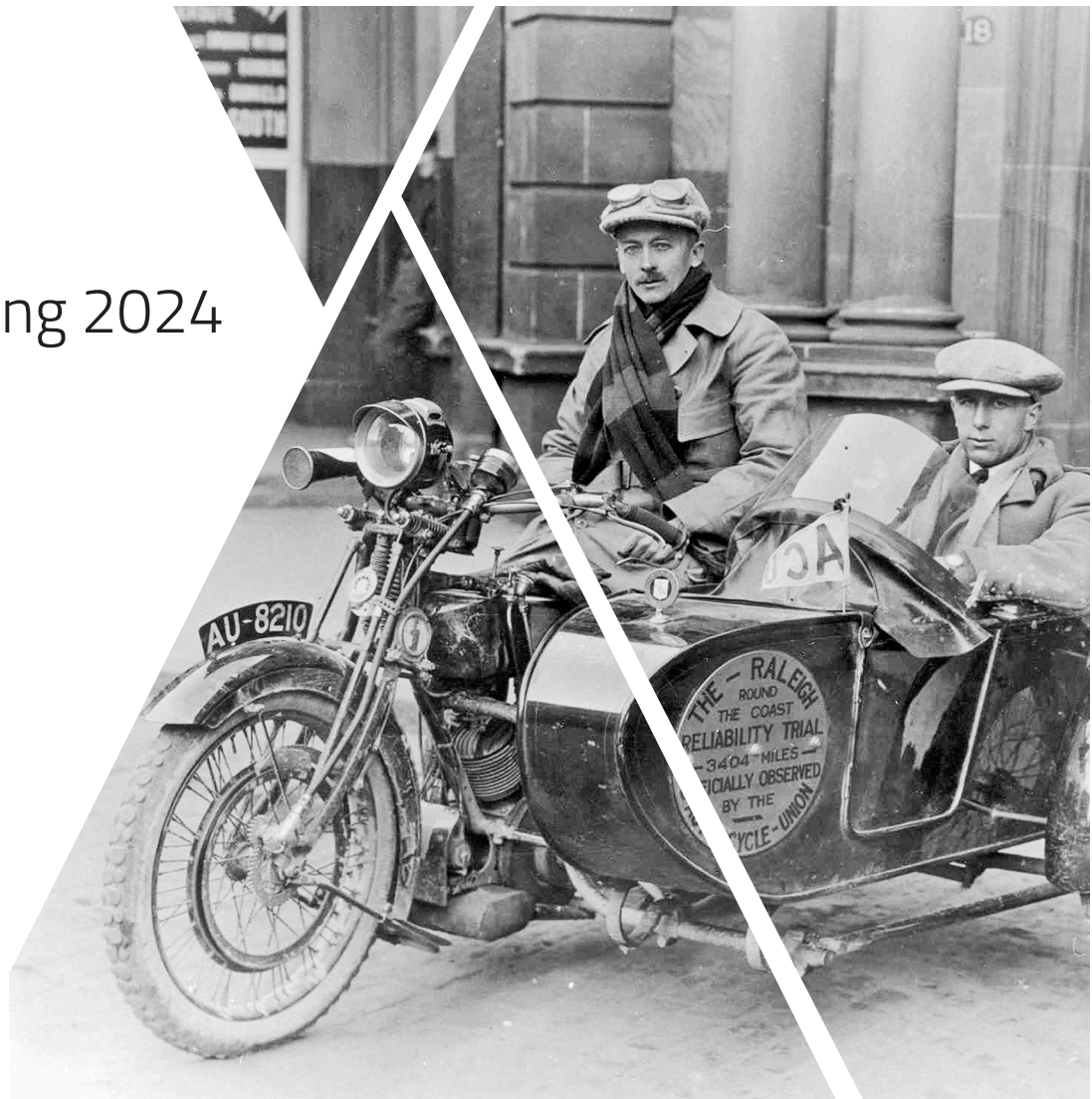




# Highland Classic Motorcycle Club Newsletter

Winter / Spring 2024



**THE A.G.M.**

**NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

Following the chairman(s\*) and treasurer's reports the new chair; Andrew Chatterton, moved that the first item he wished to address was a review of the constitution, rules, and terms of reference. This review is expected to be completed and presented at an extraordinary general meeting at the general meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

\* Neil Ellison stood down in August - following the clubs 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebratory events. Andrew Chatterton (vice chairman) assumed the role until formal demit and election to position of chairman at the a.g.m.

