

CLASSIC SCENE



November 2022



At the Winter Scale Model Show

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Cover Picture

HCMC members and others make an
appearance at the Winter Scale Mod-
el show at the Black Isle Show-
ground.

Welcome to the November Newsletter

It's been a quiet month in the HCMC newsroom. Thankfully a couple of regular contributors have helped fill this edition. Last month's publishing was much more frantic, as work commitments meant I was away a lot, and the newsletter was very full. In the final moments before publication I discovered a technical issue to do with file size and uploading. Essentially I had to slash out 40% of the content at the last minute before it would upload to the website. It was like some high drama newspaper film noir, but we made it and nobody died. I hope nobody was disappointed either.

There have still been occasional events to go this month as reported in these pages. I did plan to go to the Winter Scale Model Show myself but I had visitors and it just didn't quite pan out. It looks like it was quite good and maybe next year more of us will make it there. It's been an awkward year keeping up with shows, coming out of the pandemic, as there have been a few date changes, but hopefully next year it will be more settled and fall into a more usual pattern. I can only publish details of shows if I know about them, and I use the events list on our website as the master guide. I don't think we missed too many but if you know of a particular show that was omitted, let someone know and we will do our best to promote it next time round.

Your poor editor has caught one of those coughing lurgies that are doing the rounds and so hasn't had the get up and go for big garage projects, however the brakes of Mrs Editors Fix Or Repair Daily Focus had a sticky rear caliper so that needed a bit of attention and a new one is on the way. The existing one was dismantled and free'd off for now. The car has previously had new calipers all round so this is the third one at the NSR wheel. This probably isn't bad for a 167000 mile car, and you can pick refurbished calipers up for £20-30. High demand. Low price. The only other car related excitement was peeling the tint of the rear window of our Skoda Fabulous. Privacy is all fine and well but it can be pitch black out our way, and reversing into the drive at night was a challenge.

This month we are having a pub meet at the Allangrange in Munloch. Then for the next three months we have the Old North Inn booked. I imagine there will be some festive frolics in December, yours truly being the auctioneer in January and I think the AGM followed by Zacks team and their devilish quiz in February. We can debate whether I'm right or not at the Munloch meeting! See you there.

Your
Editor

Chairs Bitty



We had a good evening out at Rollerbowl. We were getting a bit of a workout. So much so that we managed to “break” the lanes on 2 occasions, requiring staff to go behind the scenes to reset the machines. It was a close game at the top and the overall winner, receiving a silver spoon, was Graham Mackay with 231 points only just pipping Roy to top spot. Trailing in last place, but winner of the fully functional highly coveted wooden spoon was Zak.

Here are some other statistics of the evening:

Best improvement in second game – also Graham and his daughter Belles.

Hopeless second game – me

Most consistent scorer – Alice

Our fleet of cars all got some attention this month. The Merc went in for its annual service. Nothing exciting to report there, except that one of the new rear tyres was found to have a nail in it. Fortunately in a place where a repair was allowed. Not like a few years ago when we had a nail in a new tyre that could not be repaired (bother).

Work on the Landie is steadily progressing. Lot of greasing, topping up of oil and, very importantly, a chance to try out the newly fitted heated windscreens. Takes a few minutes for it to really take effect, but after that, such a joy – you can see. Unlike with the old demisters, which put only a tiny bit of heat up the windscreens and the squeegee would do a better job.

The Smart suffered a wee mishap. Not entirely sure how it happened, but Alice got into the car one day only to discover that the combined washer/wiper/cruise control stalk had broken and was dangling by the wires. It is a chunky looking stalk that narrows to a rather delicate twiggy bit at the point where the lever pivots. And you have guessed it, it had broken just at that point. We did manage to superglue the 2 halves back together again, but I don't have a high confidence that it will stand up to the rigours of driving. Hence we ordered up and fitted a replacement. The dealers indicated a delivery time of 3 days, with the order tracking reporting it was with Royal Mail the very next morning. When nothing turned up at the appointed time, Alice investigated further. “Oh, we did not have one in stock any more, so it is coming from Germany”. Why then does the order tracker say it was posted the morning after ordering??? Embarrassed silence.

There seems to be a theme this month of birds flying into things. At home we've had numerous window strikes, fortunately most birds are able to fly off without any issue. One robin looked a goner only to recover after a few minutes of looking particularly dazed, but we have another ex blackbird. Birds, probably swans or

geese, also have a habit of flying into overhead powerlines on their route to local loch, resulting in a brief losses of power within the area. Last week alone there were 3 such power cuts. And every time you have to go round the house resetting various clocks. And the alarm clock.

In the garden, we are slowly gearing up for autumn, cutting back bushes, clearing out the last remaining courgettes which were still attempting to fruit, albeit that the fruit wasn't really growing anymore. The Olive is doing better than last year. At least it did set fruit this year – and quite a lot of them too, but I don't think it is warm enough anymore for them to grow into proper olives, but a small handful is trying very hard and are currently marble sized.

This month we meet up at the Allangrange in Munlochy at our usual time of 19.30.

See you there,

Trish.



Bangers and Cash

Many thanks to Chris Silver for bringing this to our attention. Series 6, Episode 7 of the classic auction TV programme 'Bangers and Cash' features a Citroen Light 15 which was sold to Tommy Mackenzie and his family from Kiltarlity. Tommy is a former member of our club though you can never completely leave HCMC as this article shows! The car came from Kent via Mathewsons Auctions in Yorkshire and finally to the Highlands, and the car was on show at this years Fortrose Rally.



