

CLASSIC SCENE



February 2009

Office Bearers & Committee

Chairman: **Michael Osborne**
Tel: 01463 871473
michael.oz@btoopenworld.com

Secretary: **Ian Nixon**
Tel: 01349 866178
irf_nixon@hotmail.com

Treasurer: **Ian Thompson**
Tel: 01463 790969
ian.judith@virgin.net

Committee **Roy MacGregor**
Jim Lorrain-Smith
Ranald Smith
Miles Vincent

Membership

Bryan McIlwraith
Renewals should be sent to Bryan at 72 Lochalsh
Road, Inverness IV3 6HW
Tel: 01463 222839 (work) 01463 741632 (home)
Bmcilwraith@osteopath-highland.co.uk
Please let Bryan know if you have an email address

HCMC Homepage

www.highlandclassic.org.uk
Webmaster – **Ian Thompson**
ian.judith@virgin.net
Tel: 01463 790969

Editor

Callum Beveridge
47 Old Mill Lane, Inverness, Highland
IV2 3XP Tel: 01463 231787
Email: ClassicScene@bevs.org

The next 'Classic Scene'
GOES TO THE PRINTER
on the Monday of the week
preceding the next meeting
Please send articles by e-mail or typed.

Archivist

Ranald Smith
The club has an extensive archive of information
relating to all aspects of classic car ownership
including technical advice etc. To access this,
please contact the archivist, Ranald Smith, at
Hawthorn Cottage, 2 Burn Road, Inverness IV2 3NG
Tel: 01463 236459
Ranaldsmith@btinternet.com

Copyright

Neither the Editor nor the officers of the Highland
Classic Motor Club are necessarily in agreement with
opinions expressed in this magazine. Such opinions
are entirely the views of the author and imply no
recommendation 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 of 1988, no part of this magazine
may be reproduced in any form whatsoever without
the written permission of the Highland Classic Motor
Club

Contents

- 3 The Chairman's Bit
- 4 Editorial
- 5 Event Diary
- 6 Miles Meanderings
- 8 Retirement Ramblings
- 9 Drive It Day 2009
- 10 AGM 2008 Minutes
- 11 Club Regalia

Cover picture

*Bedford Breakdown at Kyle—see page
6 for more details*

THE CHAIRMAN'S BIT

Another very enjoyable auction last month with lots of stuff sold raising money for club funds and The Blythwood charity and also lots of banter along the way. I was successful (?) in a bid for 'Billy The Bass' but I'm afraid after about an hour of a plastic fish singing Christmas carols whilst waving his fin and shaking his head he has gone to that great goldfish bowl in the sky! Many thanks must go to Bryan the auctioneer and Ian Nixon who controlled and sorted the money.

2008 was another good year for the club with membership holding steady at around 80. The early part of the year saw visits to the Arnold Clark body shop and the RNLI at North Kessock, both very interesting. Also in April we held our first 'Drive it Day' run under the auspices of the FBHVC. We had a good response to this especially from non-members and we intend to repeat and maybe expand the run this year. The evening meetings in the summer and autumn consisted of a mixture of runs and club nights. The runs were reasonably well attended and included visits to the Dores Inn on Loch Ness, the Tomich hotel in Cannich and the Achilty Hotel in Contin. Unfortunately my car, although setting out on most of these jaunts did not always seem to arrive home in the same condition! The other main event for the club in the summer was the Fortrose & Rosemarkie Fun Day. This year's was the most successful yet with the large



turnout being blessed by great weather. The other high point of the year for me was the seamless way Callum has taken over the editorship and production of 'Classic Scene'. He has had a pretty good response in appealing for copy but this needs to continue so don't forget everyone has an article in them somewhere.

This month's meet is the AGM (and quiz) so if you have any comments or criticisms of the club and/or its officers now is the time to air them. Of course if there any nominations for club posts these will also be welcome.

Finally I would like to welcome new member Hugh Vaughan to the club. Hugh lives in Maryburgh and owns a 1983 Mercedes 230E.

Michael
michael.oz@btopenworld.com

This Months Meeting

Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting and Quiz night at the
North Kessock Hotel

EDITORIAL

Hello,

Having suffered during the Christmas period (mostly from in-laws and kids) I took the opportunity to pop out to the pub at the start of January—all the way to the Tan Hill Inn—the highest pub in the UK. There was snow on the ground, but the Burton made it without so much as a slip or a slide. It was strange to watch approx 100 2CVs and derivatives descend on the pub from all points of the compass. As the sun dipped below the horizon, I headed North to Penrith and managed to get on the M6 just as my headlamp fuse melted. You wouldn't believe how dark it is on the M6 in the dead of winter with no headlamps....

I managed to make it back to Inverness just in time for the Jan auction. I now have even more junk that I don't need in my already overcrowded garage! What a good evening though! Anyone need any silicon sealant?

We've got some interesting runs planned this



year as well as some Sunday Lunch runs further afield. More details later in the newsletter. Also, don't forget 'Drive it Day' on 26th April—we're also planning a longer run for this event this year.

