

MGCC SE Newsletter

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MGCC SE

July 2020 Newsletter

Editorial Note

We welcome to you all to the July Newsletter. This edition covers the period of Covid-19 lock-down and expectations for third quarter 2020.

With 2nd quarter events cancelled our latest SE Newsletter looks very different but thanks to the support and invention of the Natter leaders, Wanderers and Members we can provide and update of SE activity under lockdown from virtual meetings / virtual road runs to members MG activity in their garage, drives and gardens!

The first local club item, on Fairmile New Year meal (page 8), was missed from the April newsletter so apologies to all. Interestingly, Fairmile was first to use zoom Internet software, on April 16th, to enable their meetings to continue after lockdown by multiple member video link. Some of our leaders have been very creative with Virtual talks, Virtual Navigations and Quizzes so contact yours for the latest developments.

North Downs also started Zoom meetings later in April, Canterbury group have started a new newsletter and the East Kent Wanderers have been running monthly "remote rallies" online in April and May (see page 17). Lockdown may be preventing us from using our MGs but the club is alive and well!

Amusing or otherwise please continue to send in further MG news and stories for the next newsletter that you wish to publish to raywillmg@gmail.com

Your Newsletter Editors / Scribes and their cars

Will Opie has been a member of the MGCC SE for over 40 years owning a multitude of MG variants and currently leads the North Downs Natter.

Ray Ruffels was introduced to MG motoring whilst working for Wadham Stringers in the late 1970's and now runs several classic MGs plus a ZT-T daily driver.

July 2020

Committee
Notes

Chairman's
Report

SE Centre
June 2020

The timing of my last Committee Notes in April coincided with the start of the coronavirus lockdown. At that time none of us knew the full extent of the extraordinary situation that had been thrust upon us all. Our last email Newsletter to you merely stated that everything that we had so carefully planned, organised and advertised until the end of May 2020, was unlikely to go ahead – how little we knew then! You might expect me to say that very little has happened to the Committee since that date but the truth is quite different!

I am pleased to inform you that the committee has been extremely active throughout the lockdown period. Our Secretary Austin Banner quickly invested in the commercial



version of Zoom and we currently hold committee meeting using Zoom every two weeks! The lockdown period has been difficult for all of us but with the virtual meetings your committee has taken full advantage of the lockdown period and has used the extra time, not just to assess the impact of the restrictions on our programmed events but also to examine more fundamental issues about how the club is organised and run. Much has already been done but we still have some way to go.

You may remember that Colin Reynolds, our well-loved former Webmaster, passed away two years ago. Since then we have been grateful for the temporary services of Ben Hill who has made an extraordinary effort to fill the void for us, despite not owning an MG himself!

I have great pleasure in informing you that, on Friday 12th June, our Committee co-opted two new local members with established expertise in areas that will certainly help our future development: Tim Morris is already known to many of us as President, Webmaster and Scribe for the MGCC MGF/TF Register and John Gallop (who has reduced the average age of our Committee by an extraordinary amount!) is currently studying Automotive Design at Coventry University and is Vice-Chairman of the MGCC

July 2020

Committee
Notes

Chairman's
Report

SE Centre
June 2020

Table Top
Rally
July 12th

Young Members Branch with a special interest in Social Media. I am pleased to tell you that both of these members have already started to make their presence felt.

Above is a screenshot of the June 12th Zoom Committee Meeting, which gives you a flavor of the event (this doesn't include our esteemed Treasurer and new Regalia Officer Tony Atcheson, who gave his apologies that day due to family commitments).

At long last we are no longer short of Officers (although we are always keen to accept practical help at events when they start up again)! I should remind you that currently all of our formal events are cancelled until the end of August at the earliest.

On the bright side, restrictions are gradually being lifted now, which allow us an opportunity to use our fabulous MGs once again. The rules are clear – you can now enjoy your MG and the outdoors in a small group of up to six people (currently at 2 metre social spacing), provided that you avoid sharing food or cutlery etc. and go to the loo before you leave home! I personally recommend good weather and an open common as a venue and please note that our email Newsletter Scribes will be delighted to receive any photos with suitable captions that you can send them.

In passing, I would like to commend the work of many of our Natter and Wanderer leaders who have been holding their own Zoom meetings and ingenious competitions of all types in the absence of our more usual car events. I and many other members will be joining Philip Bayne-Powell for his Table Top Rally on the 12th July – the details of this event is below.

Stay Safe! Chris Leigh-Chairman

There is a Table Top Rally, via e-mail, taking place on 12th July hosted by Philip & Rosemary Bayne-Powell on behalf of the Inter Register Club. Straight forward navigation techniques will be used such as spot heights, grid references, coloured roads and all you need to participate in this fun event is the OS Landranger Map 187 – further details are at: <https://www.mgccse.co.uk/>

Please confirm if you wish to take part by e-mailing your entry form to 1942mgman@gmail.com before Sunday 12th July.