The best bit of the show (obviously) is when they focus on the Citroen's arrival in the Highlands showing our scenery and (if I may say so) people at their best. I like the bit where Tommy demonstrates the sole scraper on the running board.



And there's a wee moral in this story. Both the seller and the buyer cared more about the car and it's nostalgia than the cash value, and it certainly went to a good home. And speaking of nostalgia, here's Mrs Mackenzie with their old Citroen.

They had fond memories of that car, and it's excellent abilities in the snow.



You can find the programme online at uktvplay. It's very watchable.



Austin Healey 15

I had successful bids on two new rear wings and an aluminium door on eBay at a much reduced price. They arrived from Austin Healey Spares so I reached the conclusion that, whenever any items were overstocked, they were moved on though eBay. Maybe, further down the line I'd get another door and even two front wings! Previously, I had bought repair panels for the rear wings and doors but the door ones appeared to be too short and location of the rear wing ones was problematic as I had no idea how and where they attached to the body. New wings then was the answer and here they were, all kink and rust free. Life couldn't be better. Cheers, *Jim MacKay*.



Out and About

Both cars spotted in Inverness, the DBS V8 was in great condition and the A35 had more than the original rust proclaimed on the back window sticker! Cheers, *Jim MacKay*.



Winter Scale Model Show

There was enough turnout at the Winter Scale model show to make an interesting display of classics on your way into the hall. The message from those that went was that it was a great opportunity for a wee car show, and as a club we should perhaps make more of it next year.



'This is the year of the Cortina'
1980 Cortina 1.6 GL, 1978 Cortina 2.0 Ghia Doug McRoberts, Inverness

I own a MkIV and a MkV Cortina, both with under 50,000 on the clock, both automatics, and both in fetching brown 'n' beige. The MkIV is in Roman Bronze (just like the one in that year's Ford brochure), with a beige interior. It's been with us for many years, after being rescued from a used Porsche dealer and it wins prizes.

It's just a lovely car – one of about 10 of its exact spec still on UK roads. Its younger sibling arrived just this year. It's the other way round – Cordoba Beige on the outside, very brown on the inside. And it's even rarer – as a 1.6 GL automatic MkV, we think (and the How Many Left website seems to agree) it's literally the only one of its kind

still on the road. There are a number of 2.0 and 2.3 autos, but this is the only 1.6 Auto GL anywhere. Danny will enjoy seeing its NNK registration – originally from Luton, in the heart of Vauxhall land! When did you last see two together? This is really the year of the Cortinas... 60 years since the MkI launched.

Any colour you like... as long as it's brown.

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**Ask, and it shall be given you;
Seek, and ye shall find.**

Danny Hopkins of Practical Classics fame got in touch with us via our Facebook page to see if we could trace the owner of these fine Cortinas. And we did. Doug Roberts was found, and the article then appeared in Practical Classics. It's nice to know we are on the radar for such enquires and that our result was very much appreciated. It's also another win for our Facebook page.

A couple of weeks later I saw the beige one parked at St. Stephens church. Southside Road, Inverness. It made me smile.

Wheels Of Nairn



Although your editor couldn't attend Wheels of Nairn due to family commitments, plenty of other people did and I have shameless borrowed some pictures to er, illustrate this end of season show. This article was held back from last month.



I did feel involved though as I saw a couple of broken down ones one the way past heading to Elgin. Some folk even won prizes though I think the judge might have been from Morayshire as I think I might have spotted a bit of bias.



Speaking of bias...



But other beauties were on show too...



Cars and Coffee

It was a beautiful sunny October morning at Rollerbowl with another busy and interesting turnout.

Thanks to everyone who ignored the dismal forecast and brought their toys out to play again!

Here's a small sample of some interesting vehicles.



Strathnairn Agricultural Vintage Rally

We turned up in Samantha, was welcomed and shown to a space among the tractors! The route to the space was through well churned up muddy stubble but Samantha managed without any fuss. Now I'm happy to be parked up with tractors, especially David Browns, and I'll share that happiness with you by including some images.

850 - This model I used to contract with pre-college, super wee tractor. The one behind is a 25D, my father's first diesel tractor.



Ferguson Brown ploughing, brilliant.



880 and binder, I have the tractor but not the binder.



Case driving Garvie mill. A similar Case on a neighbouring farm went for scrap under my nose so to speak.

Never had a horse but I remember my father's one.





View of the ring. Samantha can be seen in the distance just right of that famous JCB 3C which was immaculate. I reckon he had it lowered on to the field by helicopter!

This was a friendly informal rally and, if you're wondering why I haven't included any images of cars, Samantha was the only car there.

Cheers, Jim MacKay.



This was sent it by a member inspired by Callum Beveridges recent Citroën Dyane / 2CV mash up.

I'm not sure the lighting layout is road legal though.

HCMC Events

3rd Nov 2022 Munlochy Meet The Allangrange, Munlochy, 19:30

There's a decent car park so bring your classic if you can. Inside, we have a space at the right rear booked. Get yourself in a wee round for drinks teas or coffee or bring change for settling up. Warning - There may be activities.

13th Nov 2022 Cars And Coffee - Inverness

Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness 10am to 12 noon Every 2nd Sunday of the Month. A quiet Social Event for all Car Enthusiasts. Park up, buy yourself a hot drink and snack from Roller Bowl and check out what's in the Car Park. Chat to old friends and make new! Find us on FACEBOOK.