

CLASSIC SCENE



March 2017



Powered by Electric?

CLUB OFFICIALS

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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, Inverness IV2 3NG. 01463 236459
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MEMBERSHIP

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CLASSIC SCENE

**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.

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COVER PICTURE

An electrical beetle conversion.
Is this the future?
Excuse the grammar, but it's a dig at the message on the back of those electric buses.

Welcome to the new Newsletter editor

I don't know quite what came over me but one day walking the dogs I thought, 'Perhaps I could put myself forward as editor of the HCMC newsletter at the next AGM. It's a great club and it would be nice to put something back in.' Just before the AGM I got sent to Stornoway with work so in time honoured tradition I was elected in my absence. I'd like to thank Alan Goff for many years of service producing a newsletter we all looked forward to reading each month. It was also very kind of Alan to show me the ropes with this publishing lark. Bear with me while I get the hang of it.



For those that don't know me, this is a snap from when I got the green Mini MOT'd a while back. I don't always look this happy!

I've got Minis, 205 GTIs, a Beetle, a Bongo Camper and 1970's sailing dinghy on the go. I like classic vehicles of all sorts and periods and like to tinker away on projects in my lovely garage.

We're always looking for your items for the Newsletter, short or long funny or factual, please send them to the same email address.

editor@highlandclassic.org.uk

You can send it in any format where the text or pictures can be copied. Even pen and ink if I can read it.

Turnout at the AGM was good, with various new faces taking an interest in the running of the club. As requested, members came up with many good suggestions for this years calendar, see later on in the magazine. Be aware that the calendar is tentative as a number of these proposed visits still need to be confirmed.

Chair's Bitty



The AGM saw one change in the committee. Welcome to our new newsletter editor Calum Pearson. As you will know Alan intimated last year that he was keen to hang up his editorial hat and Calum graciously volunteered to take over as editor. My thanks go to Alan for taking care of our magazine for the past years. He did an excellent job of coaxing member to submit new articles whilst writing his editorial **and** providing additional articles. [Hear! Hear! Ed.] A great contributor, please Alan, keep up your articles, always good reading.

Alice and I recently decided to do some volunteering with the Keith & Dufftown Railway Association, of which we are longstanding members. After doing all the required training we turned up at Dufftown to start track walking but the weather had other ideas. It had started snowing just a day or 2 earlier and whilst at home it was merely is little frosty, by the time we got to Dufftown there was several inches of snow lying. Track walking went out of the window. Instead we got our hands dirty tidying up the yard and several of their storage containers. All prep work for the new season starting in April.

One of the things we talked about with the KDRA committee was a potential visit to their railway. The idea is to make this part of one of their own weekend events. As "reward" for turning up with our classics, we get free return travel on the railway. We're still working on combining this with a visit to their workshop. More on this in due course. Keep your eye on our club forum where this and other impromptu outings are arranged.

I mentioned a few months back about filling some of the potholes with- in our driveway. With most of the winter past, I can report that they have held up very well. I was half wondering whether the frost might damage the edges, but no, the patches are still looking good. I think using the hot gun treatment worked well. We still have half a bag of cold tar left and some minor holes still to fill, but that will come once the weather warms up.

This month is a visit to the Scotrail workshops in Inverness organised by one of our members. Unfortunately other commitments mean that I will not be there (**bother). So to all of you who are going, please write up a wee paragraph or two about the visit, as I (and everyone who is unable to go) will want to know about the experience. Have a good time.

Trish.

March visit to Scotrail Depot in Inverness.

We meet up at the car park in the Scotrail Depot no later than 19.30pm.

Entrance to the depot is through a gate at the side of Kwik Fit. Please remain in the car parking area until escorted into the depot by Scotrail staff. Once there we will receive a safety briefing from the shift manager and be issued with HV clothing, hats and glasses. We will then receive a tour of both parts of the site consisting of the CSMD (modern carriage maintenance depot where most of the work is carried out) and TMD section which is the older sheds nearer the station where more major overhauls are completed.

Please make sure that you are wearing sensible footwear, i.e. NOT trainers.

In order that Scotrail can organise the necessary PPE clothing, call or text Kenny on 07885972388 or e-mail him at Kenny.barclay@scotrail.couk by 12 noon on Wednesday if you are interested in coming along on the night.

