Since the beginning. I attended several of Neville's early meetings in Wellington Square but can't remember / claim to have been at the inaugural meeting as such. I have been on the Club's books ever since.**

Mentioning Neville, he persuaded me to become a Star Rider Instructor, and then a founding member of the Ayrshire Star Rider Club. That group became the ATMCC. He also involved me as a motorcycle marshal for numerous Girvan Cycle Races, and Troon half-marathons! I am grateful for him instilling in me sufficient roadcraft to survive modern traffic into my 70s!

What is your favourite club event or memory?

Probably the chaotic enthusiasm of the first Dam Park Show, or the early Ayr Racecourse show where we had a great line-up of 400 fours.



What is your favourite motorcycling memory? –

I have been to many races at the IOM, North West, and NI short circuits in the last 40 years. I am proud to say I met “yer maun” a few times – once at Villa Marina when I was standing in the crowd awaiting the presentations on stage, and I realised the guy at my right shoulder was himself. I have that autograph still. Also the time I took a work colleague from the US to a short circuit race at Kirkstown in the late 70s. We introduced ourselves and Joey took us into his tent for a quick chat. Speaking of Kirkstown, I briefly ventured into 50cc racing in 1972 and competed there twice.



Any other information – Since 2000, my ever tolerant wife and I live in rural Perthshire, which is a handy location to reach our favourite Highland roads.

I'm also active over here on the Committee of the Scottish Classic Motorcycle Club. The SCMC has members all over Scotland but the majority live in the east coast and Fife, where we hold a couple of gatherings each year.

With 7 grandchildren and a big garden it's not possible to make all the biking events in Scotland, but I hope to meet other ACMC members at our Show, and maybe some of the summer runs this year.



Ian collecting the award at the 2015 show for his 1949 Excelsior Autobyk

TT Toolbox Basics – Niall Sommerville

Everybody loves a shiny socket or that special tool that only fits one nut deep in the suspension but there are many common things that are just as at home in your toolbox or bench. You might think I went nuts in the pharmacy but some of these items were readily available in many pound shops.

Syringes

The most common use is probably going to be extracting brake fluid from an over filled master cylinder reservoir or the dregs from the bottom of the bowl but they can also be very effective bleeding brakes. Whether you prefer pushing or pulling brake fluid from calliper

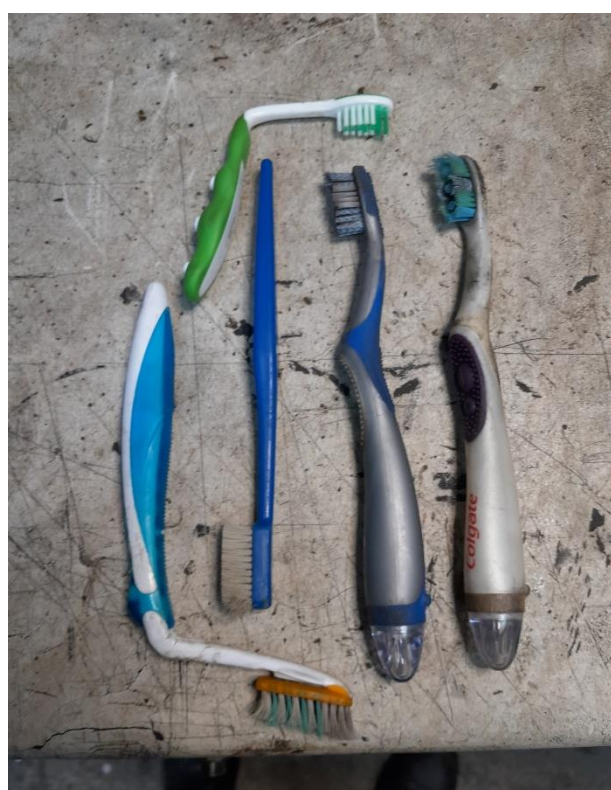
bleed nipples, they are a damn sight more effective than the more expensive vacuum pumps, several types adorn my shelves as a testament to that fact. I've even used a larger one with a bit of silicone hose over the end of a sticky choke cable filled with release (diesel) oil, after the trick looking anodised aluminium one failed to do the job and leaked all over the place. They can be had in many sizes, blunt needles are optional, which are perfect for applying oil exactly where you want it, carb throttle spindles and locks spring to mind, rather than just spraying everything and hoping for the best.

Cotton Buds

Great for cleaning in tight spots with a bit of IPA, applying grease exactly where needed without covering your hands and or clothes. Touch up that bit of paint that you scratched or chipped without resorting to looking for a small brush, it'll be on the pile of hard brushes you forgot to clean last time, then just put it in the bin and save on brushes and brush cleaner. Clean the contact in the bottom of the indicator lamp holder that only works every fourth flash. Apply gasket joint compound sparingly and evenly so that you don't end up with a crankcase full of squeezed out goo that is also under your fingernails.