July 2020

See the **Safety Fast South-East notes** for monthly updates and the MGCCSE web site for the full 2020 Calendar plus updates on pending and past events. **Note - Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Government policy the SE Committee has decided to cancel or postpone all events until the end of August 2020 (including those in red below).**

Committee
Notes

SE Centre
3 month
Calendar

Thursday 9 th July - 8pm	Alternative Pride of Ownership(R2)	The Fairmile KT11 1BW	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sunday 19 th July	Tour of the South Windmills		Philip Bayne- Powell 01483 811428
Monday 20 th July - 8pm	Alternative Pride of Ownership(R3)	The Pheasant Buckland RH37BG	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sunday 26 th July	Brooklands Classic Car Show	Brooklands Museum KT13 0QN	John Davies 01737241971
5 th to 9 th August	European event of the Year	Wurzburg	
Sunday 6 th September	Shere Hill Climb	Shere	John Davies 01737 241971
Sunday 20 th September	Autumn Gathering	Newhaven Fort	Andrew Mitchell 07703 138419
Monday 21 st September	Pheasant Natter Quiz Night	The Pheasant Buckland RH3 7BG	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sunday 27 th September	Car Trial (for MG Tomato Trophy)	Near Maitstone	John Morgan 07802 770025
Sunday 4 th October	Autumn Naviscat	TBA	Mike lemon 07718 339836

Obviously the Government Covid-19 guidelines will change over time so to keep up-to-date on events go to the MG Car Club South East Centre web site – <http://www.mgccse.co.uk>.

Note: we have just been notified that Shere Hill Climb on 6th September is cancelled

July
2020

Committee
Notes

Social
Media
Update

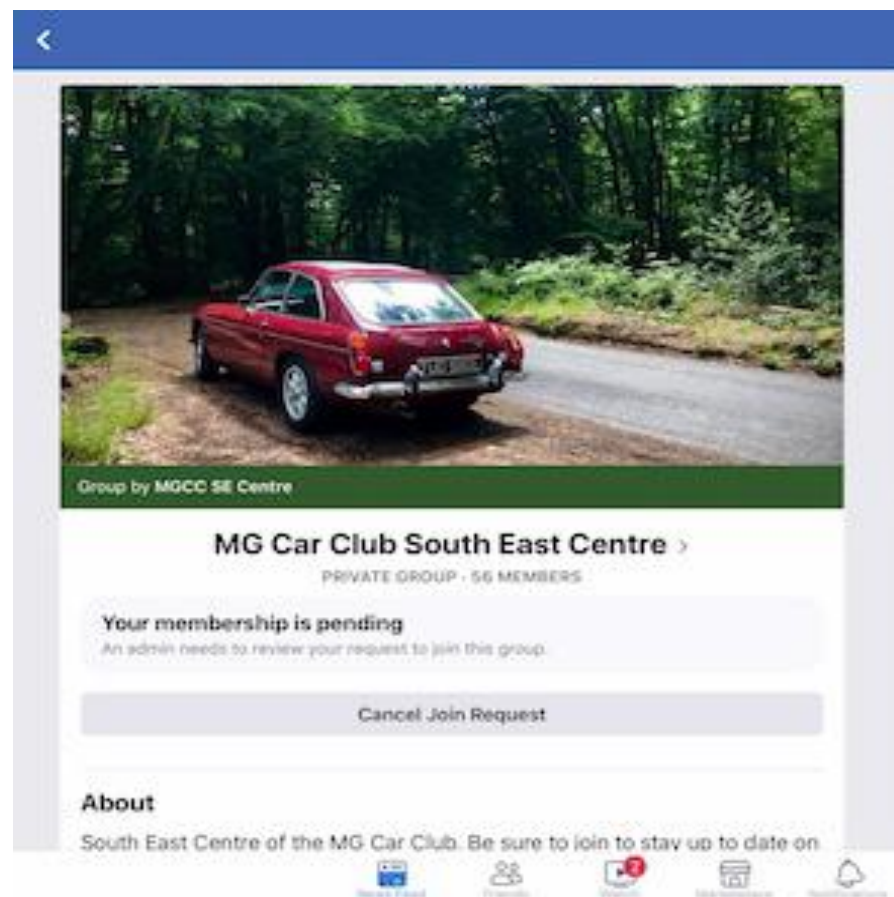
Social Media

We are delighted that John Gallop and Tim Morris have now joined the committee specializing in Social Media and as Webmaster respectively. Tim has already started to review the SE website to improve presentation, communication and functionality.

John has set up a new **members Facebook Group** which is available at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/259127225161827/> - pictured below.

Through this new page a "Chat Group" has been created, which is a private area on Facebook where members and prospective people in the area can request to join, provided they can demonstrate they are located in the south-east. Within this private online community members / people can share experiences and chat in a secure environment as well as be notified of activity such as events in advance of what is published on the public Facebook page.

This is a new dynamic and up-to-date method to share MG ideas, expertise, stories and images so do take the earliest opportunity to review, as this medium is an important part of future communication.



July
2020

Committee
Notes

Social
Media
Update

Social Media

John has also updated the SE Centre's public Facebook page, which is our main online profile on the Facebook platform. Members can access the open public Facebook page via the SE web page on www.mgccse.co.uk/facebook as seen below:

15:01 Mon 22 Jun facebook.com 85%

MGCC SE Centre
@mgccse · Cars

Learn More

Home Photos About Community More

Like Search

About See all

One of 12 MG National Centres organising events and activities in the S.E. region, which covers Middlesex, East and West Sussex, Surrey, Kent and Greater London

81 people like this

92 people follow this

<http://www.mgccse.co.uk/>

Create Post

Photo/Video Check In Tag Friends

MGCC SE Centre
Yesterday at 13:51

For all the South East Dads have a Happy Father's Day with the father of MG!

