



**RIDERS NEWSLETTER No 8 Dec 2006**

**Chairman's Ramblings**

It's now capitation time again, with the rider now paying their capitation with the licence this now only leaves the ordinary club member to be accounted for, it is hoped that the clubs will record all these people with their returns, a necessary exercise to establish the allocation of votes at the A.G.M. It will also allow the office to send copies of this newsletter to the clubs for the non-competing members.

I was recently at an Environmental Seminar to update my licence I was very pleased to find out that this was the third Seminar that Jim West has run this year, one in the west one in the east and one in the office at Uphall. It is very gratifying to find such support from volunteers keen to preserve our environment and also ensure the future of our sport by being able to combat the constant pressure from people determined to undermine motorcycling. Jim and his efforts have managed to avoid an individual stopping the racing at East Fortune run by the Melville club. This is mainly due to the fact that a comprehensive Environmental Log book was kept by the club recording actions that they had taken over several years.

The Annual Awards Ceremony on the 26th. Nov. 2006 was in the Gartwhinzean Hotel. Powmill. The reason for the new venue was the increase in the numbers attending, this is due to the addition of the Youth awards and the numerous off road awards, we had in the region of 300 people competitors and parents, what a change from several years ago when we had only one award for the outright winner in each class.

I can only thank the sponsors who have made these awards possible.

I will be conducting a Seminar at Strathclyde Country Park for Leisure and Recreational Stewards and Clerks of the Course, this has become necessary due to the increase in demand for leisure and fun off road motorcycling, it is also helping to reduce Anti Social use of motorcycles that gives us a very bad image to the public.

I am also attending a Seminar on Child Protection at Tulliallan Police College, accompanying me will be Jason Mitchell from road racing who has volunteered

to become the S.A.C.U. Child Protection Officer. He took up his post mid November 2006. Clubs will be advised in a newsletter.

With all this going on the office has been extremely busy, I must thank them for all their hard work and the support they have given me and the other committees, this bodes well for the future of the S.A.C.U.

**Archie Shedden**  
SACU Chairman

**John Davies – an appreciation**

**John Davies 1934 - 2006**  
**SACU Trials Chairman**

After a period of ill-health, John Davies, Scottish Scrambles Champion in 1957 & 1958, died at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee early on Saturday 8 July aged 72 years.



**Photo © John Moffat**

Born on 5th January 1934 at Liskeard, Devon, John moved to Scotland when his Father, Bill also a keen trials rider transferred from Devonport Naval Dockyard to work at the Rosyth Naval establishment in 1951. John himself became a shipwright and draughtsman at the Rosyth dockyard. He was often referred to as an "all-rounder", enjoying a long, distinguished career competing in firstly trials, scrambles and grass track events. He had the ability to compete in a trial on one Sunday and the next weekend be hanging it out sideways on a grass track bike, such was his adaptability.

Known to riders as Johnny, he started competing in 1951 on a 197cc James in trials, entering his first Scottish Six Days on a B32 model 350cc BSA in 1953, finishing on 232 marks which entitled him to a second class award. He always rode for the Dunfermline & District MCC, the club that he had retained a lifelong membership.

When stationed at RAF Leeming during his national service, he briefly joined the Northallerton club, racing a very quick 500cc Velocette against the Tate brothers, Maurice and Ron, Norman Crooks, Dickie Preston and Peter Hodgson.

Although his first love was trials, John quickly became an accomplished scrambles star, taking his first Scottish title in 1957 riding a 197cc Francis Barnett repeating the feat the next season on a 350cc BSA Gold Star. Many of his contemporaries including George Hodge and the late Ian Bell, both multiple Scottish champions, commented on Johnny's unique, seemingly relaxed riding style. Make no mistake he was going much quicker than most spectators and fellow competitors thought!

When John married Peggy Hopkins from Edinburgh, this was strategically planned to be after the last race of the scrambles season and they honeymooned in the Manchester area, so that Johnny could pick up an ex-works 250cc Dot direct from the factory!