Several reasons for the constitution / rules / terms of reference to be reviewed were stated.

1)The position of secretary is vacant\* and there are no volunteers to take on the role.

Hence the position of recorder is to be created and Terms of Reference require to be created and discussed formally as part of the process to update the clubs constitution.

2) A recent issue requiring disciplinary action indicated gaps in procedures that can be adopted in dealing with such occurrences.

3) WhatsApp use potentially has GDPR implications for the club.

4) A new website for those who don't use social media is to be explored.



## Committee

The following were duly elected :-

Chair - Andrew Chatterton  
Vice Chair - Ralph Picthall  
\*Secretary - vacant  
Treasurer - John Williams  
Recorder (new role) - Roger Barnaby  
Membership Sec - Dode Fraser  
Run Organisers:-  
East - Ken Davidson  
West - vacant  
Tiddler / Classic - Paul Marrs  
Runs Recorder - Norrie Thom  
Merchandise / Property - John Williams  
Entertainment Sec - Paul Marrs  
News Editor - Gavin Meldrum  
Co-opted- Lexie MacKay  
Co-opted - Scott Sweeney

## LE STORY.

The Velocette LE is a motorcycle made by Veloce Ltd from 1948 to 1971. The designation LE stood for "little engine". Used by over fifty British Police forces, the police riders became known as "Noddies" because they were required to nod to senior officers, and the LE was nicknamed "the Noddy Bike".

Production ended in 1970 when the company ran into financial problems and went into voluntary liquidation.

I was fortunate to have Dave Hamilton agree to an interview about his 1967 Velocette LE Mk 3.

Q1 Hi Dave, could you share the history and background of your classic motorcycle?

A. The L.E. was an attempt to provide cheap and clean transport for a new post war market. It was quiet, had weather protection and shaft drive. However, it was too expensive and did not sell well. The day was saved when the police forces decided to place large orders for them. My bike started life with Kent Police which is why it has built in

Other competent business raised:-

1) Social committee to be formed with aim to attract members partners to events.

2) The previous club website, currently in the process of being decommissioned, is to be revamped in the new year.

3) WhatsApp use potentially has GDPR implications for the club.

metal panniers and a re-located fuel filler cap. I acquired the bike from a chap in Edzell who had done the restoration work on it.

Q2. What inspired you to choose this particular model?

A. More than 50 years ago, my brother acquired a hand change 149cc LE from a local medical student which despite having a smaller engine displayed possibly the first personalised number plate - ROD 192. I liked it, despite its low power, it was a delight to ride if a little slow.

Q3. How do you maintain and care for its classic features?

A. I have at my disposal many tools which include a small hammer, a medium hammer and a large hammer and maybe a screwdriver. Also while serving my my apprenticeship in the bus garage I learned to swear properly.

Q4. Have you encountered any challenges or unique issues with this motorcycle?

A. Unlike most other classics, you need to remember to check the anti-freeze.

Q5 Are there any modifications or upgrades you've made, and if so why?

A. The bike was fitted with electronic ignition when I bought it. Everything else is pretty much standard.

Q6. Whats the most memorable ride or experience you've had with this classic motorcycle?

A Had a nice ride round by Drynahan which is LE country. Single track roads and modest inclines make for very pleasant biking.

Q7. How do you find replacement parts or address maintenacne concerns for this elderly motorcycle?

A. Lucky me. Santa brought me membership of the LE Owners Club who have a good supply of parts and knowledge.

Q8. Can you discuss the riding experience and any distinctive characteristics of this motorcycle?

A. Slow! It make 8 BHP which even for a 200cc isn't much. Because its a flat twin its very smooth and with tele forks and swinging arm suspension its almost comfortable. 100+ miles to the gallon and its almost eco-friendly.

Q9. Do you participate in any classic motorcycles events or clubs?

A. I attended the Loch Ness Rally (see pic below) and the 40<sup>th</sup> do at Newtonmore (although not on the LE)

Q10. Are there any specific stories or anecdotes related to the history of your motorycle that you find particularly intersting?

A. Apparently police forces liked the LE because it was quiet allowing them to sneak up on the baddies. Howeer I suspect your chances of catching the baddies once they had legged it were slim. The company name was originally Veloce (Latin for speed) but upon the introduction of a mall two stork pre WW1 it was described as a Velocette or little Veloce. Production of the two stroke continued with the Velocette name however on returning to larger bike production the company tried to resurrect the Veloce name but market forces compelled them to label all their products as Velocettes. So in recent history the LE could be described as the only true Velocette. n.b. Ok, Vogue and Viceroy too!

