

CLASSIC SCENE



January 2025



Club Officials

Chair: **Richard Lashley**

Tel: 07714999506

chairman@highlandclassic.org.uk

Secretary: **Trish Brown**

Tel: 01862 832337

secretary@highlandclassic.org.uk

Treasurer: **Ian Thomson**

Tel: 01463 790969

treasurer@highlandclassic.org.uk

Membership

Miles Vincent

Renewals should be sent to Miles at
72 Laggan Rd, Inverness IV2 4EW

Tel: 07805 389023

membership@highlandclassic.org.uk

Webmaster

www.highlandclassic.org.uk

Webmaster@highlandclassic.org.uk

Editor

Calum Pearson

Bowersburn, Croftnacreich,
North Kessock. IV1 3ZE

Email: editor@highlandclassic.org.uk

Classic Scene is published on the
Thursday preceding the monthly meet-
ing. Please send articles by post or
email to addresses above.

Archivist

The club has an extensive archive of
information relating to all aspects of
classic car ownership. To access this
please contact Ranald Smith at

Hawthorn Cottage, 2 Burn Road, In-
verness IV2 4NG. 01463 236459

ranaldsmith@btinternet.com

Copyright

Neither the Editor nor the Officers of
the Highland Classic Motor Club are
necessarily in agreement with opin-
ions expressed in this magazine.
Such opinions are entirely the views
of the author and imply no recom-
mendation by the Highland Classic
Motor Club.

All rights reserved. Apart from any
fair dealings as permitted under the
terms of the Copyright Design and
Patents Act 1988, no part of this
magazine may be reproduced in any
form whatsoever without the written
permission of the Highland Classic
Motor Club.

Cover Picture

For that New Year Smell.

A panicked attempt at coming up
with something festive and car relat-
ed through the power of Photoshop.

Welcome to the January Newsletter

This newsletter will arrive a little bit later than normal. This is because the normal publication date lands on Boxing Day and I expect I'll still be in a food coma then (Update—I was,) but also because our next club night, (yes - Auction Night!) is a week late on Thursday the 9th Jan. This will allow blood-alcohol levels to drop down to somewhere approaching legal. Also this publication will be a bit shorter than usual too because there's not much to say, and most of you have been too busy shopping to send something in. Many thanks to those who did.

I don't know if you get this impression from the newsletter, but I seem to have a fairly chaotic and busy life, but in a rare lull in mid December I thought I would try and improve my lot. Yes, I'm talking about getting rid of a car. The scrap Mk1 Focus. It has been waiting this fate for some time (ahem - years) but has served well as a log store and parcel delivery safe place. It was wedged sideways in a far corner of my parking area, and yes all four wheels were seized. I jacked it up where I could get access and put boards under the wheels and tried to tow it out with the Mondeo. No chance. Fortunately I still have the VW T5 van, which for once started up easily. That did the job. Once pulled out of confinement I could get access to the wheels and removed all four seized callipers and fitted some tyres that were actually round and full of air. After I'd moved my other cars around like one of those plastic slide puzzle games, the scrapper was lined up with the garage door. By now of course, it's dark. And raining.

I wasn't strong enough to push it myself so I set up a system of ropes and pulleys which although was hard work, did actually move the car to half in and half out of the garage until the system was block to block. Ah. I can't shut the door and it's a point of no return. And there was a ramp to get up too. What a story I was going to have for work Christmas drinks at 6:00 p.m.

I tried jacks, levers, wheel skates and all sorts. I got another two inches. And it's now 6:30pm. My final desperate solution was to construct a wooden buffer onto the tow bar of the scrapper and gently nudge it in with the bumper of the T5. Perfect, and no damage unlike the last time I tried something as stupid as this. After a quick tidy up I was all done, by 7:30pm. Who wants to be sociable at Christmas anyway? On the odd occasion where I have seen people since they have remarked on my strange posture and hunched shoulders. I can't think what caused that.

So I hope you're all having similar kinds of fun and are looking forward to playing with your new classic motoring related gifts. Let me know what you got in time for the next newsletter.

I for one will have celebrated Christmas, by keeping out of the garage for one day.

Season Greetings

Your Editor

Ramblings from the Chair



As we head towards 2025, I think it may be good to reflect on the events of the past year. We have appeared in Practical Classics magazine on what seems to be many occasions and I suspect that the 'The Highlanders' event which was held at the end of 2023 has gone down in history amongst the PC crew. Even in the most recent edition of the magazine there is a large photograph of the gathered classics and their owners at An Talla, Lochend, kind of advertising their proposed similar event due to be set in Cornwall. I think the PC crew were very surprised at the turnout and the eclectic mix of cars we had in such 'a remote location!!!!' as the Highlands. I'm sure it has given the HCMC a great deal of Kudos and this is reflected, I think, in a significant number of new members.