When his competitive riding days came to a close, John diverted his energies into the sport itself, firstly as Dunfermline Secretary, then the SACU itself.

During his chairmanship of the SACU trials committee, John was the driving force behind efforts to have an annual round of the British Trials championship held in Scotland. He was a keen supporter of the youngsters who came into our sport and this was substantiated by the number of young riders who attended his funeral service in July at Masterton, Dunfermline.

**By John Moffat**

## Road Race

Well, that's another season gone and overall not a bad one, with plenty of good racing, especially in the Sports Production class. Down to the wire on the last race and only a point in it when it was all over. Congratulations to Torquil Paterson on the championship after many years of hard racing although Keith Amor certainly did not let go of the number one plate without his typically hard riding, 100% efforts especially in the last two rounds. Although Supersport 600s were dominated season long by Bob Grant the tussle for runner-up spot was certainly no foregone conclusion. Dave Clellands second place looks like it has persuaded him to continue for at least one more season while both young Dave Paton and Mark Buckley are getting

themselves set up for what will be a busy season for both of them..

It was encouraging to see a growth in number of sidecars out this year after a spell of low entries for the class. Hopefully the trend will continue and if current rumour is true we may see more of our own home grown talent on a regular basis and the return of at least one driver who has been absent these past two seasons.

The Junior Race Academy continues to encourage and develop our future talent and all credit must go to Alan Macintosh for his efforts in this area. The recent acceptance of Adam Blacklock and Dean Brown into the Red Bull Rookie programme indicates just how well Alan and his instructors (who include people of the calibre of Niall MacKenzie and Craig Jones) bring on and develop the young talent that we have available.

Racing on pure road circuits produced a mixed bag of results for our lads with Keith Amors emphatic win in the Dundrod 150 race on his first appearance at the Ulster Grand Prix and his subsequent fine result in the Ulster Superbike race against riders on much more powerful machines than he was on is the one that springs to mind. However Les Shands second place in the UGP 600 Supersport national race and Mark Buckleys Best Newcomers Award in the Junior TT should not go unmentioned either.

"They added a colourful and carnival atmosphere to the meeting". So said the Manx Radio commentator of our supporters at the Celtic Match Races at Jurby Airfield in September and he was not exaggerating one little bit. The flag waving, cheering and general encouragement given to the team had to be seen, to be believed and for my money played its part in the teams success. Initially I do not think the Manx people (and probably their team as well) knew what had hit them, but they did get used to it -- eventually, Results: The second solo/sidecar double in three years, solo and sidecar lap records. Man of the Meeting award for Keith Amor and the fastest lap for the Aprilia 125 class to Ben Young who was across with his dad who was one of our team. All in all a great weekend for us, social side included and my personal thanks to everybody who made the trip and helped in any way to get the team across

Here's to a season of racing in 2007

**Ian Thomson**  
**Road Race Chairman**

## Speedway in Scotland

It has been a year of mixed fortunes for the 2 main speedway clubs in Scotland with Glasgow Tigers retaining the Premier League Best Pairs and narrowly missing out in the play offs for the Premier League title after a very successful season. Edinburgh Monarchs had a season to forget, finally lifting themselves off of the bottom of the league table with

some gutsy racing in the last few weeks of the season, culminating in a very surprising 2 leg victory over their great rivals Glasgow in the Scottish Cup in their final meeting of 2006.



Photo © [www.scottishspeedway.co.uk](http://www.scottishspeedway.co.uk)

Riders wise, this has been a tough year for the Scots, with many finding their true form hard to find in patches throughout the season, but one great story has been Kevin Little's final year in the sport as he managed to go out with a win in his last ever race at Newcastle and helped secure the Tyne Tees Trophy for his club Redcar Bears. Kevin in fact managed to win his last race at just about every track he visited this season and it has been a fairytale end to a tremendous career spanning almost 2 decades. Andrew Tully, a member of the Armadale Devils history making side of 2005 also had a tremendous season in 2006 as his Conference League team Scunthorpe Scorpions completed the grand slam winning all 4 trophies up for grabs.

