

CLASSIC SCENE



January 2022



HCMC Christmas night out at Rollerbowl

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Cover Picture

Several members got guttered as
they went down memory lane at
Rollerbowl for the Christmas night
out. Players were hooked and
bowled over as their pins collapsed.
Players who striked had their cards
marked, but went spare if there
were pins left standing.

Welcome to the January Newsletter

Happy New Year! And one year closer to tax exemption for some of our vehicles.

Of course a pressing issue is the surge of this Omicron Covid variant, and the restrictions this is going to pose. This will inevitably have an effect on the next few club meetings so keep your eyes and ears open. The website, Facebook page and the newsletters should carry more information.

The AGM is scheduled for the 3rd of February, and I had the thought that if anyone else had a pressing desire to become newsletter editor I would happily pass on the reigns. It comes with an excellent package of benefits, mainly keeping you busy. If no one else wants a shottie, I'm happy to carry on. I believe the same goes for the webmaster position. Our website runs on an old version of PHP and could do with a refresh. If you know what I'm talking about, you've passed the interview stage.

There's not much going on in the editors garage since the Focus suspension rebuilt. I've been finishing off a few details on the van and I've started breaking the spare Focus as it's no longer required as a driver. I sold the exhaust and cat to a man from Thurso which was keen of him. I mentioned someone else who came down from that way to buy the back seats from my van. Of course they knew each other!

I do have some van drama to report! Due to owning an excessive number of dogs, we took the VW van on our festive travels, with Christmas in Stanley near Perth and Boxing Day in Arbroath. On the way home, around Dalwhinnie, the fuel light came on, much to the alarm of Mrs Editor. I think it reads low when it's cold but some of you may remember when I said something similar about the Beetle and ran out of petrol on a club drive to Garve. Anyway, we popped into Aviemore for a top up but the petrol station was coned off. So we carried on for 35 miles to Inshes Tesco. The only problem was the tense atmosphere in van. Mind you 50 miles with the fuel light on was probably pushing it a bit even though the last bit is mainly down hill. Like my marriage at the time.

Have any of you been watching Edd China's Workshop Diaries on YouTube? It's like Wheeler Dealers but with all the boring TV production nonsense removed. That's the advantage of airing on a streaming platform like YouTube, they can tailor it more to their target audience. Try typing *Using wet grit to clean a filthy V12 Jaguar engine - Edd China's Workshop Diaries* into Google. This episode sees them blast cleaning a Jaguar V12 engine to make a feature coffee table, but the best bit is the demonstration of induction heaters to remove difficult cylinder head studs. They take their time over it, which would never be allowed on a traditional channel.

Guy's Garage on Channel 4 is also very good viewing. I was told that as a very popular but unlikely TV presenter he's allowed a free reign in what he does. More maverick telly for car nerds.

And did you see the Strictly final?

Happy New Year to you all!

Calum aka Editor

Chairs Bitty

An excellent night our bowling/Secret Santa night. We had enough members turning up for 2 full lanes, and 2 games. The first game was very even-stevens with regards to points scored. I was very much middle of the pack, with just a couple of spares and was looking on enviously as everyone else seemed to manage to throw at least one strike.



In the second game Jim MacKay surged ahead of everyone and we all thought that that was it. Absolutely amazing how he just seem to throw either a spare or a strike. I managed to astonish myself by throwing 3 strikes in a row and promptly went downhill after that. In the end there was a nail-biting finish with someone, who the wags had named, "the chair" pipping Jim's score by 2 points.

Things are pretty dormant in our garden. I discovered that I have some bulbs that still need to go into the ground but it may be a bit late and I may just decide to grown them indoors instead. No doubt more on that later. You may remember me mentioning repainting the walls after the tomatoes managed to stain them green. No sooner have I touched up the walls around the living room window, when I put up the Christmas tree. It's an old paper/plastic and wire artificial construction, about 1.5m tall. It's got 2 small strings of battery operated lights in it, some bangles, a knitted Santa and angel (courtesy of my mother in law) and a bit of garlanding. I only have to pull it forward a little to close the curtains at night. I see I have to replace the batteries on one of the strings – the lights have gone out.

Fleet wise, everything is chugging along nicely and I really don't have much to say so lets talk about something else instead. The Highway Code for instance. Not that I read it a lot, but I heard an article on the radio recently about some changes to this mighty rule book. One of them is about pedestrians who now have right of way on junctions i.e. if they intend to cross and you are turning off and are about to cut across their bows, the pedestrian goes first. Not exactly clear if this is truly new or was recently introduced, but I had to laugh - not on the intent of the rule, with which I personally agree, but on Brexit. Now you may say, what does Brexit have to do with the Highway Code? Nothing much really, but the Government (again my personal view) seems to be determined to get rid of anything that smacks of being European. And here they go and introduce this little rule that the Europeans have been using for donkeys years. Ironical or what?

