

MGCC SE Newsletter

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MGCC SE

January 2021 Newsletter

Editorial Note

Happy New Year to all as we welcome you to the January Newsletter and hopefully a much better 2021. This edition covers the fourth quarter 20 and expectations for first six months of 2021.

Most of the fourth quarter 20 events were cancelled due to the pandemic but with the help of Competitions Secretary John Morgan and Motorsport UK licensing rules the SE Centre was able to run two major events profiled on pages 9 to 17. The Newsletter also provides an update of SE activity under Covid restrictions from virtual meetings / virtual road runs to members MG activity in their garage/s, drives and gardens!

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

Your new 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 – pictured below left.

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



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2021

Committee
Notes

Chairmans
Report



Festive greetings from the South East Centre Committee to all members!

Few of us could have predicted the course of events during the last twelve months but I am pleased to tell you that your hard-working Committee has been able to run more Covid-19 compliant events this year than any other Centre! This is largely due to the work of our Comps Secretary and our affiliation with Motor Sports UK. This same link should enable us to continue with our planned events for 2021 as soon as the current restrictions reduce sufficiently. The introduction of the new vaccines is excellent news but it will be many months before it is delivered to all of our members.

It is difficult to think that Covid-19 has any 'silver lining' but in some ways our Committee has benefitted from being able to meet more often than normal and from the comfort of their own homes throughout the past year. The South East Centre is the largest MG Car Club Centre in the country and our Natter Leaders and Wanderer Leaders have also taken advantage of our commercial Zoom software to meet up in a way that they have never been able to do before. A virtual meeting can never replace the important social aspect of our club, nor does it exercise our MGs very well but we are all now looking forward the day when we are able to meet up in person again and we still intend to continue with the convenience of some regular Zoom meetings on a planned basis in the future!

I must also compliment those Natter and Wanderer Leaders who have been highly innovative during the various lockdowns, keeping their groups busy with virtual lunches, quizzes and rallies etc.

The jokes in our Christmas crackers this year were probably needed more than they ever and this one is definitely South East Centre related -

"Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join in their local MG Natter?"

answer - *"Because there was no Zoom for them at the inn!"*

(Our over-worked Admin Secretary will probably tell me that this is just not possible!)

Due to current Covid-19 constraints, we are not able to distribute our usual printed 2021 Calendar this year even though we have planned a very full programme of events.

As we begin another slight period of uncertainty, please do what **you** can to help less I.T. literate members of the club in your locality keep up-to-date with the inevitable changes to the 2021 Events Calendar shown on our websites. (Remember that 30% of our members still have no email address!)

I look forward to seeing many of you at our first ever Zoom AGM on 30th January 2021.

Best Wishes for a much more sociable and enjoyable 2021.

Chris Leigh Chairman

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SE Centre
AGM

**MGCC South East Centre
Notice of Meeting
Annual General Meeting- January 30th 2021 at 11.00 via Zoom**

Introduction

MGCC SE Centre's last AGM was on 16th November 2019. The regulations state that our AGM should take place at not more than 15 month intervals. The deadline for our next AGM is therefore 16th February 2021.

Our next AGM will take place on the revised date of Saturday January 30th at 11.00. In view of the on-going Covid situation, and similarly to other CRBs and organisations, the meeting will be electronic via Zoom. **All the documents will be made available on the MGCC SE Centre website.** Further instructions for the use of Zoom for this meeting will be placed on the website.

Where necessary, the Secretary will on request, send a hard copy of the papers to any member who has no internet access. These members may nominate a proxy to vote at the meeting.

Nominations from the Committee for future committee membership are set out on the agenda.

Additional nominations, duly seconded should be sent to the Secretary with a statement from the nominee of agreement to serve by 17.00hrs on Friday 22nd January 2021.

Registration to attend.

Members wishing to attend the AGM should inform the secretary via Email or post by Saturday January 23rd at the latest. Please would members include their membership number.

The Secretary will acknowledge the request and the Zoom invitation will be sent out by Thursday 28th January.

The meeting room will be opened at 10.45 and the meeting will start at 11.00. The intention is to conclude the business within 90 minutes (technology permitting).

Voting

The agenda is designed to reduce voting to a minimum, and voting will be on-line. Only MGCC members may vote.

The intention is to use negative voting wherever possible.

The Secretary will ask members to indicate only if they wish to vote "no" on an item. If there are no negative votes the item will pass nem con.

If there are negative votes, then a full vote may be taken.

Voting for Committee membership.

The Centre is very fortunate in having a large number of people willing to serve and this bodes well for the centre as we try to move forwards during the remainder and hopefully the end of the pandemic. Committee meetings and function are being modified to take account of these riches.

