



THE AYR CLASSIC NEWSLETTER

September 2023

ISSUE 262

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From the Editor

Observant readers may notice that this month's newsletter is less than half the size it normally is. That is because there has been a distinct lack of articles or photographs being forwarded for inclusion. Without these, and the conclusion of the club's runs programme, there will be very little content in future editions. Therefore, can I ask (plead) that you all try and provide something so that the newsletter can continue to be a success. A big thank you to those of you who have contributed.

Paul Wilkinson

(Front cover: Stuart Dykes and his Honda NT650 V5 Deauville)

Club Member of the Month

Name – **Stuart Dykes** Age – **64** Club Position – **Member**

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

What was it? - **Honda SS50 Moped in red** Do you still have it? – **No**

It was the summer of '75; I had left school and had secured an apprenticeship at Scottish Aviation (SAL), so I needed transport to get to work.

I had talked my dad into letting me get a bike (cheap transport), we went up to Harry Fairbairn's at Irvine (fore runner to North Harbour). We went in and had a look round, I liked the look of the wee Honda, and then before I knew it, Mike "the bike" had sold me a bike. It was arranged for them to deliver it to the house in the van.

My dad took me down to a piece of disused road, so I could practice my clutch control and gear changes, none of your CBT back then ☺ That was me started on my biking career.

So it was, that was me on the road doing 1,000 miles a month, of which only 250 were for work, I was out in all weathers burning up (well as fast as the moped would go) the Ayrshire roads.

Come March '76 I had turned 17 and it was time to sit my test. Unlike today where you are tailed by the examiner on a bike in radio contact, the examiner walked round the block behind the test centre. 30 minutes later I was in possession of a pass certificate.

Time to buy my first "big bike", it was a Yamaha YB100 (2 stroke), from Coopers in Troon. It went when I bought my first car.

Over the years I have had a few bikes (Honda CD175, Suzuki GS550e, Honda CB400 {grey import} and my 1st Deauville), that brings us to the present day.

What do you currently ride? – **Honda NT650 V5 Deauville and BMW F800GT**



How long have you been a club member? – **One year**

What is your favourite club event or memory? – **The coffee mornings**

What is your favourite motorcycling memory? – **It was our trip to the Faro rally in Portugal in 2019, it also happened to be our honeymoon.**

We left Prestwick and spent the next 11 days travelling through England, France, Andorra, Spain and arrived into Portugal. We had fantastic weather, roads and food.

We spent the next 6 days in an apartment in Faro town, going out to the rally site on the free shuttle bus. Must admit, I was glad not to be camping in plus 30 degrees heat. The atmosphere was superb with bikes everywhere.

We left and travelled back home through Portugal, Spain, France, England and Wales (different route) over the next 14 days. Apart from a day and a half of light rain in northern Spain, we had wall to wall sunshine for the whole trip of 31 days and 5,000 miles.



32nd Scottish Classic Motorcycle Show

The committee have agreed that the club will once again organise the show and it will be held on Saturday 15th June 2024. In order for it to be a success, we will once again require the support of volunteers from the membership. This year 48 people offered to help on the day and their assistance was greatly appreciated. However, it is not just on the day that help is needed. There are a number of other activities that ensure the show goes ahead. We need people to take on the roles of recruiting catalogue advertising and trade stands. This year the monies raised by these two activities actually paid for the show catalogue

printing and the stunt rider costs. For 2024 we would like to improve on those figures. Therefore, we need to start the process now. In addition, the club attend the Haggis Gathering at Lanark in February and the Scottish Motorcycle Show at Ingliston in March. For both events we will require volunteers to man the stands. If you think you can possibly help in anyway then please contact Brian Baillie (bbaillie44@yahoo.co.uk) with your details.

