

Dunedin Chapter
Monthly Meeting 4th Sept 2011
Invercarse Hotel, Dundee

Welcome: George welcomed everyone to the September meeting. It was a lovely day for the bikes and the turnout was excellent. George congratulated Bill Harra who recently passed his IAM test. This takes the number of successful passes to 14 with another 12 members currently undertaking training. George encouraged other members to take up this very worthwhile training.

Club congratulations to Dave Wilkins who celebrates his birthday today. Also to Anne and George celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary.

Membership: Now stands at 382. Willie introduced several new members: Dave Bonner from Edinburgh and June Thompson from East Kilbride. It was noted that Peter and Susan O'Malley and Peter and Janet Collin from the Eastern Western Motor Company have also joined the Chapter. George welcomed them all and hope they enjoy the many events the Chapter has to offer.

From today, any new members joining the club will have their membership extended to 2012 and new 2012 cards will be issued at the AGM.

Events:

Thunder in the Glens - George was happy to report on another very successful rally, with no incidents and everyone arriving and getting home safely. From an organisational point of view it was well run and went off smoothly. Deliveries of equipment were delivered a day earlier and this helped in the smooth operation of setting up the rally.

The local response to the rally was fantastic. One proprietor reported that he had made enough profit over the rally weekend to sustain him over the winter months and this will no doubt be reflected in many other businesses. The contribution we make to the local community helps them survive and we should be very proud of this. TV companies are also showing interest and it may be that we have BBC coverage next year. The HOG official photographer was there and pictures from the rally can be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/garrystuart

Our rideout and afternoon at Grantown on Spey was a roaring success with more bikes than ever attending. There are still a few limited edition pins left for anyone who would like one.

Karen Fraser from FACES (Family Association for Children with Extra Special Needs) expressed her thanks for the donation of a H-D Teddy bear from Edinburgh H-D which has helped them raise £200 to date for their cause. Although it was a bit of a wash out on the Sunday, the local hotels and bars did a good trade.

The Police who are very respectful of what we do, were happy to confirm there were no incidents involving bikers and all 25 breathalyser tests carried out over the weekend were negative. There was however an incident involving local youths on the Saturday night and it was suggested that we give some thought for next year on how we can make these youths part of the rally rather than excluding them.

George paid tribute to the enthusiastic band of volunteers who contributed to the success of the event. Special thanks go to:

- Stuart for the fantastic programme of entertainment, topped on the Sunday evening with Vampires Rock.
- Mary and Alyson who spent the best part of two full days at registration and their helpers who provided a friendly welcome to our visitors. Many rally goers expressed their pleasure at the genuine welcome they received. Registration was around the same as last year (2,300). This year saw 300 more pre-registered than last year, but less people registering on arrival. There were a few complaints from non pre-registered regarding the lack of T-shirt and pins and this will be looked at for next year. However, there is a fine balance here as we have financial commitments to meet and really need to know how many will be attending.
- Ron & Irene for organising the Trade Stands. Again there was a high turnout of venders with most expressing satisfaction with the trade taken.
- Stevie, Dez and the guys who organised and run the Chapter Hospitality Tent over the weekend. Merchandise sales raised £2,062.

- Anne for organising the bike raffle and the team who supported her in this task. Congratulations also to Fiona Petrie who won the bike. The funds from the raffle will go to the British Red Cross to set up 3 mountain bikes for paramedics which will enable them to provide a fast response in areas that ambulances cannot reach.
- All the Venue Managers and their helpers for setting up and overseeing the venues over the period of the rally, particularly Don and Lesley who looked after the biggest venue (the Osprey Arena). This is not an easy task, but again all went smoothly.
- Fiona for organising the fashion show, along with the models, who again did a brilliant job and all their dressers who were working behind the scenes.
- Jim, Chris, Alec and Steven for organising the campsite, secure parking and the mobile home area. Another big job which went off smoothly.
- Road Captains, Road Marshalls and Foot Marshalls who did an excellent job prior to and during the ride out and the parking of bikes up at Granton - an excellent job done.
- Fred for organising the bike show
- H-D UK for supplying the demo bikes and the team who supported the Demo Rides. This experience helps to take the rally to a different level. Also for supplying the clothes for the Fashion Show
- The film crew "Room 58" hired by H-D to make a short video of the whole event. Looking forward to seeing the promotional video that HOG will use for future training purposes.
- Chris Barling and Paul the DJ plus the entertainers.
- MacDonalds Aviemore Highland Resort - the staff were most helpful and nothing was too much for them. Also everyone in the Spey Valley who helped to make it an unique event.
- EH-D for their support and effort over the weekend.
- Lastly, Chapter members thanked George and all the rally crew who worked so hard for the enjoyment of others and for taking the Rally to the high stature that it is now held.