Our President Derek Edwards (assisted by Anne Edwards) will conduct the elections of the officers and these will be taken individually.

The Chairman will then conduct the remaining elections. It is hoped that the re-elections can be taken en bloc. The new committee member elections will be taken individually.

Austin J Banner - Secretary
November 2020

January 2021

See Safety Fast South-East notes for monthly updates, Facebook and the MGCCSE web site for the full 2021 Calendar plus updates on pending and past events. Note - Due to the on-going Covid-19 threat events could be subject to change so keep up-to-date via the South Eastern Centre web site at - <http://www.mgccse.co.uk>. and on Social Media - Facebook

Committee Notes

Provisional SE Centre Calendar First 7 months 2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Jan 30th	AGM	Via Zoom	AustinBanner 07850 769506
Feb 14th	Valentine's Treasure Hunt	TBC	Epsom MGOC
March 28th	Spring Navisat	Buxted Park Hotel, Uckfield	TBC
April TBC	Isle of Wight Tour	Isle of Wight	Derek Edwards
April 8th	The Ins and Outs of Abingdon Factory	Fairmile Natter	John Morgan
April TBC	Brooklands Brit Car and MG Day	Brooklands Museum	TBC
April 24/25th	MGCC Racing	Brands Hatch	MGCC
May 2nd	Battle of Britain Run	BofB Memorial Capel-le-Ferne	Ray Ruffels Will Opie
May 8 th or 9th	Presidents Say	TBC	TBC
May 16th	Spring Gathering	Watts Gallery, Compton	Roy Baker
June 10th	Alternative Poo 1	Fairmile Pub, Cobham	John Morgan
June 12/13th	MG Live	Silverstone	MGCC
TBC	Brooklands Double 12	Brooklands	MGCCSE Display
June 28 th	Alternative Poo 2	Surrey Oaks, Newdigate	John Morgan
July 11th	Bognor Motor Club Autotest	TBC	TBC
July 18th	South East Windmill Tour	South Downs	TBC
July 19th	Alternative Poo 3	The Pheasant	John Morgan

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Social
Media

South East on the Web – Tim Morris

The South East Centre has now embraced the modern age even further by spreading its fingers further on the Internet. But, how do you find us? The answer is simply that you just type www.mgccse.co.uk into the url bar of your internet browser and there we are! This is the South East website and it is here that you'll find the latest updates and news postings plus an increasing archive of South East material from articles to event reports & galleries and an up to date list of the natters and future events. You will also find links to all our social media pages and it is here that you can interact with the club and make your own posts.

Our social media is principally led by Facebook, where you will find two pages for the South East. The first is a cover page which is open to the public and has posts relating to the Region and encourages new members to join us. You can respond to posts on there but can't directly post your own messages to the front page. That is where the second group comes in to play. This is a South East group "chat" page and is only open to club members (you have to answer some simple questions to get accepted first). It is here that you can post what you like, within reason and hopefully MG related in some way! The pages are monitored by committee members and so you could get answers if you have any burning questions about the club here. Mainly it's a social group and we encourage chit chat and to have fun on there.

After Facebook we have a Twitter feed where messages about the club and events are posted in 140 characters or less and an Instagram page, which is photo based and again you'll find pictures of events etc posted here. You can comment on both of these mediums and share the postings to yours or other pages to help spread the word about the MGCCSE.

The easy thing to remember is that all our websites and social media pages are called "MGCCSE" so that is all you need look for. Look us up and join in the conversation, start one yourself or just have a browse.

Of course, we will still be keeping in touch via this email newsletter and in print via Safety Fast. Articles are always welcomed for this and the website by our media team:

Website/ Social Media: Tim Morris / John Gallop (webmaster@mgccse.co.uk)

Email Newsletter/ Safety Fast: William Opie / Ray Ruffels (scribe@mgccse.co.uk)



You can find all our Social Media pages here:

Website: www.mgccse.co.uk

Facebook Cover: <https://www.facebook.com/mgccse>

Facebook Group Chat: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/259127225161827>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mgccse>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mgccse/>

Update from the Competition Secretary – John Morgan

The SE Centre has produced an outline of planned events for 2021 and these are available on the website. It seems highly likely that COVID 19 restrictions will apply at least until late Spring as a minimum. Subject to Motorsport UK Guidance, any events during these continued restrictions, run by the SE Centre, will in all probability have to follow the same format and organisation adopted for the 2020 Autumn events. The Guidance is expected to remain very much as summarised in my report in the last Newsletter.