There was a return to the international stage for Scotland as an Under 21 select took on an England select side at Berwick. In an incident packed and hotly contested meeting the young Scots managed to secure victory winning 42 - 37.

The 2006 season came to a close at Glasgow on Sunday 29 November with the combined running of the Heathersfield Gold Helmet and the Scottish Junior Championship. Cal McDade, who this season has made a 750 mile round trip every Friday to complete his 'home' fixtures for his Conference League club Boston, won the Scottish Junior Title with some determined riding and just missed out on winning the stunningly engraved Gold Helmet trophy, suffering an engine failure whilst in 2nd place. The final was won by the impressive young Czechoslovakian Matej Kus, who suffered his only defeat to Cal in the qualifying heats following a superb pass around the outside by the young Scot.

The season however ended on a very low note as the Glasgow promotion confirmed that their track would not be available to run training schools again this winter. This is a crushing blow to the development of youth speedway riders as there is now nowhere in Scotland where up and coming riders can practice and subsequently it is impossible to introduce new kids to the sport as the closest training facilities are in

Redcar and Scunthorpe. With the finances in place and available to build a new training facility this situation could be quickly resolved, but up until now the search for a suitable site has proved fruitless, and while the sport is enjoying tremendous interest and support throughout the UK, things could become very bleak indeed in Scotland, as our youth riders are forced to move south to further their careers.

Your help is needed to let us move forward and give Scottish riders the support they deserve.

**Alan McDade – Scottish Speedway**

[www.scottishspeedway.co.uk](http://www.scottishspeedway.co.uk)

## Motocross

2006 has been a fantastic year for motocross.

The introduction of electronic timing has taken the sport to a new level. Riders can now collect a printout seconds after their races have finished, detailing everything on, position--lap times--fastest lap--time gaps between riders etc. All the information is then put on the My-laps website so everyone can download everything they need to see where they need to improve for the next race.

- **The highlight of the year was the BRIDGESTONE Open Scottish Championship in association with FUN IN THE MUD motocross school. This championship was hugely competitive with five different riders recording race wins, and the eventual winner not being decided until the last race of the sixth and final round. Neil Flockhart took the win but had Craig Trew snapping at his heels all year**

The Maxwell Motors Adult 125 Scottish Championship also was a very close fought affair, Scott Findlay took the title with Jamie Duncan in runner up spot. There were only 2 points separating them after the 18 race programme was completed. Scott also took the holeshot competition sponsored by Robert Brownlie Motors of Edinburgh. This is for being first round corner no. 1 more times than anyone else during the year.

All information is available on the S.A.C.U. Website----Results/Dates Etc.

After much negotiation next years Open MX Championship will be run over six rounds at six different tracks.---Aberdeen-Grampian-Irvine-Glenrothes-Highland-Scottish youth.

The clubs running this will not pay any prize money out on the day, they want to pay a levy of £5 per adult rider taking part. This will be added to any sponsorship money that may be forthcoming but is not guaranteed. It will be very difficult to work out

what the overall fund will be, given that the number of riders can fluctuate from one meeting to another.

After last year's championship being so competitive and not being decided till the very last race of the last meeting I do not think this will keep the momentum going that has been apparent during the previous two years.

I can understand that some of the clubs are under financial pressure, but they only have one round each and feel sure that because the championship is to be run all over Scotland they could have approached local business people to help sponsor each round.

**Rab Duncan**  
**Motocross Chairman**

## **YMX Scotland**

### **YOUTH MOTOCROSS IS 'MOVING ON UP'**

Well - it has, I have to say been a steep learning curve in the last nine months since taking over as chairman of **BYMX (Scotland)** in January. Learning about how things have been in the past, and finding out what the riders want to see in the future has been my main focus. To be truthful, I hadn't really fully appreciated the job I was embarking on, and the strength of feeling, on both sides of the fence, with regards Youth Motocross.