Jim's A40 Update December 2016



I'm fairly sure this car has never been exposed to salt and so everything came off easily. There was no significant corrosion on any bolt head, nut or thread but I still replaced with stainless just in case. The front wings were repaired as per original with them folded over the sills but I closed off everything under the wings to prevent moisture from penetrating, well, slow it down anyway. I put a good layer of paint, Old English White of course, on the wheels but didn't fit any of the 8 hub caps I had procured. They would have broken the paint seal and besides, it made the car look more sporty and it needs all the help it can get in that department. Super for running about town, 40 – 45 is comfortable, 50 is pushing it and at 55 the engine is screaming; I half expected it to land on my lap! Yes, it's woefully low geared and nothing has changed with most manufacturers producing petrol engined cars. I do have spare mechanics taken from a mk2 model which I broke up many years ago but it's just so much work. Anyone who knows me will agree that I'm a stickler for originality!

Everything has been protected with Dinitrol and even the springs got the Denso treatment. Avoiding the salt will be a priority so he's tucked up safely for the winter. We did miss the power-everything of our MGZR over the summer but the A40 provided reliable town travel with comforts such as a heater and two wipers!

Samantha had to have her head removed to fix a water leak into no4 cylinder. This job was just as difficult as the last time. Remember, this is a side valve with a spare head gasket carried about so that the owner can replace it at the roadside! Remove the head bolts and simply lift off the head, aye, in your dreams. I soaked it and hammered a bolster chisel into the join repeatedly over some weeks with no avail and in danger of destroying the block. Eventually, on a cold day with the help of boiling water, it moved and then fought all the way up the studs. I cleaned up the valves but had to eBay another valve lifter to get the cotters in. I think I prefer overhead valves. She didn't run properly so I fitted new plugs which sorted her out; it's an old remedy Bryan.

The other car in the photo is a 1954 Austin Healey which has been dragged out of almost 40 years of storage and is in the process of dismantling. Every time I hit it with a big hammer I have to shovel heaps of rust into the bin. The chassis appears to be mostly sound but frayed at the edges and there are a lot of edges! This, of course, is an on-going, as-and-when project with no completion targets other than Irene's 70th birthday or 70th year to give me a bit more time. She was to have it for her 40th!



Powered by Electric?

Have you seen those signs on the back of buses saying 'Powered by electric?' I'm not really a grammar pedant but I do find my self muttering, "Electric what?" Perhaps the passengers are travelling to Euronics to by some electricals.

It seems inevitable that electric vehicles are on the rise and at some point will replace petrol cars for everyday transport. Diesels already seem to be on the way out after the VW emissions fiasco. With the limited supply of hydrocarbons I think this is a good thing. Let's keep the petrol for all our classic cars. Though I hate to imagine the price per litre!

With a recent Wheel Dealers doing a Electric Maserati Bi-Turbo, and companies springing up with conversions for Beetles and other classics what do we think of converting a classic to battery power?



Positives

- New challenge
- Cheap motoring
- Eco-credentials
- Future proofing
- Reliability (maybe?)

Negatives

- Destroying a classic
- Loss of classic engine sound
- Loss of classic smells
- Driving experience changed

Inaugural 'Cars and Coffee' meeting at Café V8



The first cars and coffee meeting at the Café V8 , Henderson Road, Inverness was a great success. It was attended by car owners from all schools from modern fast road cars, competition cars classics and members of the Inverness Mini's Owners Group. So it was a broad church, with a wide selection of tyres to kick. Personally I didn't have time to speak to everyone I wanted to, which has to be a good sign.

The plan is to meet every second Sunday of the month at 10am.

Check the website or Facebook for details.



Next Cars and Coffee meeting is Sunday 12th March.

HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2nd February 2017 – 7.45pm. Old North Inn, Inchmore

Present.

Trish Brown, Alan Goff, Jane Goff, Callum Beveridge, Mark Wilson, Miles Vincent, Ian Thomson, Alice Brown, Bryan McIlwraith., Ivan Murphy, Frank Ross, Graeme Bremner, Callum MacAdam, Kenny Barclay, Gordon Duncan, John Holland, Bert Wigman, John Eastwood, Ian Beaton, Richard Lashley

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies.

Apologies were received from Calum Pearson, Derek Darnell, David Hird

Minutes of 2016 AGM. The minutes were passed as an accurate account of the 2015 AGM. Proposer Miles Vincent, seconder Alan Goff.

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising

4.Chairman's Report.

The Chair reported that we had a busy year, with a good turn out at all the events organised, only our Christmas karting event was down on members. The Chair thanked all those who organised these visits.

5. Committee Reports on 2015

5.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a balance of £1957.00 at year end, Expenditure is down from last year mainly down to the last years purchase of the badges. The committee had agreed to make a donation of £500 to the Highland Hospice following our visit to George Sutherland's last October. The hand over of the cheque will be made later in the year. The Chair reviewed the accounts and verified them as true and accurate.