It is a few days before Christmas as I write this article. Our government has just announced a festive damper in that for the first 3 weeks after Christmas we should not meet up with more than 3 households. That scuppers our club meetings straight away. We will have a Zoom meeting instead, the details of that will be later on in the magazine. You can tell all about what you got for Christmas and what you have been up to over the festive'ish period. I'll tell you about our fence.

So, no auction this month then. But we have decided to carry it forward to next month to follow on from the AGM. As we didn't have an auction last year, Alice and I have got a few things save up to go.

The magazine should drop into your mailbox just before the New Year, so I hereby wish you a festive Hogmanay with your immediate family/bubble and we will meet again in the new year.

Stay safe.

Trish.

December Rollerbow! Night

I think it's fair to say that there was some real bowling talent on display at our visit to Rollerbow! Some dark horses with mis-spent youths or skills picked up when entertaining grandchildren. It was good to see Rollerbow! being used as intended not just as a car park for Cars and Coffee and it is fair to say there was a great atmosphere, and lots of fun being had. We highly recommend a visit.



Of course it wasn't just about showing off your bowling skills, it was a fun sociable night again, and after the bowling was over we gathered for a wee social and dishing out of the Secret Santa gifts which were generally very useful and car related.

Miles brought a sack we filled with gifts for MFR's Cash for Kids Mission Christmas appeal. I donated a cute little barking puppy and was sad to leave it behind (which is sad but in a different way), but it was amusing as Miles wandered about carrying the sack to hear it yip and bark like he was an evil dog snatcher.



Highland Classic Motor Club.

Annual General Meeting 4th Feb 2021 Minutes.

ZOOM Meeting 7.30

Apologies: Ranald, John Mckenzie

Present, Callum B, Ian T, Graeme, Liz B, Calum P, Chris, Roy, Richard, Alan, Alice, Trish, Jackson, Bryan.

Minutes of the last AGM were passed. Proposed Alice, 2nd, Miles.

President's Report.

2020 had been an exceptional and difficult year. It started well with a fascinating talk about Rosemarkie Man by Simon Gunn in March. Then the pandemic hit and meetings had to be abandoned. There were a few unofficial runs by some members, but club activity largely ceased. The newsletter however remained a valuable way to keep us all in touch. At the latter end of the year some Zoom meetings were held which also helped. Hopefully the coming year would be a better one.

Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer reported there was £2164 in the club account. There had been no expenditure on Drive it Day, or other meetings. There was a drop in income from subscriptions of approximately £300. The accounts had been inspected by Trish and found correct.

Chair

Trish indicated that she was willing to serve another year as Chair.

Secretary.

Bryan indicated that he was willing to continue for another year. Membership stood at 45 at this time a drop of about twenty, which reflected in the Treasurer's Report

Committee Members.

Ranald, Roy, Miles, Callum B, Graeme, Calum P (newsletter Editor) all agreed to stay on as committee members.

Suggestions for club activities were invited by the chair.

Cars & Coffee.

Miles reported that there had only been three meetings due to the pandemic. He was unsure as to when the event might resume. There had been an online event for MFR's cash for Kids that had been successful, and the Drive and Wave event at Christmas had attracted twenty cars and raised £630.

March Meeting. Calum agreed to organise a Zoom meeting with radio presenter Donnie Mackay.

April Chris Silver will give a talk on the Black Isle railway

Other Meetings. Drive it Day on the 25th April was discussed. It was felt that a simplified version of the event might just be possible depending on the pandemic regulations being eased slightly.

May/June. Bryan agreed to arrange a regularity run of some sort.

Other visits were proposed (all dependent on easing of restrictions) : a prison visit (Jackson), PLD Smiddy. Ashgrove Body Centre.

AOCB.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Out and About



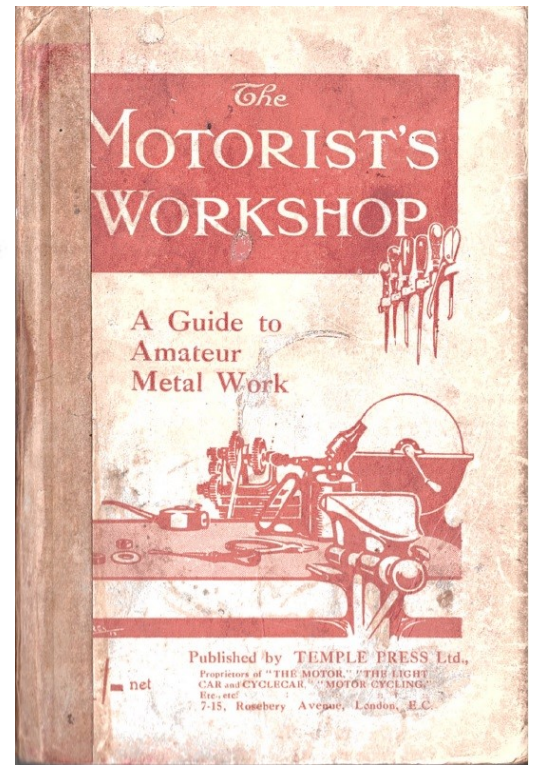
Not much to report out and about this month. I quite liked this Landie seen on a trip to Aldi's. The owner was probably buying tools from the centre isle to keep it going.