A few feel that things should be left as they have always been; however the feedback I have received is for the most part, really positive with families wanting to move things forward, to give our young riders the best chances, and to give our sport a higher profile .

As a committee, we have addressed many areas which we feel could be improved to improve both the enjoyment and competitive aspects of our sport for our riders, as well as looking at ways to improve the profile of the sport thereby making it appeal to a wider audience. One of our aims by increasing the profile is to change the negative perception of the general public!

However.....it is all well and good, we as a committee looking to the future and looking to make changes.....but ultimately we cannot do it alone – we are here to facilitate and communicate on behalf of our members. We want to do the best for our young Scottish talent, but it is up to each and every one of us to be ambassadors for our sport both at local and national level. We must all promote Youth Motocross in Scotland, and we must all strive to make our Championship THE championship to be in and to win.

On that note, I will take this opportunity to say that we need more enthusiastic people on our committee! If you think you have something to contribute and are

prepared to give a bit of your time to helping develop our youth sport then let me know!



Photo © [www.dodspics.com](http://www.dodspics.com)

One of the first changes we have made is to create our own identity, to set us apart from **BYMX**, we are now called **YMX Scotland**.

The hugely successful electronic timing which was rolled out at the start of 2006 in both the youth and adults, is set to move up another notch with more clubs coming on board for 2007. Certainly as far as the Youths are concerned they simply love to go online and measure their lap times against themselves and others in the class!

The curtain has just come down on the 2006 Youth Scottish Championships and what a fantastic years racing it has been!

Many congratulations to our new Scottish Champions!!

- **I would also like to congratulate the Scottish girls who took a long drive to Culham in September for the Girls National Championships. There was a huge entry from a variety of European countries. Tara McLeod won the automatic class, with Laura Glegg taking a fine 4th in the small wheel 85cc class. Hannah McLeod did fantastically well in the big wheel 85cc class coming second from a huge class in excess of 50 riders. Kerry Wilson also excelled winning the 250f class. You did us proud girls!!**

So now we turn our sights to the 2007 Championship which we fully intend making the best yet! More clubs are looking to hold a round of the Scottish Championship and we would like to see each round at a different venue. As such we are actively seeking sponsors to come on board and be an integral part of the growth and development of Youth Motocross in Scotland. We will be working hard over the winter months making sure that everything is in place for a competitive, spectacular, safe and fair championship for everyone.

**Jim Smith**  
**BYMX Scotland Chairman**

## Enduro

What a season 2006 has been with some of the closest racing we have seen in the UK – the Experts and Over 40's pushing right to the final round and a single mistake in the year could cost you the title.

Enduros are all about staying power and keeping going – through all 9 rounds and terrain varying from mud and big hills to sand and flat out farmland. You need all the points you can get and so a finish is the most important thing. One rider's back wheel started to fall apart but he fixed it and pushed on to claim vital points – allowing him to nearly win the title. So never give up.



Photo © [www.scottishenduros.co.uk](http://www.scottishenduros.co.uk)

There were a few surprises this year and the return of Dougie Kerr (pictured above) certainly made the younger riders push hard to beat the previous Champion. Not having ridden many events since his successes in the 80's – Dougie managed to finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Expert class and showed many younger riders how to ride fast. Always a threat he managed to win one round at Selkirk – and a couple of seconds. And always smiled while doing it.

But we now have a new Expert Champion in Murray Thomson with Derek Little in 2<sup>nd</sup> after a struggle all year swapping the lead. The final test of the year at Lumsden Bon Accord Enduro was the fastest test and longest straight ever seen in a Scottish event. The top riders even change gearing during the event to go

faster!! No chance of coasting round the final event here.