This is the last issue prior to the AGM, where, hopefully, someone will step forward and wrestle the reigns of this newsletter from my hands and take it forwards to new heights....

I'll see you there at 7:30 for 8:00

Callum

HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB Monthly meetings (1st Thursday of every month)

2009

February 5th	AGM and Quiz Night, North Kessock Hotel
March 5th	Visit to Moray Firth Group Training for talk by Gavin Grant—H&S Workshop
April 2nd	Visit to Wheelfix, Inverness
May 7th	Visit to Aviation Museum, Dalcross Airport
June 4th	Road run via Altguish Hotel (Ullapool Road)
July 2nd	Road run via the Edderton Inn
August 6th	Road run via Dores Inn
September 3rd	Road run via Gun Lodge Hotel, Ardersier
October 1st	Club visit to Autohead Engineering
November 5th	Club Night
December 3rd	Club Night/Christmas celebration

2010

January 7th	Club Auction
February 4th	AGM

Local Events Diary

Here are some details of 2009 local events that may be of interest to our members

April

26th FBHVC “Drive-it” Day. We’re planning a longer run than last year.
Further details nearer the time

May

2nd Highlands Historic Commercial Vehicle Road Run. Starts in Inverness

June

1st Motorfun classic rally with fun run. George West, Rally Sec 01343
543716

7th Fraserburgh Vintage Car Rally 12-5pm

21st Tain Vintage Vehicle Rally, Glenmorangie Field, Tain

July

11th/12th Scottish Transport Extravaganza at Glamis Castle

19th Forres Theme Day—Veteran, Vintage and Classic Vehicle Show

19th Knockhill Classic SpeedFair

August

2nd Moray Muscle Show, Inchberry Hall, Mosstodloch

9th Historic Wheels Rally—Brodie Castle

29th Fortrose Fun Day

29th/30th Auto Spirit—Culzean Castle

September

5th Dingwall Street Fair

6th Motor Mania—Grantown on Spey

19th Working Vintage Rally and Display, Daviot Fram, Nr Inverness

19th/20th Selkirk Rally

October

3rd/4th Fraserburgh East to West Commercial Run

If you notice any errors or omissions, please let the editor know.

MILES'S MEANDERINGS

WEST COAST PROJECTS FOR SALE for it.

I have been passing this colourful hoard of Classics for a number of years now and have called in a few times to try and get more details, relatively unsuccessfully. However, this year my luck changed and not only did I get permission to photograph the obvious “Rust in Peace” candidates in the outside yard, I also must have come across as such a likeable chap that when I returned inside (Ok, legged it back in to avoid the torrential West Coast downpour!) I was ushered through a side door to what turned out to be the original Showroom of the premises and was encouraged to view their rather more secret stash. (I had heard tell of these Motors but their existence had never even been acknowledged before).



The Marina Estate has the same story, being left when the guy who'd agreed to buy it walked away from the deal. Also in the field is a rough Austin 1300, a Y reg Rover SDi 2600 and the Jaguar Mk2.



The Showroom holds a Morris Campervan on an L plate, an Austin Gipsy, a better Austin 1300 and an Austin A30. All the vehicles in the Showroom are stripped of trim etc although I believe they have all the bits and from what I could see and was told they are all solid or the welding has been done, so there must be something here to wet the appetite of some of you out there, I know I'm tempted (just don't tell 'er indoors)



The owner then asked me to see if I could generate any interest in the vehicles as he was looking to start moving them on, so if any of you are considering taking on a new project then feast your eyes on this lot.

The Commercial Breakdown passed an MOT a few years back and was then parked up and has done nothing since, I believe they are looking for £2000 – 2500

I have also been asked to put before you a '75 MBGT in green that was MOT'd until



Lochalsh but don't let that put you off!).



mid 2008. It runs fine but needs brake work (including a Master Cylinder) and from what I could see and was told by a mechanic that had seen under it on a ramp it is fairly solid but may need the odd weld and the door bottoms are rotten.

So if anyone is interested in these projects or knows anyone that might be give me a call and I'll give you phone numbers etc. I'm on 01463 711976 or Daytime Mobile 07780956248 or E-mail me at milesvincent@btinternet.com



It was taken as part payment for a job by a builder and he had his fun out of it until the MOT ran out, now he just wants a few hundred quid to move it on! (It's at Sleat on Skye by the way, the rest are at Kyle of

P.S. I am looking for a 2.8 Ford Engine with Auto Gearbox for a '77 Scimitar.

MILES



RETIREMENT RAMBLINGS JANUARY 2009

I enjoyed reading last months Classic Scene which was varied and interesting; no mean feat for a “low-season” edition.



Bryan, I salute you and wish you a long and delightfully sumptuous ownership of your DB7. What a brave move out of the comfort zone. You’ve always fancied the Aston and, here you are, owning one; you’ve just gone and bought one and why not? So many people wish this and that but never make the move to creating it.

