

*SCOTTISH  
MACHINE  
KNITTERS*

**S A M P L E**



*NEWSLETTER  
January 2011*

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 17 January 2011 - Next Committee Meeting at Parklands Centre, Alva, FK12 5BG

Sunday, 20 March 2011, 10am - 4pm - Glasgow Workshop has been organised at the Carmichael Hall, Eastwood Toll, Glasgow, G46 6UG

Oban Weekend. 25, 26 and 27 March 2011

Saturday, 14 May 2011 - Scotland's Knitting Only Show, Perth Racecourse. PH2 6BB

Friday, 27 May 2011 - Annual General Meeting at Parklands Centre, Alva, FK12 5BG



*To all our readers*

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Oh dear we have had some “weather”. Good for staying in and getting some knitting done! We have had to cancel and re-arrange our committee meeting in December as many of you were snowed in. We were lucky in Oban with only a covering of snow but very icy road conditions. We were often snowed in with icicles and drifts where we used to live on the edge of the moors in Oldham. One time the milk float and a couple of cars were buried in snow on the lane and we were walking over them!

In October Jill and I had a very enjoyable visit to Belfast to the Northern Irish Machine Knitters Guild. We stayed with Harriet and all her knitting machines, where I fell in love with the “embellisher” machine. I will tell you about that some other time. We met a very enthusiastic group of ladies for two days of knitting and except for a bit of fun with the airport security searching my case and finding lots of bits of knitting, long flight delays getting us home at 3-30 am., I think a good time was had by all.

It was good to see so many of you at the November workshop at Alva. ***My demonstration was a disaster - Sorry!*** I know you like to see my knitting fall off ***it can happen to us all***, but what was bad was I couldn't recover it. Bit rushed, not enough time!. I will try not to let it happen again.

What did go well was our experiment with the video camera. Thanks to Dorothy Borrie and her friend's expertise with the camera and sound equipment and Catrina Little's well prepared demonstration I think this was a great success. Everyone, even at the back of the hall. could see and hear clearly. We will definitely consider doing it again. I would like to thank Janie Greenhill for organising the tea and coffee for us and the other ladies who were roped in to help. Thanks Janie.

Also in November we held the Helensburgh residential weekend organised by Dorothy Ross and the Helensburgh ladies.. We all enjoyed ourselves and ate too many cakes. A lot of knitting was done and I am hoping for some garments for the fashion show to come out of it.

Dorothy has rebooked the hotel for next year. As usual most people wanted to come again!, so it has been decided that to give more people a chance to be able to book these weekends that we will restrict it. In future you will only be able to go to one a year. This means if you are booked on the Oban weekend you can only be on the waiting list for the Helensburgh one in the same year. This should give more people a chance. I'm lucky I get to go to both!

We have had trouble this year finding a date suitable for the AGM. We can't have the hall on the last day of the month, Easter weekend or Scottish Only Knitting Show. Therefore, after much deliberation I have decided on Friday 27th May. **See dates for your diary** At the AGM we are hoping to make some changes to the constitution so that we have more flexibility with dates in the future. I hope a Friday is not inconvenient for the majority of you.

Because February can be bad for weather Bertha has decided to delay the Glasgow Workshop until March. **See dates for the diary.**

Marion Jeffrey (our assistant secretary) has been working hard organising next years SKOS at Perth. I am told things are all going to plan so keep the date open. We have decided that the competition this year should be "A CUSHION" any shape or size, mainly knitted (hand or machine) but can include other crafts. That's all for now.

Pat Fountain

### **VISIT TO NORTHERN IRISH MACHINE KNITTERS GUILD IN BELFAST.**

Pat was asked to demonstrate to the Irish Knitting Guild in Belfast in Oct 2010. We flew out of Glasgow on Friday evening, an hour late as the plane was delayed in Malaga!! Sailed through customs with our two hand luggage cases which we just managed to lift into the luggage compartment on the plane, as they were so full of knitting and Pats knitting tools.

We were met by our hostess who catered to all our needs all week end. Thanks Harriet. This lady knitted as a business and the week we left she was going to knit 90 scarves in 8 days!!!! On Saturday there were about 15 ladies at the demonstration and on the Sunday about 10 ladies. Everyone was very friendly and most interested in Pat's demonstrations.

All too soon it was time to catch our plane home. Guess what, the plane was delayed an hour as it was held up in Malaga again. Sat about the airport, bought gifts for Trev and Malcolm - that filled in a bit of time.