Here's a topical excerpt from 'The Motorists Workshop' this festive season. Does anyone (else) find themselves grudging time that has to be spent on business or social issues?

THE MOTORIST'S WORKSHOP

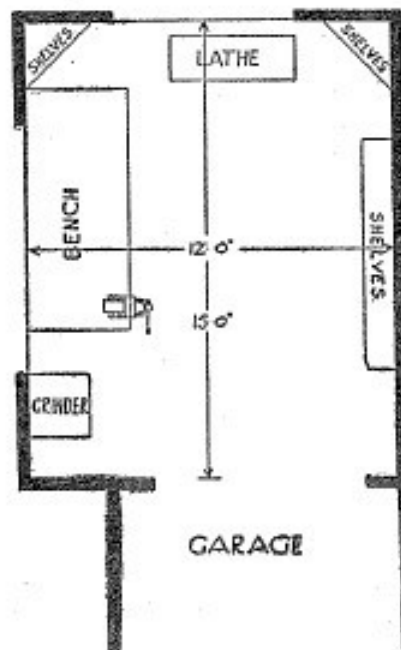
As a matter of fact, the more intimate our knowledge of the motor's mechanism the more enjoyment we get out of motoring, and very certainly the way to gain such knowledge is to do all the mechanical work on our motors that our experience and equipment will permit.

In the winter, when roads are bad and winds are keen, we may spend our time in the workshop, overhauling, repairing, and improving, grudging the time that has to be wasted over business or social duties. The workshop, indeed, is the place where we meet our motors on equal terms, though it is true that sometimes the advantage seems on the side of the motor. But that is when we are struggling with a job that is refractory because we are not setting about it in the right way.



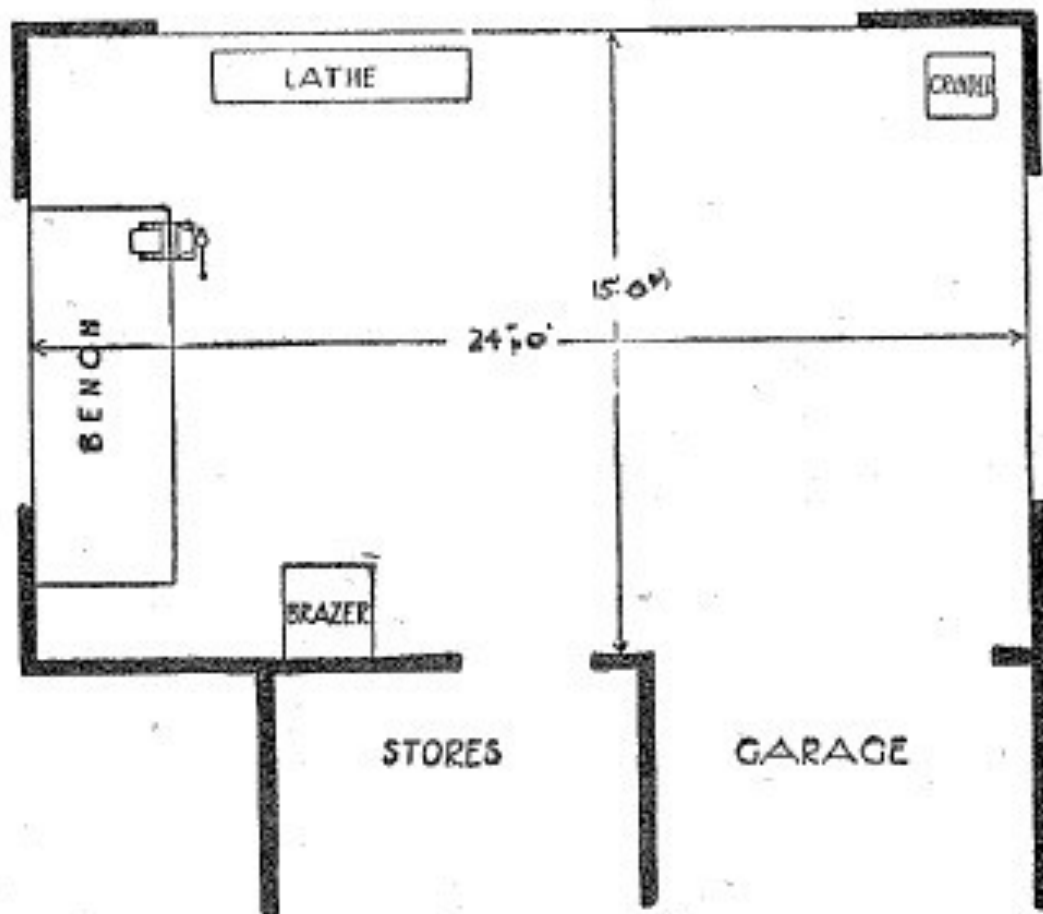
Apparently all motorist's workshops need a lathe. Hands up if you have one.