July
2020

Committee
Notes

Competition
Update

Competitions Update by John Morgan - Competition Secretary

This Article has been edited from the various Motorsport UK documents and adapted to provide guidance to the MGCC SE Centre. It is envisaged that most of the events that would be organised later in 2020 would either be classified as Certificate of Exemption or possibly as purely Social Runs. It has been noted in the Motorsport UK website data under Certificate of Exemption, it does identify a criteria of 'Social Runs' (not believed to be referred to in the Blue Book) and the definition wording from the Q&A is:

'Social Run' - A non-competitive run for likeminded participants where there is no other purpose than the camaraderie of motoring in company to a predetermined point and which is not within the jurisdiction of Motorsport UK. A Social Run does not require a Permit or Certificate of Exemption and is not covered by Motorsport UK insurance policies.

It is believed this definition could be applied to the majority of small runs organised by Natters or locally in the SE Centre including the lunchtime Natters.

Events such as the Tour of SE or similar larger runs, Gatherings such as Autumn Gathering, etc. would require a **Certificate of Exemption**. Under the current Motorsport UK advice, this would require:

- Consideration of Motorsport UK guidance for Event/Venue and Organisers.
- Planning to ensure current Government Social Distancing requirements are met. Current requirements would limit drivers and passengers in same car as being from the same household.
- Pre-event health declarations are to be completed by officials, competitors/entrants as per Motorsport UK Guidance
- Entrants to provide own sanitizer, wipes, hand washing facilities
- Marshals/Officials:
 - 1 Event organised to avoid any close contact less than required Social Distancing.
 - 2 Marshals to supply own tabbards where possible.
 - 3 No signing on table as such to avoid sharing forms, pens, etc. Any instructions to be forwarded pre-event and entrants to download own copy.
- Communications/media:
 - 1 Posters/display notices to provide details/reminders on Social Distancing, hygiene, etc.
 - 2 Use PA where practical for regular announcements.

Supporting Motorsport UK documents for the above are available either from John Morgan, as SE Centre Competition Secretary, or from the Motorsport UK website. Further updates are expected in early July, watch this space on www.mgccse.co.uk!

July
2020

Local Club
Meets

The
Fairmile
Natter
Cobham
KT11 1BW

Fairmile Natter New Year Meal 2020.

This article was written before lockdown and may show scenes where social distancing is not observed!

The new decade was greeted by the now traditional Fairmile Natter New Year meal - second Thursday of January. After meet and greet in The Fairmile Bar and a chance to catch up with old and happily - new - friends the company adjourned to the Fairmile Meeting room for a speedily and efficiently served meal individually chosen from the excellent Fairmile daily set menu (Brexit food at reasonable prices!).

If this sounds like a puff from your correspondent for the Pub, it is because Danny the Manager and his team deserve it as they've been accommodating the MGCC for many years and always make us welcome. This includes use of the meeting room in winter and the vast field in front of The Pub for our round of The Alternative POO in summer, which makes The Fairmile an MG home from home and we aren't the only Car Club to use it as such!

Anyway back to that thankfully mild January night and our Dinner attended by 28 souls including the SEC Secretary and Vice-Chairman as well as John and Jenny Morgan from our sister Natter at The Three Horseshoes near Reigate.

Furthest travelled (no award) was Wendy Wooster a good friend of ours now located in Oxfordshire. It was nice to see wives and partners joining not something that happens at every meeting.

Among the couples were Roger and Freda Marlow who brought a guest, Margaret Harker, with the express purpose of re-acquainting her with special guest Rosemary Washbourne. Rosemary is the widow of our fondly remembered leader David.

The connection?

David had driven Margaret to her wedding in 2008, using his rare and well-remembered WA 2.6 litre Saloon. I reminded Rosemary of a visit I made to their Horsley home, just after David had welcomed me to the Natter- 'He's in the kitchen ' she retreated to the living room and a firm shut of the door! Not the warmest of greetings and I soon found out why?

David was stripping the WA engine on the kitchen table! Well he had put newspaper on it first!

Roger brought along a faded photo of the car in its wedding ribbons - see below. A nice memory, but the chat wasn't all nostalgia as the assembled diners chewed the fat, (not a reference to the Fairmile Thursday steak special) about the future - the coming season and whither the MGCC and SEC?

Do join us at The Fairmile Natter, second Thursday of each month - 6.30 pm to eat or 8.30 to simply well Natter.

Jon Glover joint Natter Leader with Ian Ailes.

July
2020

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter
Cobham
KT11 1BW

Fairmile Meeting Founder David Washbournes WA on Wedding duty



Fairmile New Year Dinner guests - January 2020



July 2020

Local Club
Meets

Fairmile
Natter
Ian & Kay
Ailes' trip to
Dubai
before
Lock-down

MG Motors Dubai Showroom



The Classic Car Museum at Sharjah - UAE



July
2020

Local Club
Meets

The Ash
Natter
visit to Kent
Fire &
Rescue
Service

Created by Ian Russell – Natter leader

Our visit to the Kent Fire & Rescue Service Road Safety Experience on the 21st February lasted for just under 3 hours. There is no charge for the visit but it must be arranged in advance and there is a minimum number of 15 visitors over 14 years old. We had invited family and friends so we had a quite an age range in fact from 15 to 82! Apart from our Natter members a few members of the Kent Group RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Kent SERV Blood runners joined us. The target audience is really for young people between the ages of 14 and 24 but it is now open to all age groups and I believe all of those who attended had their eyes opened to the world of the emergency services and everyone that I have spoken to since took something away with them. I won't describe too much of the day as I feel it would detract from the experience that other members would receive should they be lucky enough to get on another visit. I strongly encourage other Natters to consider taking their members and family, especially if they have teenagers who are or will be driving in the near future.