5.2 - Membership Secretary Report

Bryan McIlwraith informed the meeting that the club has at the moment 56 paid up members, 19 Late payment members and 166 non current or lapsed members..

5.3- Events

Miles Vincent informed the meeting that the Club has had a presence at many of the Classic Car Shows across the Highlands, using the Club's events shelter. If any member wishes to use the shelter at events, they should contact Miles. He reminded members to visit the club forum for the up to date information regarding shows and events.

5.4 - Website

Callum Beveridge informed the meeting that the new membership system is in place, with the facility to search for members and their vehicles using the password supplied to members via the email or postal. This password will be updated periodically. Callum went on to inform members that the club has a Facebook page forum, which contains information about activities and other information.

Bryan McIlwraith asked whether the club should be registered under the Data Protection Act, the meeting agreed that this would advantageous.

6. Determination of Annual Subscription.

The meeting unanimously agreed that the subscription, should remain at the current level of £15.00.

7. Election of Office Bearers.

The meeting was informed that Calum Pearson volunteered to become the editor of the newsletter, this kind offer was accepted and approved by the members. Alan Goff will arrange the handover with Calum.

No further changes were proposed to Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee and these members were unanimously re-elected.

AGM Continued...

8. Members Feedback and ideas for future visits

The following calendar for 2017/18 has been agreed with members, although some subject to confirmation.

Please always check the latest club magazine or club website for the up to date meeting information

2017		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Who to Organise</i>
2nd March	Visit to Scotrail Engineering Works, Inverness	Kenny Barclay
6th April	Visit to Foyers Power Station	Mark Wilson/Ivan Murphy
4th May	Visit to Arnold Clark Car Collection, Inverness, followed by a Pub Run	Miles Vincent/Callum Beveridge
1st June	Visit to Cromarty Brewery	Callum Beveridge
6th July	Going for Chips in Ullapool	Club Membership
3rd August	Run round Loch Ness to Whitebridge	Club Membership
7th Sept	Run to Aviemore + Karting	Graeme Bremner
5th Oct	Visit to Norboard	Bryan McIlwraith
2nd Nov	Visit to BBC Highland (places limited to 10 only)	Calum Pearson
7th Dec	Christmas Quiz, Old North Inn	Mark Wilson
9th Dec	Christmas Party	Bryan McIlwraith
2018		
4th Jan	Auction Night, Old North Inn	Trish Brown/Bryan McIlwraith
1st Feb	AGM, Old North Inn	Trish Brown

Other events not run by the club highlighted were:

Drive it Day, 24th April. Provisional start point at the V8 Cafe, with the route to be determined. Proposals for routes can be posted on the Club Forum. The members agreed for the club to fund the refreshments. Grampian Transport Museum in Alford are holding a How Many Are Left event on the 21st May this year.

This is for vehicles who number less than 500. Inverness car show is being held on the 13th May this year and members are advised to register early as last years show was over subscribed.

Other events that may be organised through the Club Forum are:

Visit to Scone, Glamis or other Autojumble with potential for using a mini-bus

Drag racing in Stornoway

Visit to Keith & Dufftown Railway, incl engine shed, with potential free return travel on railway

9. AOCB John Eastwood raised a question regarding the SVVF yearbook and whether members should pay for an be send a yearbook. Discussions took place, the feeling of the meeting was this was not the way forward. Apart from Data Protection implications, it was noted that the yearbook is freely available on the SVVF website. It was agreed that a link to the online yearbook will be placed on the Clubs website.

Meeting closed 9.15pm

CLUB EVENTS

2nd Mar 2017	Trip to Scotrail engineering works	Inverness	Visit to the Inverness De- pot. Meet there at 7:30. Ac- cess from Kwik Fit turn-off.
12th March 2017	Cars and Coffee	V8 Cafe, Inverness	Talk about cars. Drink Cof- fee. Other drinks and hot food available.
6th Apr 2017	Visit to Foyers Power Station	Foyers, Loch ness	Visit to Foyers Power Station. Details to follow
23rd Apr 2017	'Drive It Day' 2016	V8 Cafe, Inverness	Local Highland Run to sup- port FBHVC Dive It Day 2017. Gather at the V8 Cafe before the Road Run leav- ing at 11am. Destination tba. Pre-Register on HCMC Home Page.
4th May 2017	Scenic Drive to Aldearn via Galcantry	Arnold Clark Van -hire on Harbour Road	Meet at Arnold Clark Van- hire on Harbour Road from 7pm for an 8pm depar- ture
7th May 2017	Forres Theme Day	Grant Park, Forres	Arrive 09.00 - 12.30 Judg- ing 10.00 - 14.00 (Judged Entry Deadline 16th April.)