Time to go through customs - took off our boots with difficulty, standing on one foot with nothing to hold on to but each other. Boots, coats, on a tray with our cases to be passed through the X-ray machine. Humans passed through their X- ray machine bare feet and all!!

Pat's case came through first, pause, the man is looking at Pat's case, something is up, calls another man who calls Pat to open the case and starts looking for something. Aha!! Guess what the problem was - a 7 prong TRANSFER TOOL and large roll of sticky tape. Case rescanned and we were through customs.

Trev was waiting for us at Glasgow and drove back to Comrie arriving at about 1.30 am; we had a cup of tea then Pat and Trev drove back to Oban . They arrived home about 3.30am. Quite a long day.

Jill Lothian

**PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN WITH NORTHERN IRISH MACHINE KNITTERS GUILD**



Reading from Left to Right: The first lady is Andrea Magill; next to her is Betty Mills; the middle lady is Marion Chisholm all from Northern Ireland. Then we have Pat Fountain and Jill Lothian from Scottish Machine Knitters.

## NEWS FROM GLASGOW

Glasgow Workshop will now be held on **Sunday, 20 March 2011 10am - 4pm**. This has been changed because of the bad weather which we have had. It will be impossible to tell what the weather will be like in February. Tickets at £5 for members and £8 for non members are available from Bertha Rudden, 34 Calderview Avenue, Carnbroe, ML5 4TQ. Tel: 01236 623 123. Please enclose an s.a.e. for return of your tickets. Tea and coffee will be available as usual but please remember to bring a packed lunch with you. There is plenty of free parking. Detailed programme and travel directions to be published in the March newsletter.

Any club who would like Clair Crowston to demonstrate at their club the week after the Perth Show (Saturday, 14 May 2011) would they please contact me. Cost £80. Sometimes 2 or 3 clubs could get together. Phone number as above or e-mail [bertharudden@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bertharudden@blueyonder.co.uk)

Finally, I would like to thank Jill Lothian, Malcolm Baillie, Frances Murray, Marion Jeffrey, Pam and Lee Ann Faulds, Dorothy Ross, Irene Edgar and Pat Marron who all helped me at the stand at the SECC Glasgow in October. If it was not for them I could not have done the stand. Thank you all very much.

Bertha Rudden

## HELENSBURGH WORKSHOP 2010

On the afternoon of Friday 12 November 2010, 14 Scottish Machine Knitters members arrived at Braeholm in Helensburgh with their knitting machines. For the first hour or two chaos reigned. Once everyone had their machine set up, knitting was underway. Pat sorted out patterns etc (the complicated stuff) and Chris, Gladys, Irene and Dorothy were on hand to provide any help and assistance that was required and especially to serve the tea and coffee. After dinner most returned to their machines and continued with their knitting.

Most knitted all of Saturday, although some went out for a walk to get some fresh air. On Sunday we had some finished garments and fun was had (in the bathroom) watching a skirt being steamed. After lunch on Sunday everyone went home with a garment, if not finished well on the way to being finished. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

If anyone has a 4 way extension cable that is not theirs it belongs to Daphne Stirling. Someone also left a scarf behind. Dorothy has it.

We are hoping to run another workshop in Helensburgh in November 2011 details of this should be in the March newsletter. It has been decided that if you go to the Oban workshop you can only be on the waiting list for the Helensburgh workshop. This is to give more members a chance to get to a workshop.

Dorothy Ross

Can you please let folk know that the workshop in Helensburgh was a wonderful weekend. I had a great time despite the weather. You can get more knitting done if it's raining!! I hope everybody who booked for the Oban workshop have as much fun as I had.

Morag Walker

**David Hampson**, the gentleman who came to Alva last November to sell yarn, sends us the following message:

"Just a quick line to wish all your committee and members **SEASONS GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**. Hope you are all coping under the extreme weather up there. Hope there is no snow in May! Regards David Hampson."

## **PATTERN - JACKET WITH CASCADE FRONT BY PAT FOUNTAIN**

**The story:** I had a 500gm cone of Luxury Lambswool Angora Nylon that I thought would make a nice long winter **skirt**. Used on its own I would have had to use 2 ends and may not have enough yarn! So I decided to plate it with a lighter toning fine boucle. I worked a tension swatch for the skirt over 60sts and 40 rows on T=8, steamed it stretching it out sideways. I wanted the Luxury yarn on the purl side so had it in the back of the plating feed. 60sts measured 11 inches – so I needed almost the full bed of 200 needles. I decided on 194 as I don't like using the full bed.