I also look back on some of our monthly events – I particularly remember the excellent photograph of the sun setting over member's cars at the Cat's Back, overlooking Strathpeffer at our destination of our May drive out. And, of course, the exact opposite at Nairn, in mid summer, when it was particularly cold and damp.

Another event that I found particularly interesting was the visit to Scotrail's maintenance depot – lots of the mechanical bits are so like those in our own vehicles but just hugely bigger. There is so much space around things like brake pads and the like (and they are higher off the ground!) so that doing maintenance must be so much more easy. Although I'm sure they must run into difficulties, like we do, on occasions.

On a personal basis, I was very disappointed to miss the Fire Station visit – I understand that the turnout was not great, just purely by coincidence, in that a lot of members were on holiday at the time. I'm told it was an excellent event.

On more recent matters, some of the Committee have been photographed holding 'the large cheque' for our donation to the Maggie's centre in Inverness – this was at the Club's December 'Cars and Coffee' gathering. Again, these monthly events have been growing in attendance over the past year and it has been very surprising at the range of vehicles on show – long may this continue. And talking of photos, here we have Bryan and Jim holding their 'Founder Member' certificates. Forty five years since the Club began – isn't that amazing.



Perhaps the other two founder member (Ranald and Tom) will get their photo taken shortly and appear in a later edition.

I'm sure by the time you read this, Christmas will have been a thing of the past, so the best I can do is wish everybody a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

And in this respect, do not forget that our next meeting is the fabulous HCMC

Auction – clear out your garages and sheds and bring along the goodies to the sale. Any resultant space in those garages and sheds can be filled with you purchases. This year the auction will be on the 9th January at 7.30pm at the Craigmonie Hotel. (Note, NOT the first Thursday of this month). See you all there, cash in hand.

Regards, Richard



As promised, here's a picture of some club members presenting a cheque to Aimee Skye from Maggie's Highland.

If you're new to the Club, that's Miles, Richard, Callum and Chris. I think so anyway, I've never been good with names!

10 Pin Bowling - HCMC Christmas Night Out



RECAP				
PLAYER	HCP	GAME1	GAME2	TOTAL
RICHARD		123	125	248
MILES		82	67	149
ZAK		62	75	137
IAN		90	72	162
JIM		99	114	213
SCRATCH		456	453	909
HCP				0
TOTAL		456	453	909

RECAP				
PLAYER	HCP	GAME1	GAME2	TOTAL
ALICE		91	80	171
GRAHAM		103	81	184
CALLUM		94	86	180
MICHAEL		106	83	189
SCRATCH		394	330	724
HCP				0
TOTAL		394	330	724

RECAP				
PLAYER	HCP	GAME1	GAME2	TOTAL
BRYN		98	105	203
STEVE		120	102	222
TRISH		97	63	160
STEVE		139	137	276
SCRATCH		454	407	861
HCP				0
TOTAL		454	407	861



Pictures paint a thousand words. There's some HCMC members bowling. Then there's the scores and finally the winner. What more do you need to know?

RANT

Calum Pearson

So. I had work trip to Portree just before Christmas, and we have new pool cars. They are all automatic now and my pick was the Ford Focus, a 2022 model. It's described as an MHEV, that is a mild hybrid electric vehicle. I think it basically has a permanently engaged beefy starter motor with a 48V battery. It uses regenerative braking to charge the battery and then gives you a wee electrical assist when you need it. The engine is one of the 1.0 litre eco-busts, and it certainly seemed to go well.

Automatic gearboxes have come on a long way since the old 3 speed slush boxes that I found had a mind of their own. Combined with the regenerative braking and the near instant smooth changes, it was actually a good drive, in my opinion at least.

It was a beautiful drive too, via Achnasheen, and admiring the scenery was where it started to go wrong. I turned my head to watch something of interest and the dashboard lit up with warnings. Bleep! Buzz! Driver fatigue! Stop immediately and rest! That woke me up, right enough. I think there's some kind of camera checking for you posture and warns you if it thinks you're nodding off which is a good idea in principle, as long as you don't look at the scenery.

Next gripe. It's got lane assist. I've driven with this before and found a bit hit or miss (yes pun intended) on rural roads.