We are very lucky to have this facility in Kent, it is the only one in the country, so why not get along and see what some of your taxes has paid for?



July
2020

Local Club
Meets

The
Pheasant
Natter
Betchworth
RH3 7BG

By John Morgan - Leader

The first steps have been made by the government in scaling down the lockdown with reduced restrictions on leaving home and shopping for non-essential items now being permitted.

There is no news when pubs such as our meeting venue The Pheasant will reopen and even then it's likely to be for open-air visits only. Some venues such as National Trust properties, Leonardslee Gardens, etc. have reopened with toilet facilities being available but shops and cafes remaining closed. Once restrictions are partially lifted on numbers meeting in public, we can think about my previous suggestion of a social drive and open air get together with appropriate social distancing. It is unlikely that there will be any SE Centre Events until at least mid to late August at the very earliest.

However, a couple of our members Peter and Simon Gray did take their MGTD out on VE Day 8th May. As Simon says, 'We did break cover on VE Day, putting bunting on the car and then having a naughty drive to Dorking and growling through the town, reverberating between the buildings. We had a few waves, smiles and even a salute from an old boy! We didn't stop anywhere as it was just for the drive and the celebration of VE day.



July
2020

Local Club
Meets

The
Pheasant
Natter
Betchworth
RH3 7BG

The pictures below are In June last year we had the first round of the Boule Challenge against East Surrey MGOC and July was even more active with the Excellent Natter BBQ and social at the Walcountians Club with Peter Parker's butchery/meat preparation demonstration and various round of the Alternative PoO finishing at the Pheasant on the Natter night.



July
2020

Leaders William and Dianne Opie

Update by Ray Ruffels

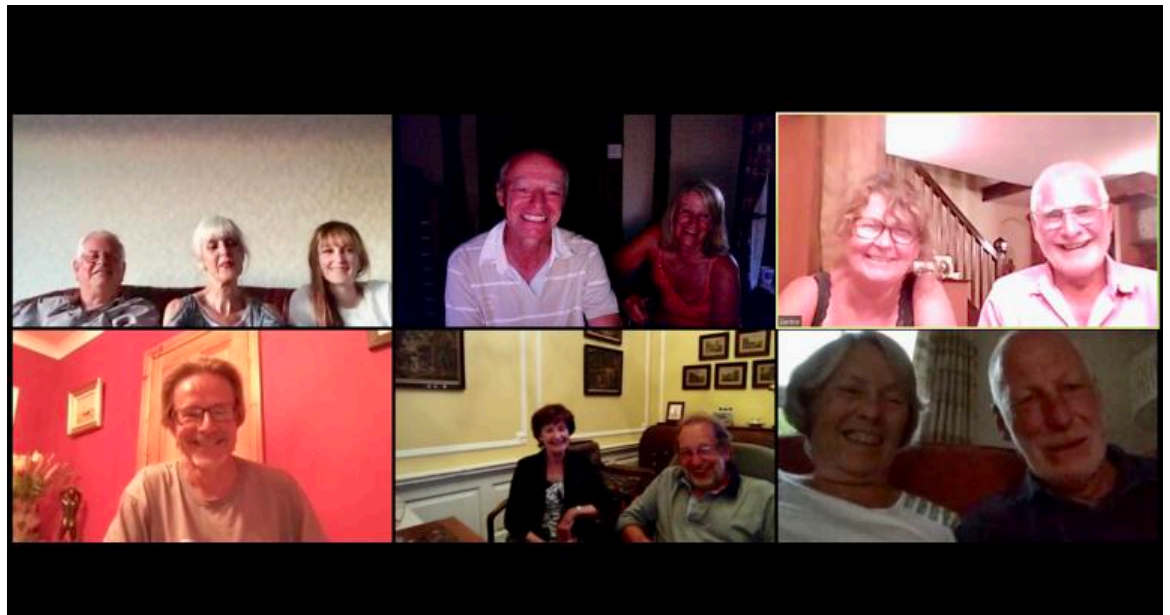
North Downs is a social and active natter meet on evening of 4th Thursday monthly at The Plough, Stalisfield, Nr Faversham ME13 0HY. During lockdown members have been active in the drive or garage with their cars and the monthly meeting has continue virtually on Zoom!

Local Club
Meets

Unfortunately the 80th Anniversary Battle of Britain run booked for April 20 had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions but we hope to run the event in 2021 as a 80 years + 1 celebration!

North
Downs
Natter
The Plough
Inn
Stalisfield
ME13 0HY

Recently with the June easing of government pandemic rules local private car runs and meets have taken place in members gardens and village greens for up to 3 cars with appropriate social distancing! See below Zoom natter and Clive & Claire Taylor's celebration of 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe day.