Toothbrushes

An absolute must for cleaning in hard to reach areas without doing any serious damage, grind the heads down until they're narrow enough to get into gaps. You can heat the stems with a heat gun or hair dryer and bend them to all sorts of angles to reach places you didn't think possible. Try cleaning the inside of your headlamp reflector and lens, you'll be amazed at how much muck has accumulated in there and you'll be able to see the road again. Used toothbrushes work fine, although the battery powered vibrating types don't bend very well, even new unbranded items are very cheap and often sold in multi packs.



Toothpicks

Plastic or wooden varieties are great for removing stubborn grot from the corners of float bowls without doing damage and when it comes to cleaning green stuff from the terminals deep inside electrical multi plugs, they're hard to beat. Wooden ones work really well for applying touch up paint to fine scratches. Fine interdental picks that have a serrated rubber coating are the tool of choice for cleaning carburettor orifices and jets without fear of damage.



Let's not forget about humble dental floss, great stuff to help remove those 3D / Dome comedy skull stickers the previous owner thought were cool, a few drops of IPA at the top edge and then gently saw with the dental floss will cut through the adhesive without damaging the paint finish. Polishing fine grooves on shafts for O rings, wrap the floss around, apply your chosen solvent, lubricant or abrasive, toothpaste is perfect if you're paranoid about damaging the metal surface.

So, don't laugh when you look in my toolbox, everything is there for a reason.

Memories – 11th November 1998



Who was in the rogue's gallery? From left to right they were – Richard (Dick) Hodge (founder of the club), David Anderson, Alan Kidd, Michael Ferguson (Chairman at time of photo), William (Bill) Pettigrew, Willie McColm and Robin Burnside. Well done if you could name them all.

Bill Pettigrew Funeral, 1st February

The club was well represented by a good turnout for the funeral of Bill, held at the Crematorium. 20 members, past and present, were there to see him off. The club sent a wreath in his memory.



Haggis Gathering, 5th February – Paul Wilkinson

The club had booked a stand at the annual Haggis Gathering at Lanark Auction Mart. We set ourselves up in our usual place and proceeded to hand out flyers for our show and to lobby those trading to take a stand with us as well. A steady stream of visitors, both our members and members of the public called in to say hello and have a chat.

For those that have not attended the Gathering, it is an opportunity for both dealers and members of the public to sell their unwanted motorcycles, parts, tools and in some cases bric-a-brac. It is also the first autojumble on the Scottish calendar and gives friends a chance to meet and discuss what they have been doing over the winter. The only disagreeable part of the day is how cold and wet it usually is.



(L-R, Brian Baillie, Iain Howie, Paul Wilkinson, Ricky Leiper & Robin Campbell)

Inter Club Quiz 8th February – Stuart Dykes

Everyone arrived at Mauchline on a very wet night, but once inside the Kilmarnock supporters club, we were all nice and warm.

There was a good turnout from the three clubs (Hillbillies, Ayr Classic and Ayrshire Touring).

The night started off with a talk from Motorcycle Law Scotland, I think everyone found it very informative and there was quite a bit of interaction from the floor, we also enjoyed the freebies 😊

Once the talk was over, we were all invited to have some food; everyone enjoyed what was on offer (meat pies, quiche, beans, mushy peas, pea and ham soup), tea, coffee, biscuits and tablet.

Once the gannets had cleared their plates, it was down to the matter in hand, the quiz.



Being the chair of Ayrshire Touring, I made up one of our two teams, Ayr Classic had three teams (T1: Ricky, Brian Ballie, Robin Burnside, Kenny Brown. T2: Alex Hamilton, David Anderson, Alistair Hamilton, Paul Wilkinson, Taff Bee. T3: David Rowell, John Stewart, Alan Johnson) {sorry if I missed anyone}, and the Hillbillies had five teams if I remember correctly.

The quiz consisted of four rounds of ten questions (General Knowledge, Bikes, Films and Music). As usual with all quizzes, there were some easy questions and some not so easy ones! (Think that's also known as hard), but as they say, it's only easy if you know the answer.

After all the rounds were played out, it came down to the scores on the doors and the final outcome saw Ayrshire Touring team coming out on top (unfortunately that was not the team I was in!), I think Ayr Classic team T2 came second and team T3 managed to win the wooden spoon, if there had been one.

As the chair of Ayrshire Touring, I thanked the Hillbillies for an excellent night and invited everyone to Dreghorn next year, as it will be their turn to host.

We all had an excellent night regardless of how well our team did and we left the club around 10pm, to a much dryer night than when we arrived.



The winning team.