The 40 rows measured 3 inches so by doing 40 rows between each dart I needed 15 darts to give me 45inch hip (the extra rows of the dart would give me enough ease). I was aiming for an A line so decided to shape in 20 sts at a time and the last few shapings in 10's

**Note:** When plating, short rowing and wrapping the plating yarn tends to sometimes miss and strand across. To avoid this I decided to chance not wrapping. As the knitting was to be stretched sideways the resulting holes would disappear? And they did! If you are really careful with the seam it can be worn reversible. So I have my pattern

**Jacket** Because plating made my yarn go further I had enough to knit a jacket. I had an Ann Brown pattern for a coat with a frilled edge which would show off the plating yarn contrast really well. I knew I would not have enough yarn for a coat and I wanted something really quick to knit with not much thinking attached. So I simplified things by using dolman sleeves (my own shape). One I have used a lot just lately. It is easy to knit and to wear, is coming back in fashion and easy size wise. Pattern: you can follow chart or written pattern.

**Back:** To the left of centre O latch on 56sts Tension 8 Work 112 rows increasing 1st every 10 rows at L and every 5 rows at R Giving 90sts Now cast on 54sts st R (144sts) Continue to increase every 10<sup>th</sup> row at L for 110rows (154sts) Work straight across back neck for 80rows Now work 110row decreasing every 10<sup>th</sup> row at L Cast off 54sts at R and continue on remaining sts decreasing 1 st every 10<sup>th</sup> row at L and every 5<sup>th</sup> row at R Cast off remaining 56sts.

**Front:** latch on 144sts T=8 knit 2 rows Cam at R SET TO HOLD \*\*\*Starting from L bring out to hold 5 sts every 2 rows to last 4 sts Now take them back to working position in 5's (This should stagger the holes so they are not next to one another).\*\*\* All N's back in work. Repeat from \*\*\* to \*\*\* twice more. Now bring the needles out in 5's again but when they are out cast off 54sts at R for under arm. You are now left with the sleeve sts so continue down sleeve decreasing 1 st every 10<sup>th</sup> row at L and every 5<sup>th</sup> row at R for 112 rows Cast off remaining 56sts. Work other front reversing shapings. Steam out pieces and stitch sleeve and shoulder seams (can be made up on the sewing machine) If care is taken the jacket can also be worn reversible. Crotchet round edges or use a machine trim.

Pat Fountain



## RECIPE

I am not too sure whether I should be putting these recipes in the newsletter so soon after Christmas when we have all eaten so much!! However the choice is yours - you can always keep them to one side for a special occasion. Editor.

### Malteser Cake

200 gms of Milk Chocolate	}	
100 gms Margarine	}	Melt together in a bowl
3 tablespoons of syrup or honey	}	
200 gms Maltesers (halved)	}	
200 gms Crushed Digestive Biscuits	}	Add to above

### Method

Mix and spread into a baking tin and put into fridge to set. Melt and spread over with further 300 gms of either white or milk chocolate. When set cut into squares.

NB Found honey made it very sweet to taste.

### Mars Bar Cake

3.1/2 Normal size Mars Bars	}	
2 tablespoons syrup	}	Melt in a pan, watch it does not
4ozs butter (not spreadable)	}	stick or burn

6 cups of Rice Crispies (which is approximately 6ozs)

Grease tray with butter. Method as above. Cover with Chocolate. Size Swiss Roll Tin.

Thank you to Daphne Stirling for these recipes.

## FOR SALE

An illustrated Book of Machine Knitting by Janet Nabney

Book of Machine Knitting by Hazel Ratcliffe

£5.00 each plus postage. Please contact Margaret Pearson on Tel: 01369 704824

Scottish Machine Knitters Association cannot accept responsibility for second hand items bought through the Newsletter, the Website or at a Workshop. This is a matter between the seller and the buyer.

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

A Happy New Year to all our readers from the Committee of Scottish Machine Knitters.

I am told that arrangements for Scotland's Knitting Only Show, on Saturday, 14 May 2011 at Perth Racecourse. PH2 6BB are progressing well. Make a note of this date in your diary now so you don't make plans to do something else. Further details will be published in the next newsletter in March and of course on the website.

This is the first month we have sent newsletters out by e-mail. How did you find it? We should be interested to hear from you. With postage due to rise in April by 4p for second class postage, I hope more people will try it in this format.

Please note that the last date for accepting items for the next newsletter is **Friday, 18 February 2011**

Margaret Robbie  
Newsletter Editor