My first complaint is that when a large vehicle is coming the other way such as a logging lorry, they often have to hug or even cross the white line. No problem. Just keep left a bit. Nope lane assist tugs the steering wheel and tries to drive you in to the logging lorry. The Tesco delivery van. The heating oil truck.

My second complaint is road surface quality. On a potholed single track there was a short strip of dual direction and the new tar in the on-coming lane must have looked very enticing as lane assist tried it's best to position us there. Not good.

My third complaint was that it was so random to be almost useless. I found a display which showed a wee camera image of the lines it was detecting and the line would go orange if you went out of lane. It started off OK. Then ignored big fat solid lines with rumble strip on. It missed dashed lines. I thought that was a feature, but then it detected dashed lines. So random.

I decided to overtake a (much slower) car. I did my usual and dropped back to get a better view, found a gap, accelerated to build up speed then just as I was about to pull out, buzz, beep, flashing orange. Collision warning! Ach! Once the manoeuvre was completed I cancelled the alarm. Which was instantly replaced by another. Screen wash low! I cancelled that too. Then Bleep! Buzz! Driver fatigue! Stop immediately and rest! I had spent so long cancelling alarms it thought I was falling asleep again.

I stayed overnight and didn't sleep that well, and had an early start, so I was actually a bit tired driving home. To the degree that I chose to stop and have a wee rest. Did I set of any alarms? No.

So how was this eco-machine on fuel? It averaged 48mpg. Not bad, but I have driven an old Mini that could manage that easily. Back at the office I swapped to my old Mondeo TDCi. It was currently averaging 73 mpg, and can easily do high 60's on a run. It also required screen wash, which it told me in a nice subtle way at ignition on. Admittedly for the next three days until I eventually topped it up.



I'm sure there are many members out there who aren't alarmed (pun intended again) by modern car electronics. How do you cope? I guess if you own the car, you can spend a couple of days going through the menus until you're comfortable, and maybe I'm just not used to it.

The car itself was actually good, and the automatic gearbox a revelation. Shame about the electronic drive aides.

Fleeting Moments

Trish Brown

Our village made the news last month courtesy of a 4 car pile-up. This is how it came about. A car travelling from the north approach our village. Round the 90 degree corner, past 2 houses, 3 countdown signs to village signs 20mph sign, the old football grounds, the farmers field and then smacked into the back of a parked Discovery. It did so with enough force to take off its own passenger front wheel, the Discovery rear drivers wheel (breaking the half shaft), pushing the Disco into a car parked in front, shoving that car into the back of a van and pushing the van forward by about 2 feet. Who believes the car was doing 20mph? Anyone?

The roadworks on the A9 Alness have finished. It is nice and smooth now from Deephaven right down to nearly Alness Point business park. Considering the weather we had in that period, I am pleased that they managed to get it finished on time.

Then the council promptly starts roadworks at the Morrison supermarket in Alness, with 3 way traffic lights causing considerable tailbacks. In Alness!

There were some different faces at Rollerbowl last month. I had a great night out where I went from playing reasonable to absolute rubbish. I think I managed the lowest game score that night. Quite a comedown from being champ a few years back, no?

Cars And Coffee

Jim Mackay

It was a good turn-out for December with some "new" vehicles there.



The Ford Anglia 100E could be yours, complete with original vacuum wipers and 3 speed box or, if you want electric wipers and a 4 speed box, you could have one of the last Mk1 Austin A40's.



HCMC Events

9th Jan 2025 The HCMC January Meeting is the Infamous Annual Auction. Craigmonie Hotel, 9 Annfield Road, Inverness, IV2 3HX. Time to clear out your garages, attics and sheds to make yourself some money. 7 for 7.30pm Start. Bring Cash and grab yourself a bargain, it's more fun if the Bidding is brisk! **Note the new date!!!**

12th Jan 2025 Cars And Coffee - Inverness Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness. 2nd Sunday of every Month from 10am-12noon. A Quiet Social Gathering of 20th Century Classics plus interesting Modern Sportscars & Bikes.

6th Feb 2025 HCMC AGM Venue - TBC. The HCMC February Meeting includes the Club AGM. Show your support for the Committee, enjoy a review of 2024 then join in with the planning of Monthly Meetings and Events for 2025.

9th Feb 2025 Cars And Coffee - Inverness Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness. 2nd Sunday of every Month from 10am-12noon. A Quiet Social Gathering of 20th Century Classics plus interesting Modern Sportscars & Bikes.