The SE Centre is keen to continue with some form of competitive events. In recent times these have included Gymkhanas, Autotests and Production Car Trials. To encourage SE Centre members to enter, the plan is to participate with other clubs' events. These events in brief are described below:

- Gymkhanas can only just about be described as competitive and are really more social with participation by both driver and passenger. Competitive driving is minimal and previously they have been included in events such as the Summer Gathering. To comply with Motorsport UK Blue Book, 50% must be skill and 50% can be timed.



- Autotests can now be in two forms. A traditional Autotest comprises typically 12 small routes with the driver only allowed to compete, without a passenger in the car. The tests require skill to drive quickly (but safely) with precision and are all timed. Some tests would include reversing. Another form is called Autosolos and these are forward only around a clearly marked out route between cones.

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- Production Car Trials traditionally are skilled driving events where the goal is to drive a route up a slope or shallow hill and the competition is to try to complete the route. Invariably it becomes a little steeper towards the top and these events traditionally take part in Spring or Autumn when the ground is a little slippery from rain, etc. Speed is not a factor with the skill being to maintain traction.

Competition
Update



Presently the SE Centre has options to take part in two trials near Maidstone organised by the Maidstone and Mid Kent Motor Club. Similarly, The Bognor Regis Motor Club organise a series of grass autotests through the Summer in which MGCC members could partake as an MG class. Autosolos are organised by clubs similar to Farnborough and District Motor Club and some MGCC members have regularly entered events organised by this club. One Autosolo event was recently run at the Brooklands Museum.

Whilst it would be preferable to enter in an MG, there could be options to partake with the 'shopping car'. I have used my MGs for many years in Autotests (including the California Cup, still run as part of MG Live at Silverstone) and none of them have ever been damaged enjoying this mild form of competitive driving. So why not have a go - if interested, please contact me by emailing to John Morgan on johnv.morgan@btinternet.com or give me a call on 07802 770025.

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Peter
Wallace
Tribute



Peter Wallace. R.I.P.

Our friend and fellow MG enthusiast, Peter, sadly died on Thursday 5th November 2020 having succumbed to Covid-19.

Much of his working life was spent with Air Products, part of his time being based in France and he also set up a factory for them in the Czech Republic. He was a great Francophile, skier and had an apartment just outside Chamonix always taking to the slopes to celebrate the first snow falls of the season.

Sailing had always been Peter's passion taking up the majority of his leisure time. Over the years he had owned a number of yachts which were always called Gunshot. Peter was a stalwart of the Chichester Cruiser Racing Club and also an avid racer, competing in many races both nationally and internationally, including the Fastnet Race. Di his wife sadly passed away in early 2017 and shortly after Peter hung up his oil skins and retired from sailing his last boat being a Moody 38.

Having imported his late brother John's YT from New Zealand, Peter then immersed himself in all things MG!

Peter participated in a number of events, including those organised by the Sussex Wanderers, in either his car or the PA owned by his brother Colin; both sharing driving and navigating duties. Peter's interest in MGs rapidly grew and the collection was expanded to include an RV8 and latterly the immaculate VA which he proudly drove on his last MG outing.

Whilst Peter had been on the MG scene for a comparatively short time he was a very welcoming and sociable person. MG gatherings will be all the poorer without his smile, jovial personality and immaculate cars.

By David Griffiths.

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Events

Autumn
Naviscat

Sunday 4th
October 20

Autumn Naviscat by Philip Bayne-Powell - photos Chris Leigh

On Sunday 4th October, the SE Centre organised its first 3-D competition of the lockdown. Alex Lemon with help from Mike Chittenden, and John Morgan, our new Competition Secretary, went through many hoops to make this happen under the restrictions imposed by MSUK to comply with Covid 19 requirements. All entries had to be pre-registered with a Covid 19 Declaration/Signing-on form and provide a copy of the MSUK's new Clubman's licence. These arrangements ensured that no transactions took place on the day, as would have been normal for a Naviscat. The start and finish were based at the Surrey Oaks pub near Newdigate where we "covid" complied with one-way traffic and food and drinks being brought to our tables by the waitresses. The morning started with signing the pub's declaration document, after which we were given our coffees and bacon sandwiches. Twelve cars had entered, but two couldn't make it on the day, whilst two MG Car Club members decided to come in modern cars due to the very wet weather. Only Philip and Rosemary Bayne-Powell persevered in their 1935 MG Magnette, albeit with the hood up!