In the Clubman class Michael Lowrie emerged as the champion with almost a clean sweep of wins. But he was pushed hard all year by Keith Reid and Paul Scott who also took a win apiece.

Desperate to enter Enduros after a late start in the season due to turning 16 later in the year Neil Chatham finished his first enduro (aged 15 and 361 days) – the very hard and tight Glengap event. He then pushed hard all year to match the speed of the established riders before finally getting his first win in Scotland at the last round. A winning family – and more to come no doubt.

Sean Wooley again topped the Over 40's to claim his 2<sup>nd</sup> championship – but Ian Paterson kept him honest all year with a couple of wins – all the way to the end of the season.

- **The big news for 2007 is the announcement of a Sportsman Championship – to be evaluated during the year and with a view to being permanent. The top Sportsman will move up to Clubman at the end of the year – by which time they will be ready for the extra laps. So all to play for in 2007.**
- **And the Clubman Class will now be run on E1 E2 and E3 classes. There will be an Overall Clubman Champion and an E1 E2 and E3 Champion. More to race for – and I hope it will encourage more of the fast Sportsmen to move up.**

And a reminder for all riders – KEEP THE NOISE DOWN. There will be official noise test during the year and bikes exceeding the Enduro 94 Db will be excluded. This means standard MX exhausts ( rated 96 Db) will not do.

Finally a big thank you to the people who make the sport happen. The officials and organisers who set out and run the events. Without them you won't have any Enduros – so remember to say thanks after an event – it does mean a lot.

And Official of the year is Caroline Thomson – who you will have seen at almost every round – signing on and timing you round the course. She took charge of the start at the BEC at Lossie, and then did Grampian, SBEC before it was cancelled, ELRAT, and Melville at Selkirk. Having helped every club this year and always with a smile.

But we do need more officials to help out with the very important start and then start/finish on the test. So get involved – or tell someone who doesn't ride but would like to get involved.

Have a great season in 2007 – whether it is in Scotland – the UK – or racing in the desert as some riders are now doing.

**Charlie Mackenzie**  
**Enduro Chairman**

## **Trials**

### **Scottish Trials Scene 2006**

The Scottish trials clubs have been fairly busy this year with a full calendar of events and this looks likely to continue into the 2007 season.



**Lanarkshire MCC's new Killin course**  
Photo © [www.scottishenduros.co.uk](http://www.scottishenduros.co.uk)

Lanarkshire MCC has laid plans to promote their Bob MacGregor Memorial Two-Day Trial at Killin during summer 2007, the brainchild of enthusiastic local rider, Bobby Lafferty. Bob MacGregor is the only Scotsman to have ever won the Scottish Six Days Trial, twice in 1932 and again in 1935. He was a factory supported rider with Rudge Motorcycles and ran a grocers shop in the village of Killin, the shop still trades under his name to this day. Bob was also an instructor in the British Army during the Second World War, training many of our heroic dispatch riders in the art of off-road motorcycle riding.

The Perth & District club celebrates its' centenary next year, as it is one of Scotland's oldest SACU clubs. It too is planning a one off event, the Two-Day

Centenary Trial based at Aberfeldy. Both these trials will be featured in next season's fixture list in due course.

A good number of SACU Youth riders have been taking part in this season ACU British Championships, which has meant many miles covered by the young Scottish riders and their families. There have also been a number of Northern English riders taking part in our Scottish ACU events this year and Paul Battensby from Bedlington club has won our Over 40 championship with Andrew Battensby taking third place in the Youth A class as well.

In September, the Lochaber MCC hosted the final round of the ACU British Solo Trials championship at Kinlochleven. This is the fourth successive year that Scotland has had a British round and it was rewarded by a good number of spectators and had a good entry of top flight trials riders. The event was won by Graham Jarvis, riding a MRS Sherco and this also clinched the British title for Graham. It is a credit to Arthur Macdonald and his British round team for setting out what is probably the best event of the year in the ACU series.