Other Events:

Scooby Doo Escort: George expressed the pleasure of the members who escorted John and Tracey from South Queensferry to their wedding venue in Burntisland. It had been lots of fun and they were more than happy to play a small part.

Venchie Centre: George reported that the transition of the centre was astounding and due to the phenomenal effort of a few people. He read out a letter from Susan Heron, Manager of the Venchie Centre who expressed her deepest gratitude for our help, not just with the upgrading of the centre, but for all the years of assistance and help we have given. Members are invited to pop in for coffee and a chat anytime and will be most welcome.

Annual Millport Run: Only 9 bikes turned out from Dunedin due to the inclement weather. However they met up with several Clyde Valley members taking the number to around 30. They all had a great time and the weather was good on arrival.

Forthcoming Events:

- Sat 11th Sept** Bathgate Music Festival - We will NOT be attending as a Chapter as bikes must arrive prior to 9.45am and will not be allowed to leave before 5.00pm. This is likely due to safety, but not viable for the majority. Members who wish to attend can still do so on their own.
- Sun 25th Sept** Teddy Bear Parachute Jump in support of the Seagull Trust who provide sailing opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Sat 29th Oct** Harleyween – Again being held in the Shed which only accommodates 100 people. Tickets will be available shortly. This is a Chapter members only event due to the size of the hall.
- Sun 30th Oct** RTTW - Volunteer Road Marshalls are needed for this event. EH-D is again providing two bikes for serving soldiers. Intend to leave Dreghorn Service Station at 8.30am to arrive at Glencorse Barracks, Penicuik at 8.45am for a photoshoot and cheque handover of £1,000 for the Royal Regiment of Scotland Benevolent Fund prior to departure.

**** Watch the website for Event updates ****

Merchandise: Continues to sell well with the previous order almost sold out. Another order has been placed and orders can be made via the website. We don't deliver (except at meetings) and if you want anything posted out, postage and packing will be extra. There are some Rally T-Shirts of various sizes left over which are now for sale at £10 each.

Ladies of Harley: Fiona was absent on holiday but Steven passed on her thanks to everyone who helped with the Fashion Show. She is currently looking at organising some events over the winter months and hopes that lots of ladies will be supportive.

Tartan: Nothing new to report. Tartan is still available in both weights and orders should be made through Stuart.

Miscellaneous: Gordon read out a letter regarding a young man who had been killed in a bike accident recently. The writer is planning to run the Loch Ness Marathon in aid of the MAG Group. This Group lobby on behalf of bikers and any support/sponsorship from Members will be greatly appreciated. Further details will be posted on the Chapter website and H-D Forum.

The Black Cherries are off to Las Vegas and a tour of the West Coast of America and George wished them a safe journey.

Gordon Jamieson suggested another visit to the Dick Vet and asked anyone interested to let him know. The last visit was very informative and enjoyed by those who attended.

Mr Sheen will not be running the shoebox appeal this year as there are several organisations undertaking this task. The £2,000 left over from last year will be split between Erskine House at Gilmerton, Edinburgh and the Royal Regiment of Scotland Benevolent Fund, each receiving £1,000 each.

Raffle: Tankard won by George McLennan, Port by Gordon Jamieson and Whisky by Sandy Bayne.

Following the meeting anyone who wished to go could join the ride out to Linlithgow Motor Festival

Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 9th October, Leapark, Grangemouth.