The illustrations (pages 3 and 4) show plans of two workshops on these lines, with ample lighting, which is a necessity; and indications are given of a convenient disposition of the bench, lathe, etc. The lathe is in the north window, on account of the steadier light; and since the east side in the



Plan of workshop.

larger workshop is occupied by a long window, a separate stores for material and chassis parts has been indicated.



Plan of larger workshop.

And here are some tips on setting the height of your bench and vice. As I have a drawer for my files (and hacksaws) I have been identified as a man with no delicacy of feeling where tools are concerned. I've been trying to date this book. I think it's safe to say it's pre women's liberation.

The height of the bench is important, as the vice will be mounted on it, and for general fitting the vice-jaws should be as high as the worker's elbow, which means the bench will be from 3 ins. to 5 ins. lower, according to the amount the vice stands up. Beneath the bench there may be shelves to store material, but tool drawers should be avoided. Tools are better hung up where they can easily be seen and got at. It is far more convenient than having to fumble in a drawer for them, for the tool one wants is always at the bottom. Added to which reason is the further one that it is bad for the tools themselves to be thrown promiscuously together in a drawer. If drawers are used for other tools, files should invariably be hung in racks. The man who throws even two files together in a drawer is a man with no delicacy of feeling where tools are concerned.

Cars and Coffee



There were over 60 vehicle at CARS AND COFFEE this month and another Van Load of Gifts & Toys collected for MFR Cash for Kids "Mission Christmas."



A huge "Thank You" to absolutely everyone who has stuffed Toys / Gifts and Cash Donations into the back of Frankenvan during our November and December Meetings now all delivered to the MFR Cash For Kids HQ for distribution around the Highlands.

You've put a lot of smiles on many a child's face this Christmas.



See you all back at Roller Bowl, Inverness on Sunday 9th January 2022. face this Christmas. Well Done!

PRESS RELEASE

Oops that's a dreadful pun. [*Worthy of this publication -Ed*] The point is that I have treated myself to a 12 ton press. It's the sort of tool that you only need occasionally but when you do it's a real faff to have to take your part off to an engineering shop somewhere as I'm sure you all appreciate. However, now that I have the press, if any members need access to it for a job then they're welcome to bring the part around and I'll see if I can help.

The press came as a set of parts to be assembled. To be honest, as bought, it was not fit for purpose. It seems the Chinese don't have measuring tapes. The legs weren't parallel, measuring 495mm at the top, and 510mm at the bottom. The table that moves up and down below the jack had significant play both sideways and fore and aft. This all meant that there was a chance of something under twelve tons of pressure slipping out sideways!!

I spent several hours modifying the table to eliminate the play. I also welded the frame together rather than relying on the bolts which again I felt could allow movement under pressure.

Like all these special tools they are only used infrequently, but when the time comes....oh, deep, deep joy. To push out a bearing and then press in a replacement in a matter of minutes, wonderful.

Bryan. 07821 260774



HCMC Events

6th Jan 2022 Zoom Meeting

BRYAN MCILWRAITH is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Jan 6, 2022 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87839187359?pwd=N0ZOK0dDU2pkVFIBRzcvNTZiNW12Zz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3918 7359

Passcode: uw28Xh

Chat about what you got for Christmas and what you got up to.

9th Jan 2022 Cars And Coffee Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness 10 to 12

A quiet Social Event for all Car Enthusiasts. Park up, buy yourself a hot drink and snack from Rollerbowl and check out what's in the Car Park. Chat to old friends and make new! Find us on FACEBOOK. Every 2nd Sunday of the Month.

3rd Feb 2022 Club AGM followed by the Autojumble Auction Old North Inn

The HCMC Auction is the ideal place to Sell & Buy any unwanted Christmas Gifts, slightly worn out tools, car parts of unknown origins, that lamp that has been in the loft for ever, old magazines, DVDs, videos & whatever Bryan found in the middle at Lidl.