July
2020

Local Club
Meets

Black Horse
Natter
Nuthurst
RH13 6LH
&
Sussex
Wanderers

Black Horse Natter & Sussex Wanderers

During late 2019 the meet day for the Black Horse Natter was changed from the 2nd Tuesday to the 4th Tuesday in the month, to ensure that there was reasonable separation between the Black Horse and Sussex Wanderers meets. At the same time the format for the meeting was changed from an evening gathering to a lunch meet giving the opportunity to chat over a meal. The change proved extremely popular especially as some members no longer enjoy driving in the dark to attend evening meetings. However Covid-19 and subsequent 'lockdown' has forced the postponement all future meetings for the Black Horse Natter and Sussex Wanderers until government pandemic rules allow. Whilst the 'lockdown' has prevented us meeting face-to-face I considered that it was essential to retain a contact with members and as a result I produce a monthly newsletter. This is circulated to both groups of members, in all some 100 people. It has also given members the opportunity to carry out essential work on their cars!

As time progresses the newsletters are becoming more informative and now contain articles on members' cars including photos on the work being carried out during 'lockdown'. To keep the grey matter ticking over, I have also started attaching a quiz to the newsletter - to be answered without assistance from the internet or reference books. Part of the May quiz is below so you may be interested in testing your knowledge! For answers, please contact me at - dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk For future editions I hope to include short features on 'what was your first car', which could provide some interesting articles. Venues that had been reserved in 2020 for the Black Horse and Sussex Wanderers outings, have now been rescheduled for 2021 although there is a slim possibility that we may be able to introduce a couple of outings into the 2020 calendar towards the end of the year. Below is our visit to Goodwood in 2016.



May Quiz

1. What do the initials S.U. stand for?
2. And B.S.A.?.....
3. And H.R.G.?.....
4. O.M.?.....
5. A.C.?.....
6. Which model of Rolls-Royce was made for Royalty and Heads of State only – so only 16 were made?.....
7. Who was known as the hyphen in Rolls-Royce?.....
8. What was the name given to the Silver Ghosts built in the U.S?.....
9. Which was the first M.G. model to have left-hand drive?.....
10. What was the M.G. car Company's original telephone number - also featured as part of the chassis numbers?.....
11. What model of M.G. was owned by the Duke of Edinburgh in his youth?.....
.....
12. And by his oldest son some years later?.....
13. What was the rarest production M.G. model?.....
14. Three other marques were built at Abingdon apart from M.G. – can you name them? (Possible 3 points for this question)
15. How many times did M.G. appear at Le Mans? (In how many different years). To give you a clue, it is between 1930 and 1965 and was either 8 times, 14 times or 19 times.....
16. What was the name given to the all female team of P-types driven at Le Mans in 1935?.....

July
2020

East Kent Wanderers and the Lockdown.

By John Bennett - Leader

Local Club
Meets

East Kent
Wanderers

Like most UK social activities, the EKW have had to forego their usual 1st Wednesday outings of coffee, planned run and pub lunch. Not since February have up to 30 of us got together for our monthly fix of convivial MG togetherness. And, boy, have we missed it!

When restrictions were first imposed, we were hardly allowed out of doors so coming up with an alternative activity for the Group was a challenge. The answer was the Table-Top Rally, an idea cribbed from Phillip Bayne-Powell who introduced the format in Surrey some years ago as an activity for winter evenings. Back then, everyone got together in one place to take part. In the lockdown version, the format is the same but participation remote.

It works by the organiser deciding on a particular local OS sheet and setting out instructions where to start, what route to follow, and what questions to answer along the way, all based on information gleaned from the map.

Sounds simple, but the reality is less straightforward. The first problem is that East Kent is covered by four OS sheets and not everyone has them all, so immediately potential participation is reduced. The next thing is that a surprising number of details change between print revisions. Who would have thought that the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway would have closed half their stations in the last few years? So, asking how many railway stations there are on sheet 189 produces a range of answers and only those with the same edition map as the organiser gets a tick, assuming they can count of course! The rest are understandably miffed to be marked down!

Then there's the issue of directions. The standard alternatives, road numbers, crow's feet, or TL/TR instructions most people can cope with but herring-bones proved to be a challenge too far for all but serious cartographers. (That's a word I just made up, meaning map enthusiasts). In short, whilst we did have 8 or 10 participants for the three rallies we ran, it was clearly not hitting the spot.

A Plan 'B' was clearly needed, and it emerged as a Photo Competition. This was split into three classes to maximise participation, Lockdown related, MG somewhere in shot, and anything else at all. To lend some social responsibility to the scheme a £5 donation to one of the NHS charities in the area was suggested.

The outcome was that 24 photos were submitted and over £120 donated to the good causes! The winning photos from the three classes can be found below, chosen by a keen photographer who is an expert in her field but a total novice where cars are concerned. Her comments on each shot were most instructive and delicately expressed. She managed to say something nice about each one! If she takes up our offer of joining us when we are next allowed out, it will be her first ride in an open top sports car!

July
2020

Local Club
Meets

East Kent
Wanderers
Photo
Competition



Lockdown by Ken Paul



MG In-Shot by
Roy Ingleton

Country Scene by
Sheila Bennett



July
2020

Members
Corner

Sir Stirling
Moss
Recollection

Sir Stirling Moss Recollection

Like many of us Stirling came to my attention after winning the Mille Miglia along with Denis Jenkinson. Despite being at primary school at the time there was a lot of talk amongst the youngsters and I think one or two had models of his Mercedes.

I followed his career with interest and by the beginning of the 1960's watched him and other famous names at Brands Hatch and Goodwood. In fact together with a disabled friend of mine, who I still see from time to time, we were at Goodwood on the Easter Sunday when Stirling had his very serious crash. At the time it happened we recall the circuit went very quiet.