- **If any dealer wishes to sponsor the 2007 SACU trials series or any particular class within it, please contact me as soon as possible via the SACU office.**

Finally, I have great pleasure in supplying details of all our Scottish Trials Champions for 2006 as the season draws to a close, well done to all the victorious riders and to all the other competitors who have supported the SACU series this year. Special thanks go to the organising clubs for the hard work and effort in promoting these events and last but certainly not least, praise indeed to all the those hardy souls who brave the elements nearly every weekend to observe our competitors, without you there would be no sport!

### **2006 SACU Adult Championship:**

1. Gary Macdonald (Lochaber) 140
2. Gavin Johnston (Inverness) 111
3. Gary Kennedy (Inverness) 110

### **2006 SACU Clubman Championship**

1. Gordon Murray (Inverness) 130
2. Stephen Baird (Dunfermline) 78
3. Iain Buckner (Lanarkshire) 44

### **2006 SACU Pre-65/Twinshock Championship:**

1. Murray Whittaker (Bon Accord) 125
2. Alan Crayk (Inverness) 80
3. Alastair McArthur (Inverness) 42

### **2006 SACU Over 40 Championship:**

1. Paul Battensby (Bedlington) 144
2. Brian MacKay (Inverness) 142
3. Billy Ross (Bon Accord) 90

### 2006 SACU Youth A Class Championship:

1. Lee Shankie (Lanarkshire) 155
2. Craig Houston (Stevenston) 142
3. Andrew Battensby (Bedlington) 128

### 2006 SACU Youth B Championship:

1. Allan McMaster (Lochaber) 170.5
2. Calum Hayes (Bon Accord) 153.5
3. James Allan (Lochaber) 121

### 2006 SACU Youth C Championship:

1. Jordan Hayes (Bon Accord) 160
2. Euan Allan (Edinburgh St. George) 140
3. Duncan Macdonald (Lochaber) 134

**John Moffat**  
**Trials Chairman**

### Stolen Bikes and Lothian & Borders Police Initiatives.

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



**Lothian & Borders Police** are continuing with their campaign against motorcycle theft. The Stolen Vehicle Squad had success with the recovery of stolen bikes at the East Fortune meeting last year. This will be continuing in 2007 with plain-clothes officers carrying out visits to various race meetings throughout the season accompanied by Crime Prevention Officers who will be able to give advice on all aspects of bike security.

Further motorcycle anti theft initiatives will also be carried out within East & Midlothian, where plans are currently being made for a presence at off road events in their area.

While enquiries are continuing motorcycle owners should take every precaution to secure their machine and by adopting some simple measures can deter criminals.

- Such measures could include installing a shed alarm.
- Ensuring the motorcycle is secured to a concrete anchor in the ground.
- For a small cost bikes can be permanently marked using such systems as **Datag** or **Smartwater** which help the police to identify and return stolen property to their rightful owners regardless of where they are recovered across the UK

Police.uk is an information system currently being used by Lothian & Borders Police, which alerts members to current information regarding crime and other issues of note. To register for this free service, text Police followed by a space and your postcode to 88588, or register online at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

**Lothian & Borders Police 0131 311 3131**  
**Crime stoppers 0800 555 111**

### Training

### Not Only But Also



Photo © Neil Alexander

On the 27th August, I had 8 members from the British Divers Marine Life Rescue attend a one-day basic quad course.

The organization were gifted a 500cc Bombardier earlier in the year with only one of their local members having had ever ridden a quad bike before. Their governing body insisted that the members completed a basic riding and safety course.

It was therefore up to the **Buchan Off-Road Motorcycle Club** and an official coach from the SACU to help them out, namely myself, Neil Alexander.

So while the SACU promotes quad sport – we are always willing to help other quad users benefit from our experience

**Neil Alexander**  
**SACU Quad Coach**

### Contact us

If you wish more information on any of the items in this newsletter please contact the office at Broxburn.

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