Dunaskin Steam Day, 27th August. – Stuart Miller



Doon Valley Railway Trust invited our club to support them at their recent open day, a repeat of last year's successful event. This year's event had added significance as it could have been the last ever event with the failed fundraising to purchase land that the current landlord had put a significant price on and an unachievable timescale. Our club had welcomed a member of the Trust earlier in the year, during our winter program, when he gave an excellent talk on the work of the trust and the club made a donation to their fundraising.



We were part of a larger club invitation and additional entertainment for the 1200 members of the public who visited throughout the day. This illustrated the level of support the railway enjoys. The following clubs and exhibitors participated:

- West Coast Classic Car Club,
- Ayr Classic Motorcycle Club,
- Retro Ayrshire Cars,
- Mx5 Owners Club,
- All Independent Classic Vehicle Owners,
- Epic Competitions,
- Hannahston Alpacas □ Alpacas of Scotland (Drongan),
- Uncle Billy - Childrens Entertainer (Ayr)

What an eclectic mix !!

We had a great club turnout of over 20 bikes from all decades and they certainly attracted a lot of attention from the public, with much discussion and the possibility of a few new members. It was also great to see Andy and Laura visit the club stand.

Our thanks to our Chairman Ricky for stealing his wife's car to transport the club 'stuff' including the gazebo and some chairs, which you can see were put to good use.



An excellent report and background to the final day can be read on the Doon Valley Railway website:

<https://doonvalleyrailway.co.uk/news/f/doon-valley-railway-season-2023-closed>

Sanguhar Car Show Run (Route 66), 3rd September – Brian Baillie

Today was a wee bit of a special day for me, as I was unable to come on any runs for several weeks due to suffering from shingles of the ear and face - Ramsey Hunt Syndrome and I couldn't wear a helmet. I would like to thank a number of members for their kind wishes, phone calls and even had a visit from two committee members on their bikes. This means so much when you are feeling a bit down. Apologies as I am digressing from making a runs report.

Kenny Brown and I had arranged to meet up. Kenny was on his Triumph and I was on my Honda 400/4. We made our way to the meeting point in Cumnock. Paul Wilkinson (Triumph T160), Simon White (Suzuki), Iain Howie (Triumph Triple) John Doolan (Triumph Adventure) and John Woods (Modern bike) were already there. We lined up our bikes and introduced ourselves to new members John Doolan and John Warnock, Next to arrive was Ricky on his trusty Guzzy, with Anne on pillion.

We were busy catching up when next to arrive were Robin Campbell (Honda VRF 800), Gail (Yamaha MT) and Davie Anderson on his new BMW 850 (very nice). Not long after Ken Robson (Honda CB500), Robert Mitchell (Aprilia), and Scott Lambie (BMW 1200).

After a photo shoot, (thanks Anne), we set off in two groups. Ricky lead the first group and I lead the second group. The route was to take us though New Cumnock, Kirkconnel then on to Sanquhar. We turned off the main road and headed to the village square. There were lots of cars and a couple of trucks all gleaming in the sunshine. We parked up and went for a short walk round the displays. Already present were club members Ian McEwan (Triumph T90) and Gordon Morrison (Triumph Tiger Explorer).

It was four years since I had last visited the show. The setting was full of lovely classic cars and motorcycles.

We decided to check out the location for some food and walked up to the old hall to find it closed. However, a kind gent gave us directions to the new venue around the corner in the Town Hall.

The community did us proud and laid on a grand spread of food. After enjoying my roll and sausage, we made our way back to the village square and had another walk around the exhibits.

Sometime later I travelled back with Kenny and John Doolan.

What an enjoyable day I had with great company. Total mileage from my home was 66 miles (Route 66)



Aberfoyle and Green Welly Run, 3rd September – D Rowell

ACMC Club Run 3rd September alternate route: Aberfoyle over Dukes Pass and up to the Green Welly - busiest ever seen, heading home via Inveraray and Dunoon. Great day out



Coffee Run, 6th September – Paul Wilkinson

This time we made another visit to the Ayrshire Food Hub at Crossroads. 19 members plus 1 wife were present and there was a good selection of bikes in the car park. At first there was some confusion over whether we had a reservation, but that was because the staff thought we might prefer to sit outside in the sun, rather than in the café, and no tables had been set aside for us. The decision was quickly made to sit outside. It was also a pleasure to meet new member, Chris O'Neill, who appeared to enjoy the opportunity to meet the other members, but due to work commitments will only be able to attend occasionally. As usual the staff, service and food were excellent.