Stirling's recovery was an inspiration to my friend Bob who had been disabled by polio in the late 1950's. At the time Bob was receiving further remedial treatment and he said to me only a couple of weeks ago, that in 1962 he was suffering a bit of a low and seeing Stirling recover was an inspiration to him.

The next time I really took notice of Stirling was the 1989 Pirelli Classic Marathon when I videod the event (which I still have) he was driving an MGB which I think may have been prepared by Ron Gammon's.

I then literally caught up with Stirling in 1998 at Goodwood when I was helping to bump start Jack Sears Ford Galaxie, I stepped backwards and trod on Stirling's foot - he apologised to me for getting in the way, he was a true gentleman!

At a recent Brooklands MG Live my son bought the attached Profile publication for a couple of pounds from secondhand stock Philip Bayne Powell had for sale. He then sent it to Sir Stirling for signature which he kindly did and sent it back with the second document as a surprise birthday present.

Sir Stirling wrote the following on each in his own fair hand: -

The Profile publication

'To John, many happy returns on your 70th, Cheers, S.M.'

The Mercedes publication

'To John, I hope you will enjoy this booklet. S.M.'

I trust this article maybe of interest to readers and inspire others to recall similar accounts with other drivers they have had over the last fifty or sixty years.

John H. Davies

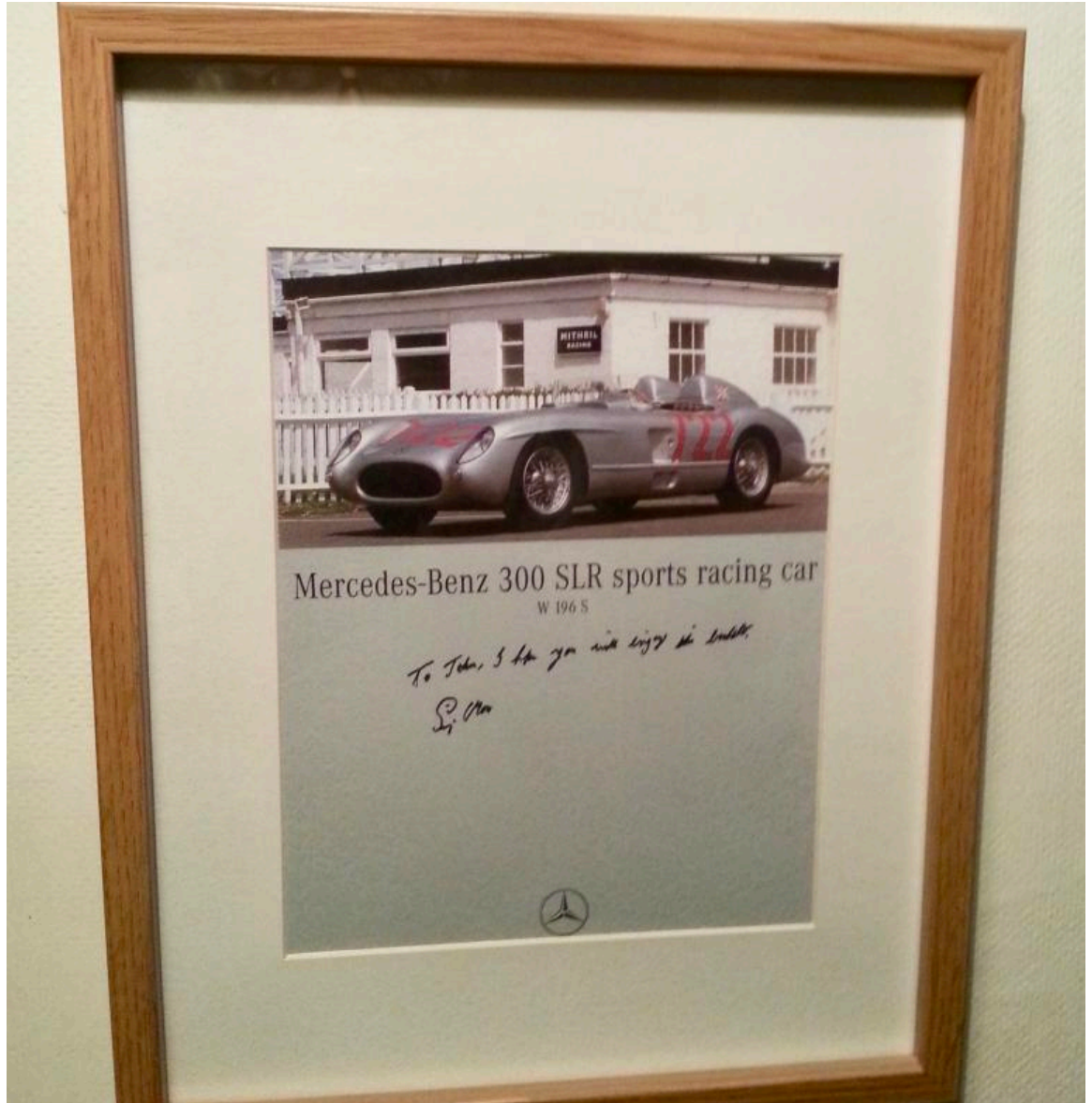
See the superb Motorsport story of the Moss Mille Miglia victory in 1955 by his navigator Denis Jenkinson below:

<https://www.motorsportmagazine.com/archive/article/june-1955/14/moss-mille-miglia>

July
2020

Members
Corner

Sir Stirling
Moss
Recollection



July
2020

Members
Corner

The MG
Airline!
Will Opie

So I bought an Airline....