Many thanks Dave.

*Pic credit: Malcolm Davidson.*



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES.

## February 2024

### Tues 6/2/24

club meeting: chieftain hotel, inverness

### Sun 25/2/24

club run  
from nairn harbour to evanton/  
invergordon via misc., or  
lossiemouth via a mmt through  
morayshire

## March 2024

**Extraordinary General Mtg:  
constitution changes at mtg  
below.**

### Tues 5/3/24

club meeting & e.g.m. chieftain  
hotel, inverness

### Sat + Sun 16th and 17th March

scottish motorcycle show at  
edinburgh ..... [https://  
thescottishmotorcycleshow.com/](https://thescottishmotorcycleshow.com/)

### Sun 31/3/24

club run  
tesco inverness to cromarty via  
misc ,or strathpeffer via a mmt  
through beauly, m.o.ord, contin.

## April 2024

### Tues 2/4/24

club meeting : chieftain hotel,  
inverness

### Sun 14/4/24

tiddlers and classic run  
tesco forres to grantown on spey  
via misc ...or aviemore via a mmt of  
back roads.  
Host :Ken Davidson

### Sun 28/4/24

club run  
nairn harbour to spean bridge a few

new diversions along the way ....  
Host :Ken Davidson

## May 2024

### Tues 7/5/24

club meeting :chieftain hotel,  
inverness

### Sun 12/05/24

tiddlers and classic run  
tesco inverness to glen  
strathfarrer  
n.b. take a packed lunch for this  
one.  
Host: Paul Marrs.

## June 2024

### Tues 4/6/24

club meeting :chieftain hotel,  
inverness

### Sun 09/6/24

41st loch ness rally

### Sun 16/6/24

tiddlers and classic run  
fairways inverness to a mmt  
around loch ness area back roads,  
to include " the bends " - see pic -  
right.  
Host: Paul Marrs.

### Sun 30/6/24

club run  
tesco forres to banffshire via misc  
,or dufftown via a mmt of back  
roads  
Host : Ken Davidson.

*Club mtgs from 19:30 hrs . Time of  
run starts not known at time of issue.*

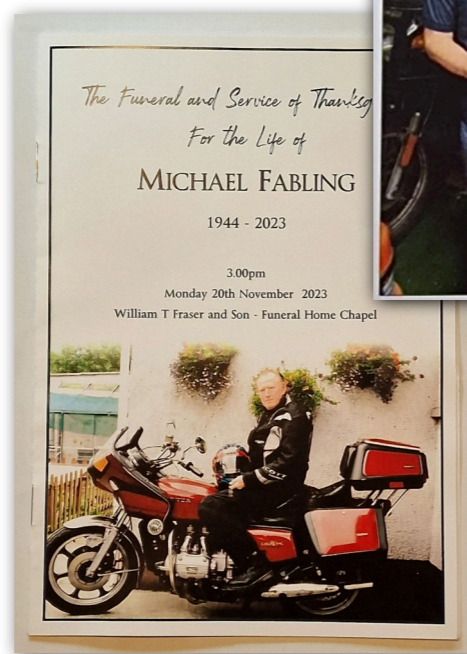
Contact Ken or Paul for info.  
Ken: ken.davidson56@gmail.com  
Paul: pammarrs@btinternet.com



**PLEASE CHECK  
WITH HOSTS THAT  
EVENTS ARE "ON",  
BEFORE  
VENTURING OUT.**

# PEOPLE

Regrettably we had to say goodbye to Mike Fabling in November and Steve Hill much more recently - both long standing HCMCC members. Several members attended the services as a mark of respect. Condolences to both family & friends.



# ITEMS - FOR SALE / WANTED

A '57 MAC Velocette with 1,987 miles on a full ground up restoration. Looking for 6k OVNO selling for health reasons. Ray Iddon 07935 304 70



# CHAIRMANS CHALLENGE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairmans challenge in 2023; subject "disused rail and road bridges". There are some serious contenders in the challenge and the winner will be announced at the members meeting on February the 6th at the Chieftain Hotel.



1971 Triumph Daytona 500cc reg 1973 May except offer around £5750, see attached photos, the bike can be viewed at Paul's. 07788987151 / 01463 242084

HCMCC Newsletter is produced quarterly.

Please send articles for inclusion to:-

Cut off date for next copy is 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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