

The Silver Spoke

The Newsletter of the Grampian Classic Motorcycle Club

Mar/Apr 2017

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Editorial

I'm writing this the day before our annual Cairn O' Mount run, the best attended event in the GCMCC calendar. As always I'm certain it will be a success and there will be a large variety of bikes from manufacturers across the globe spanning the best part of the twentieth century and beyond. What we each see in a bike is deeply individual and why we are attracted to a particular make or model at a particular stage in our lives is driven by many things but one strong determinant for many is how we identify with a brand's values.

Let me give you an example, I love Moto Guzzi's but own BMW's. So am I a BMW type of person (sensible, dependable, maybe a bit dull) or a Moto Guzzi kinda guy; a bit sporty, a touch of Mediterranean style and maybe even fashionable. Er,... Let's face it (and I'm talking about the more recent twins here) they are much the same basic package; V or boxer twins of modest power output with shaft drive and in both cases a long history and pedigree. So anyway, why *do* I have two Bimmers? A quick look at Ebay provides a clue; roughly equivalent older Bimmers are a fair bit cheaper than Guzzi's. So making a decision based on cost makes me dull—and therefore a Bimmer rider. Self-fulfilling innit?

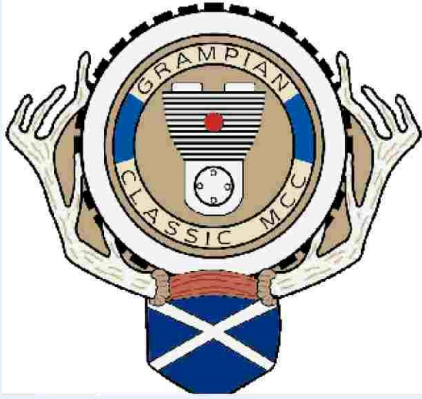
All of this is a distraction of course as it doesn't actually matter what you ride only that you are a rider. Recently with a couple of mates I had a gale-blown, sub-zero jaunt up to Orkney and down the West. Between us we had the BMW R65, a modern Harley Davidson Sportster, and a restored 60's Vespa 125. We had a fairly slow-paced blast and laughed out loud for 3 days.

Finally, we mark the sad passing of Club member Andrew Miles. Thank you Nick for the obituary and I invite others who knew Andrew to send me their contributions for the next issue. Our thoughts are with Andrew's family.

All the Best

Dave





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ANDREW MILES

1961 - 2017

I can't remember having met Andrew - but I may have done at some time in the past. Most people I spoke to in the club also could not remember his face but knew his name. They certainly had a clearer recollection when his Silk was mentioned (he also had a couple of MV's) - that had stuck in everyone's mind. Those that could remember him said he was a quiet chap who sat at the back and didn't say much - this trait was also borne out by the ceremony conductor.

There were 5 of us who met at Tesco car park – Michael, Mick, Bob, Eddie and myself. Mick and Bob were on their Enfield's and Mick led our small group to the crematorium. There was quite a gathering and it wasn't until we went in that I realised the whole crowd had turned up for Andrews funeral. It was standing room only at the back – and 2 deep in places.

He was obviously a shy man of few words – until you got to know him, the number of people from all walks of his life was testament to how well liked he was,

After the short ceremony some of his pals from his Edinburgh Motor Cycle club came to say hello to me – they hadn't risked the Aberdeenshire weather and had come up by car and again told the same story of a quiet man - until you go to know him J.

RIP Andrew

Nick Wade