

Dunedin Chapter
Monthly Meeting 3rd April 2011
Leapark, Grangemouth

Welcome: George welcomed everyone and wished all mothers present a happy Mothers Day. There was a good turnout of members on bikes, signalling the start of the new riding season.

Membership: Willie introduced several new members: Robert Gray from Kirkliston, David Taylor from Inverkeithing and Sandy and Jackie Lewis from Perth, bringing the total number of members to 338. There are still renewals coming in and we are well on target to keeping our membership numbers to the level of last year. George also welcomed Alan and Sue Budzynski's return to the Chapter after an absence of several years. Since it's inception in 1994, Dunedin has had three directors. The first being Ali Robertson, followed by Alan. George was pleased that they had rejoined and looks forward to riding with them during the season.

George asked members to take great care on the bikes, particularly those who have not been out for several months. A few spills and accidents have been reported already (not Chapter members and thankfully no injuries), but the condition of many roads is very poor with pot holes and surface grit, so extra care is needed.

Road Captains Course: HOG UK are running a new Road Captains course this year and Mike Dall has provided input and guidance into the course design. The idea is to run the programme in different areas and to try to involve as many Chapters as possible. Throughout the course, feedback and best practice will be looked at and fed into the next session. The Road Captains who take part will also be able to assist in future sessions. HOG UK will be running a course in the borders area which will allow joint participation by Dunedin, Clyde Valley, Geordie and Red Rose Chapters. They are currently working on a date and numbers will be limited, so the course will be restricted to Road Captains in the first instance with Road Marshalls included if space is available.

Events: The Scottish Bike Show was quieter than usual probably due to the inclement weather, but was a success nevertheless. Thanks to Kirk for letting the Chapter use the new EH-D trailer which gave us a very professional presence. Lots of friends visited and several new members signed up.

Ceilidh - A very enjoyable night with lots of Scottish dancing throughout the evening, finishing off with a disco.

IAM Presentation - held at the dealership - many thanks to Mike Dall for an excellent presentation and to Kirk for use of the EH-D premises. There was good attendance with many members signing up for the course.

Forthcoming Events:

<i>15th - 17th Apr</i>	Chapter Weekend in Blackpool - there is still room for members who want to go - enquires to Stevie Collins.
<i>23rd Apr</i>	Northern Sector Pre-Season Dance - Lorraine Leslie for more details, or see website.
<i>May</i>	EH-D Birthday Bash - date to be confirmed
<i>29th Apr - 2nd May</i>	Cider Rally - Starts off the Rally season and is one of the bigger events, run by Bridgewater Chapter. Over 80 members are now attending. Members who wish to travel down in a group should meet at Abington Services for a 9.00am departure. Depending on numbers, may need to split into smaller groups. Hoping the roads will be quieter on the ride down due to the Royal Wedding being held that day.
<i>28th May</i>	Richmond Hope Memory Mile at Portobello Promenade. Further details will be posted on the Chapter website once known.
<i>26th - 29th May</i>	European Rally in Croatia.
<i>11th Jun</i>	Battle of the Bands.
<i>25th & 26th Jun</i>	Ride to Skye - see website for more details or contact Gordon Dickson.
<i>9th - 10th July</i>	BNF Bike Show at Kelso.
<i>27th - 31st July</i>	Ace Café - see Stevie Collins.
<i>7th Aug</i>	Festival Carnival Parade.
<i>26th -29th Aug</i>	TITG
<i>30th Sept - 2nd Oct</i>	RTTW
<i>29th Oct</i>	Harleyween

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

Thunder in the Glens: Everything is ticking over nicely. Moray Firth Radio wish to get involved to undertake some charity fund raising. Forms for pre-registration are still coming in and many are prepared to commute from outlying areas. Stuart looked at the possibility of an overflow for Sunday night's entertainment but a live feed will be too expensive so another band will be booked instead, bringing the total number of bands playing over the weekend to around 19.

TITG Commemorative Limited Edition Patches have been made for 2010 and 2011 and will be available in different colours for each year (based on the tartan colours). Members should note that only 100 patches are available for 2010 and 300 for 2011, sold on a first come/first served basis at £5 each. Anyone interested see Dez or George McLennan.

Dealership: Kirk was unable to attend today, but sends his best regards and thanks everyone who supported the recent VIP weekend. Trade over the last couple of weeks has been excellent and the workshops are now very busy. There is currently a one week lead in time for a service which will likely increase now that the riding season has started so book early if you need your bike serviced.

Tartan: Still waiting on the heavier quality bale and hope to receive it in the next couple of weeks. Lighter grade is still available at £30 a linear yard (double width).

Merchandise: The order from the Harley supplier placed 2 months ago is still awaited. Currently looking at the possibility of changing supplier to one who can provide a more efficient service.

New merchandise bearing the Chapter logo has been designed and is now available to order (T-shirt, Polo Shirt and Hoodie). Both the quality and price are good and we have our own supplier who can make them up quickly. Profits from these items will be used to sponsor and support Chapter events. If this new initiative is successful, we will look to build up the variety of products on offer. Order forms providing more detail and prices can be downloaded from the website and orders should be placed through Lorraine.

Ladies of Harley: No new events have been organised but new T-Shirts and Hoodies are available with either a Saltire or motorbike on the front and 'Ladies of Harley On Tour' printed on the back. They are all designed with rhinestones which makes them a bit more expensive - orders should be made through Fiona who can get a discount for multiple orders. There is a Star Trek walk on 17th June starting at the Winter Garden in Glasgow Green. Cost is £10 to register. If anyone is interested, contact Fiona who will try to organise a group meet up.

AOCB: Venchie Centre: Trevor's team have now finished the roof, windows and lights. The next job is to improve the heating and boiler system. After this, a team of painters will be needed to decorate the rooms and the assistance of Chapter members will very much be welcomed. Thereafter Brian will look at getting the flooring down and Ross will look at their PC needs.

George read out a letter from David Laing thanking the Chapter for their honorary membership and the gifts he received. He is very proud to wear the waistcoat and the certificate has pride of place in his home.

Chapter Mileage: Lots of members have signed up, but for those who haven't, please join in - forms are available at the dealership. The presentation for John Nisbet, winner of last year's individual award, has yet to be organised with HOG, but details will be posted when this is known.

Mr Henderson, owner of the Leapark is looking for photographs of the balloon bike that was auctioned at the annual dance for use for promotional purposes. If any members have pictures of the bike can you please pass them to Stuart.

Date of Next Meeting: Sunday, 8th May, Invercarse Hotel, Dundee - further details will be posted on website.