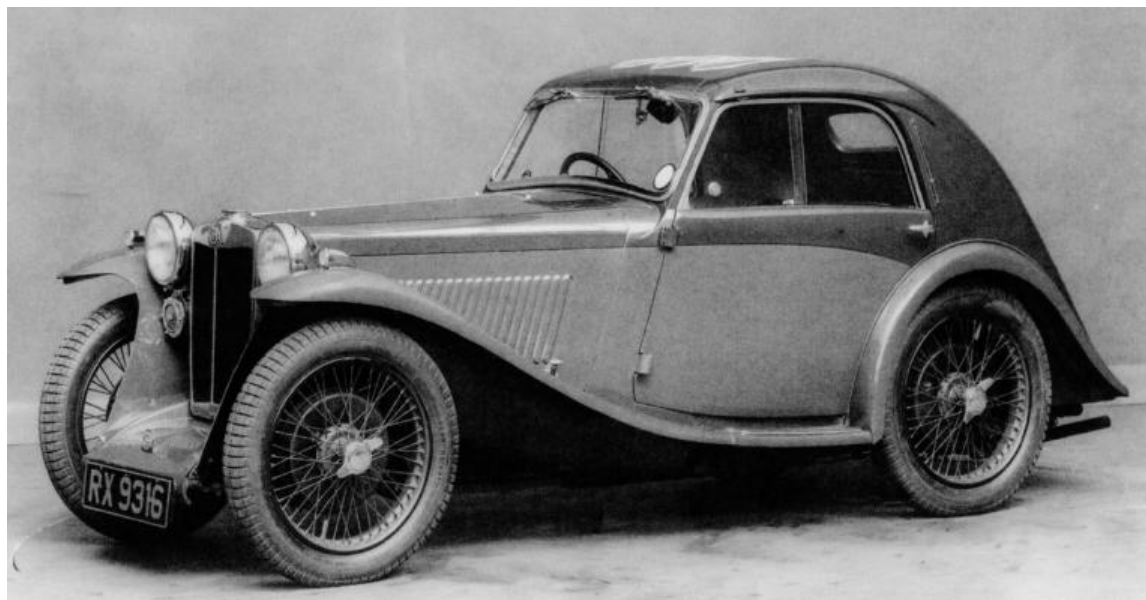
No not BA, Easyjet or Virgin but an MG Airline from 1934.

I have always admired the Art Deco era between the world wars in its expression of beautiful sculptures and buildings that stand out in today's cities. Maybe also because it was an era that captured so much decadence!

So how did MG's start making Airline Coupe's?

For the answer you have to turn to HW Allingham, a prolific designer who started his own firm in 1931 specialising in car design. He designed the Airline body in 1934; a prototype was made by Whittingham and Mitchel but Carbodies made the later production bodies. Just 50 bodies were made fitted to MG cars between 1934 and 1936 with the last body on an MGTA now in Australia.

They are regarded as one of the prettiest MG's of all time but the cost for what was regarded as a small luxury car really made it a tough sell. A few bodies also made it onto the N type chassis.



The story of FA5589

Like many things in life, chance plays its part. Ray Ruffels and I were up on the Club stand at the Classic car show at the NEC last Autumn and in a chance conversation I heard about an incomplete project part restored but more or less complete in Cheltenham. I followed this up and sure enough there she was, body rebuilt, bits everywhere but obvious parts missing both mechanical and trim. FA had been off the road since 1967, moved house (or garage) more than once and maybe some bits used on a MMM special in the same garage. There is a lesson here for any would be restorers, you never know what is missing until you try and put it together! A deal was struck with the current owners and then several trips to sort out what was there and eventually (pre-covid) shipped the car home.

July
2020

Members
Corner

The MG
Airline!



If there was ever a time to start a new project then lockdown gave it to me on a plate except for the necessity to keep domestic peace because of the good weather for gardening and house projects to do! The 2m distance also meant I could not get help to lift the body so trolley jacks and blocks of wood got me out of trouble to raise it off the chassis to give me access to the chassis. I have done some MMM cars before and generally start with 'wrecks' as that is all I could afford at the time. Anyway the fun is in the 'doing' searching for parts, fettling, cursing and I am fortunate in having engineers at work to tackle some machining as necessary if I don't feel skilled enough myself.

Unfortunately the last owner became very ill quite quickly (rapid onset dementia) so discussing what had been done proved a challenge. Luckily he was very thorough with many photos and notes plus some addresses. Detective work and help from Philip Payne Powell put me in touch with the man who did some work on the car over several years and was planning eventually to help. So from him a boot load of parts came home to be reunited with the car and a petrol tank commissioned which had rusted away! Also missing were many invoices for parts which his wife tried to locate. I suppose I should leave that topic as I may well of 'lost' the odd paperwork at home for obvious reasons.

FA 5589 fortunately had quite a history, having been driven hard on autocross events in the early 60's and came with many notes from previous owners. An engine rebuild in 1960 cost £42, 10 shillings and tuppence! The last MOT was 1967!



July
2020

Members
Corner

The MG
Airline!