I’ve always been a big fan of the marque especially with the DB pedigree connection, mine’s a DB880 by the way! I’m always drawn to a DB7, drooling over the curves and the interior and I’ve had a memorable run in Dave Ganders DB6 and that’s it. I have no desire to own one. I did, however, desire an Austin Healey 3000 mk111 which was restored and local and I went through all the emotions and I had a test run and I loved the sound and I offered good money and it wasn’t enough and I walked away and I haven’t gone there again. Perhaps I need to restore what I have!

So, from Aston I turned the page to Bugatti. Hardly a barn find but what a find and what a story. The Aston and Jaguar merely get a mention!

And yes, there’s my van alongside all of this class stuff. Not a classic van, a modern one and I ask myself why I’ve submitted the article and why Callum has printed it? In my defence, it seemed like a good idea at the time so I have to go with that. I could draw comparisons with Bryan’s experience such as flying down to London as a couple, being picked up at our hotel etc but it’s still a modern van. I could steer this into the past by mentioning that my first vehicle was a modern van, a Ford Thames 7 cwt. Blodwin was my pride and joy purchased for £57. 10/- and less than three years old. It was some time later that I was caught out without an Mot when it was reduced from 7 to 5 years on the 1st of April. It was the 1st of April that the men in blue stopped me and I thought that they were winding me up. Fortunately, they didn’t charge me but I had to submit an Mot certificate at my destination which was Aberdeen. I drove into the first garage and drove out with the certificate without any



preparation. Where did I go wrong after that? All those years of PMT (Pre Mot Tension),



days of preparation, welding and replacing followed by failure upon failure. I think this stressful time peaked when I took my Triumph Estate back for a re-test. I hitched off the caravan, emptied Irene and the three children on to

the street and we all waited for our holiday! In the cold light of today I shake my head in disbelief and ask myself how I let it happen, why I put myself and everyone else through the mill? The answer is simple, it just happened, it was easy to do, another hurdle which the optimism of youth ran over as if it wasn't there. We had a great holiday!

So here I am back full circle with a van and just as happy. It's big but, with super mirrors and visibility, it's a dawdle to drive. It's happy on any road or track so we can explore all those side roads that we whizzed past in our other life. Outwardly, it's just another van and so we park up incognito. Often, we have only a direction with the destination taking care of itself.

Cheers

Jim MacKay

FBHVC "Drive It Day" 2009

Over the last couple of years, "Drive It Day" has provided an opportunity for many member clubs to hold events in support of FBHVC's work.

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Club is most grateful for this support and urges organisers to remember that the purpose of DID is for us to be seen and appreciated by the public. There is, however, a fine line between that and being seen and hated: we must ensure all our events fall on the right side of the that line, so please avoid extremes such as high speed chases or convoys of slow moving vehicles that no-one can pass.

The 2009 Drive It Day takes place on **Sunday, 26th April**.

The Highland Classic Motor Club is organising a run to show support for this event. We'll be assembling on Stadium Road outside the new HSBS building at 10.30 am and then driving a tour of the local countryside ending at a pub for refreshments. The route will be publicised nearer the time. In the past, we have got the local press and radio involved so the bigger the turnout the better.

MINUTES OF THE HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9th February 2008

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mr Ranald Smith and Mr Alan Grant.

2. Minutes of 2007 AGM.

The minutes were passed as an accurate account of the 2007 AGM.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman's Report and Review of the year had been previously circulated in the current edition of "Classic Scene". The Chairman did not add to this except to say that he had enjoyed all events and hoped that the members had also done so.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer reported a surplus of £27.42 for the year. The income and expenditure analysis was circulated indicating a balance of £2088.65 held in bank accounts.

6. Determination of Annual Subscription.

This had been discussed and passed at the EGM on 06.09.2007. The revised figure to be £15.00

7. Newsletter.

Firstly the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Silver for his sterling work over the years in producing the Club Newsletter. Callum Beveridge agreed to take over as Editor and a plea was issued to members to contribute. Several present agreed to assist in various ways.

8. Election of Office Bearers.

The Chairman advised the meeting that of the current Committee Chris Silver and Alan Grant wished to resign and he proposed Miles Vincent, seconded by Ian Nixon. There being no objections Miles was duly voted to the committee. It was pointed out that the Classic Scene editor is also a Committee position.

9. AOCB.

1. Callum mentioned that the Drive It Day which is sponsored by FBHVC is scheduled for 21st April.
2. Chris stated that many members were unaware of the 2008 Tain Rally and details will be posted in the Newsletter as will those for Drive It Day.
3. The meeting was reassured regarding insurance cover at outside events. Cover provided under the auspices of the FBHVC.

There being no further competent business the meeting was declared closed at 20.17hrs.

Ian R F Nixon, Secretary. 09.02.2008 .

Club Regalia

AVAILABLE NOW!

Sweat Shirts

Polo Shirts

Fleeces

Exclusive Club Wear available now in a dazzling variety of colours, all at give away prices. These wonderful garments will make you the envy of all your friends and neighbours. Strangers will ask for your autograph, and beautiful people will hurl themselves at your feet and beg for sexual favours (honest!) They're warm too.

See **Bryan** at next meeting to order yours!



Pembleton Grasshopper at Tan Hill



Stanley Steamer at Grantown



Stretched 'Limo' at Tan Hill Jan 2009