Ad-hoc Run, 10th September – David Rowell

ACMC Sunday 10th Sept ad hoc run group decided to defy the weather reports, crossing into Argyll on the Dunoon ferry and heading for Oban. We enjoyed stunning views of Loch Melfort in brilliant sunshine, until Lochgilphead when the heavens opened - but only for 50 (very) wet miles, until Strachur. In total we covered 250 miles in great company with Jim; Mark; Davie; John (new); Alan; Nick (nearly new); and myself.



Club Winter Programme, September 12th – Brain Baillie

Twenty-seven members came along to the first of the winter programme evenings. Some new members came along and Ricky introduced himself to the hall and made everyone feel welcome.

David Hook is the president of the Dumfries and Galloway blood bikes association. He was invited along to receive a cheque for £500 pounds on behalf of the club. Our show this year was very successful and some of the profit is donated to several good causes.

Before the official presentation he told us how the movement got started. Unfortunately, he had a serious accident while he was working as a Police Motorcyclist.

He retired after the accident and he decided he wanted to do something. He and a small group of friends started the movement.

The role was to assist the Health Service by transporting blood and urgent medical supplies and samples to other hospitals 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The movement now has 150 members in different locations all over Scotland. The organisation is funded entirely by donations. After his talk the cheque was presented and photographs were taken to mark the occasion.

Tea, coffee and pie and beans were served. Later it was good catching up with folk, a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had.



Portpatrick & Port William Run, 17th September – David Rowell

Run to Portpatrick & Port William, 164 circular miles with 6 members, we enjoyed a great day out motorcycling. It was mostly moist, but fun all the same.

Coffee Run, 20th September – Paul Wilkinson

The club visited a new venue – DeWaldens Garden Centre and Café in Kilmarnock. Once again there was a good turn out with 27 members and wives present plus a good selection

of bikes, (classic and modern) and even a moped in the car park. Unfortunately, I had been unable to reserve a group of tables, so we were spread out quite a bit, but I believe everybody enjoyed the day.



Ad-hoc Run, 24th September – David Rowell

The ad-hoc run hoped to go to Wings & Wheels at Dumfries Aviation Museum, but John; Danny; and myself called off at Thornhill, before returning home over Dalveen & Mennock Passes. Despite adverse weather we had a great day ...





Events Calendar

Date	Event
30 th September 2023*	Scottish Autojumblers Scottish Vintage Bus Museum, M90 Commerce Park, Dunfermline KY12 0SJ
30 th September and 1 st October 2023*	VMCC Clyde Valley Veteran and Early Vintage Motorcycles (pre 1926) Lochside Caravan Park, Castle Douglas DG7 1EZ
1st October 2023	Largs and Millport – Runs Programme Approx 70 miles Meet at Monkton at 10:30am
1 st October 2023*	Motorcycle Autojumble Lothian & Borders Classic & Vintage Motorcycle Club Drill Hall, Peebles EH45 8AU
4th October 2023	Coffee Gathering Venue TBC
10th October 2023	Winter Club Night – Bring & Buy Glenburn Miners Welfare Club Meet at 7:30pm
15th October 2023	Clatteringshaws Closing Muster – Runs Programme Approx 60 miles Meet at Dalmellington at 11:00am
14th November 2023	Winter Club Night – AGM Glenburn Miners Welfare Club Meet at 7:30pm

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: stuartjmillier3@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 Members and Friends Group –
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClassicMCCMembersAndFriends>

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

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