FA's early years proved a challenge for MG at Abingdon as the history file (in the archives of our Club offices at Abingdon) were 72 pages with many complaints over the squeaking, rattling body (dealt with by Mr. Allingham) and a replacement bonnet after a fire! One letter commented that they could only achieve 73 MPH. Engine work consisted of skimming the head to trying to increase the performance above its standard 36 BHP!

Currently I am completing the chassis, reinstating the 12-inch cable brakes and many feet of brass centralised lubrication system before finishing the engine work which had started in 2012 with the white metalling. The challenge will be the interior, which originally was quite luxurious and the roof with its Art Deco Cathedral lights which slide open. Luckily other owners are happy to help remotely from the USA to Australia with details and photos and having many original parts help even if I don't know yet where they all go! It may take a couple of years to finish, but then my PB took 16 years so that may be optimistic!

Please send in articles of what you are up to for the newsletter, Ray and I need material for future newsletters.

William Opie



July
2020

Members
Corner

The story of
Two MGs in
Lock-down.

MGCC member Karl Foot has completed some upgrades on his two MGs during lock-down. On his RV8 I replaced the centre wheel badges, which he feels has made a big difference giving fresher look.



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On the MGGS, which is Artic White with rare cream leather, the roof has been wrapped in black vinyl which again has made a big difference.

Next on my list of things to do on both cars is a new hood for the RV8 and the windows to be tinted in limo black for the MG GS.



July
2020

Regalia

Regalia

The following merchandise is available:

Sweatshirt	£21
Polo Shirt	£16
Umbrellas	£21
T-Shirts	£10
Baseball Caps	£8
Beer Glasses	£2.50
Beer Glasses (Pair)	£4
Windscreen Stickers	£1.60
MGCC Pens (red or blue)	£3.50 (Special Offer)
MGCCSE Mugs	£5



Tony Atcheson, our Treasurer, has kindly agreed to manage Regalia and a recent audit has determined that there are stocks to clear. Please take a look above and see if there is anything of interest, in particular the polo shirts, tee shirts and sweatshirts. The clothing is unlikely to be restocked for a while as the committee decides on whether to continue with these items or not.

We are now able to take payment for regalia by PayPal so if you wish to make a purchase please contact Austin Banner at austin.banner@gmail.com

For Sale

5 Bearing early MGB engine for sale running fine when removed from car
Contact Will Opie on 07768 022044

4 Midget Rostyle Wheels for sale with tyres in fair condition. Contact Ray Ruffels on
07970 640219

SE CENTRE COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

President	Derek Edwards	01737 765891 edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com
Chairman	Chris Leigh	candjleigh@yahoo.com
Secretary	Austin Banner	07850 769506 austin.banner@gmail.com
Events Secretary	Andrew Mitchell	07703 138419 andrewmgfvvc@gmail.com
Competition Secretary	John Morgan	07802 770025 johnv.morgan@btinternet.com
Treasurer(Regalia)	Tony Atcheson	0208 6417837 tony.atcheson@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Diana Calvert	01737 350489 peter_diana_calvert@hotmail.com
Safety Fast Scribes & Newsletter	Ray Ruffels & Will Opie	07970 640219 raywillmg@gmail.com
Webmaster	Tim Morris	01932 882467 timmorris7@virginmedia.com
Social Media	John Gallop	07484 127251 john.corvette@btinternet.com
Committee Members	Roy Baker John Davies	07768 314226 roycbaker@gmail.com 01737 241971 santana@sweethaven.biz

Natter Leaders

Queen's Head Pinner	Gerry Edwards	07768 657797 pinnermgnatter@live.co.uk
The Ship, Mortlake & Brooklands Museum	Danny Byrne	01932 829814 dannybyrne@talktalk.net
The Pheasant, Betchworth	John Morgan	0208 6572714 johnv.morgan@btinternet.com
The Fairmile, nr Cobham	Ian Ailes & John Glover	01932 856960 iailes@as-r.co.uk 07802 770025 jongloveractor@gmail.com
George & Dragon, Speldhurst	Grahame White	01892 654591 pgwhitemg@gmail.com
Plough, Stalisfield	William Opie	01795 521846 willopie@aim.com
The George Inn, Trottiscliffe	Ian Russell	0208 304 1037 mgashnatter@gmail.com
The Black Horse, Nuthurst	David Griffiths	01403 264548 dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk
The Golden Lion Broad Oak, Canterbury	John Clark Dave Smith	07940 769225 cmgow.sec@gmail.com 07879 015525
The British Queen, Lower Willingdon & Boship (Lions) Farm Hotel Hailsham	Dennis Webb	07885 485255 dcmotorseastbourne@msn.com

Various locations

Ashdown Adventurers	Richard Clark	07818 420921	ricky140clark@btinternet.com
Sussex Wanderers	David Griffiths	01403 264548	dr.gjazz1@timetalk.co.uk
Surrey Wanderers	Su Joel	0208 660 7266	sujoel1@gmail.com
East Kent Wanderers	John Bennett	01227 637813	johnbennett698@yahoo.com
Kent Nomads	Ian Russell	0208 304 1037	mgashnatter@gmail.com

MG Car Club South east centre web site – <http://www.mgccse.co.uk>

Register Office: Kimber House, PO Box 251, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1FF

Phone: 01235 555552, Fax: 01235 533755, email: mgcc@mgcc.co.uk



'On the Drive' only on Victory in Europe Day!