(There was one other ACMC team present – The Roadblockers, consisting of David Anderson, Robin Campbell, Iain Howie and Gail Hunter – Editor)

Coffee Run 15th February – Paul Wilkinson

There was another excellent turn out at this month's coffee venue: Da Vinci's Café, Cumnock. 17 members and 5 wives were present and they all enjoyed the hospitality provided and the company of like-minded individuals.



Another Year of Club Runs 2023 Programme – David Rowell

We got the year off to a great start when 22 members & friends turned out for the Braveheart Run to Colmonell. The season proper kicks off on 2nd April, departing Girvan at 11:00h for Portpatrick on the Willie McColm Memorial run. I have moved departure times back for April runs because some members need extra time to get to the muster points and because of low temperatures experienced last year.

Including Braveheart we have 15 planned runs every second Sunday, however, like last year we will be operating ad' hoc runs every other Sunday. In total last year we staged 26 club runs, covering 4,537 miles, an average distance of 175 miles.

This year we are starting with 8 of our planned runs under 100 miles, albeit we have tagged an optional visit to the Peebles Show 16th April, from Strathaven. I'm hoping this will encourage more classic motorcycles to join runs this year. We already had 4 classic bikes on the Braveheart run, where the average age of motorcycles was 18 years ranging from 1 to 48 years old.

Like last year we will use both the WhatsApp riders' group with 39 members and the Facebook Members & Friends site to publicise and promote runs.

We have already adjusted this year's schedule, taking account of SVVF Yearbook local events & shows, and no doubt there will be further changes. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions of interesting places to visit let me know by email subject: ACMC RUNS to rowell-d@sky.com or by text message to +44 7836 573 743.

ACMC 2023 RUNS PROGRAMME:

15 February.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Depart:</u>	<u>Primary Destination:</u>	<u>Miles:</u>	<u>Muster:</u>
08 Jan	11:00h	Braveheart Run to Colmonell	20	Girvan
02 Apr	11:00h	Portpatrick Willie McColm Memorial	80	Girvan
16 Apr	11:00h	Strathaven Rifleman Khan + Peebles	120	Cumnock
30 Apr	11:00h	Wanlockhead & The Leadhills	50	Cumnock
14 May	10:00h	Kirkudbright & Dumfries Classic Show	120	Dalmellington
28 May	10:00h	Aberfoyle & The Dukes Pass	140	Monkton
11 June	10:00h	Glenbuck Heritage Village	40	Cumnock
25 June	10:00h	Tyndrum & The Green Welly Stop	180	Monkton
09 July	10:00h	Isle of Whithorn	120	Dalmellington
23 July	10:00h	Inveraray	160	Monkton
06 Aug	10:00h	Peebles & St Mary's Loch	160	Cumnock
20 Aug	10:00h	Portpatrick & Mull of Galloway	120	Girvan
03 Sep	10:00h	Dumfries Camera Obscura	90	Cumnock
17 Sep	10:30h	Portpatrick & Port William	140	Girvan
01 Oct	10:30h	Largs & Millport Ferry	70	Monkton
15 Oct	11:00h	Clatteringshaws closing muster	60	Dalmellington

Events Calendar

Date	Event
11 th & 12 th March 2023*	Scottish Motorcycle Show Ingliston Show Ground Edinburgh
14th March 2023	Club Night. Location and speaker to be confirmed.
15th March 2023	Coffee Run 11:00am Maly's Café, 13 Dalrymple Street, Girvan KA26 9EU
26 th March 2023*	Vintage & Classic Motorcycle Auction Forfar Mart, John St., Forfar DD8 3AZ 10:00 – 14:00 Admission £3.00
26 th March 2023*	VMCC Clyde Valley, Blue Haze, 2 Stroke Run through Ayrshire Broadlees Golf Club, Chapelton, nr Strathaven at 10:00am
02nd April 2023	Portpatrick Willie McColm Memorial Run Approx 80 miles Meet at Girvan at 11:00
16th April 2023	Strathaven Rifleman Khan Run + Lothian & Borders Show & Autojumble, Peebles Approx 120 miles Meet at Cumnock at 11:00
22 nd & 23 rd April 2023*	Stafford Classic Bike Show
30th April 2023	Wanlockhead & Leadhills Run Approx 50 miles Meet at Cumnock Bus Station at 11:00

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

Gudgeon Pin Remover
Torque Wrenches, Med& Large
Voltmeter Ohmmeter (self powered)
3 Prong Puller

3 Jaw Ratchet Wrench
 Multimeter
 Carb Balancer (4,3 or 2)
 Impact Driver
 Norton Clutch Tool
 Tyre Bead Breaker
 Motor Cycle Wheel balancer

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
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Treasurer	Stuart Miller E: stuartmiller3@hotmail.com T: 01292 475 909
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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>