The Inter Register Club (IRC) one of the invited clubs, fielded three entries, and Richard Kiel had come down from north Essex in his 8hp Jowett, which took him about three hours. Adrian Ducker also came a long way from Ringwood in the New Forest in his Riley Alpine. At 11am we were given our rally instructions and questions in a sealed envelope by the organisers; the documents had been kept for three days in a Covid- free sanitised box! The 46 locations were 6-figure map references, and so once they were plotted in the pub, cars set off in a variety of directions to get to the locations and answer the clues on the question sheet. The rain actually wasn't as bad as had been promised, but still people got wet when they had to hunt for the 2-and 3-point clues. The one point clues could be solved from the car. After 31 /2 hours of searching, we had to be back at the pub, where we posted our answers in a special box, before sitting down for an excellent lunch which came quite quickly whilst the organisers, Alex Lemon and Mike Chittenden, counted up the scores..



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Autumn
Naviscat

Sunday 4th
October 20

The pub was very Covid organized with drinks paid by contactless cards at the table. Soon Alex Lemon read out the results which showed a very wide range of scores from the Winning team of James and Tom Campbell at 46 points down to just 4 points for Mario and Bridget Loulie, friends of our Chairman Chris Leigh; they had come all the way from Cheshire for the event

The best MG and second overall was veteran George Homewood and Rose Carr with 29 points the MGB, after all the MG classes had been amalgamated. The non-MG class was won by John and Sally Reay in a Renault Clio. The IRC class was won by Adrian Ducker and Peter Hanna in the Riley, as IRC man Tom Campbell had left his usual Alvis 12/50 behind, otherwise he would have won the IRC class. Rosettes were handed out to the MG winners, and the IRC winners got a bottle of wine and chocolates. At the end, Chris Leigh thanked Alex and Mike for their hard work in running the event under testing Covid restrictions. The next Naviscat will be the Spring Naviscat organised by Stuart Manser, with the hope that the Covid restrictions might have lifted by then.



Results

Place	Team	Car	Score (pts)	Club
1	James & Tom Campbell	MGB	46	IRC
2	George Homewood & Rose Carr	MGB	29	MGCC
3	John & Sally Reay	Clio	26	MGCC
4	Adrian Ducker & Peter Hanna	Riley	23	IRC
5	Janina Downey & Stuart Manser	Audi	21	MGCC
6	Chris & Janice Leigh	MG ZR	16	MGCC
7	Philip & Rosemary Bayne-Powell	MG NA	15	MGCC
8	Steve & Denise Cherry	MGBGT	13	MGCC
9	Richard Keil & Malcolm Howard	Jowett	12	IRC
10	Mario & Bridget Loulie	MGF	4	MGCC

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Events

Then three
come along
at once!

No events for months Then three come along at once!

Words and pictures by Fairmile Natter Joint Leader Jon Glover

I am only referring to the Club Events organized to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the MGCC all attended by your faithful correspondent.

Firstly, to the main Club Event at Gaydon, on the 12th. Of October, some consolation perhaps for the cancellation of MG Live this benighted year. 200 polished Morris Garage products attended, a sight that would amaze those founders of the Club as they gathered for a group photograph, in the rather muddy car park of the Roebuck Hotel, Stevenage in October 1930. Their machines, as pictures show, had the slightly road worn air of the everyday usage rather than their descendants, largely cosseted and gleaming glimpses of the past (even in my case. 24 years, represented by an early MGF).

The ladies in The Roebuck photo are in the minority and the gents are suitably attired in 3 piece suits and ties – one young chap even sporting Plus Fours! “Plus Fours – you are at a car event young man, not stalking deer or playing the Old Course at St. Andrews”!

(Sorry friends, voices from 90 years ago keep intruding on my thoughts!).

No one sported that sort of proper apparel at Gaydon 90 years later, club logoed body warmers and sweatshirts more the order of the day as a chilly Midlands wind blew across the vast pristine parking bowl in front of the British Motor Museum.

You will have seen the informative reports of the Event in the latest ‘Safety Fast’ as well as a splendid Video that came with a recent MGCC virtual Newsletter .

The Video gives one a chance to admire the huge variety of MG models present from the earliest to the latest including a number of excellent Register Presentations – the T Types in particular are recorded as well as some of the first nasal dew drops of the Winter Season!



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Then three
come along
at once!

Best to keep moving to look, in particular, at the first public outing of the recently restored University Motors MGCGT owned by C Register Chairman Colin Howes.

I followed the body restoration of this quirky vehicle at a haunt of mine – The Village Garage in East Grinstead - a fascinating archeological dig through layers of paint to the original Aubergine colour and other relics of University Motors attempts to jazz up the last lingering C 's by adding attachments in the 1970 style.

A particular feature of the restoration was the remaking of the 2 front wings , originally fabricated to take rectangular headlights. Crude is not the word for the original welding and panel beating, revealed at Village, so obviously University Motors acted in haste and repented at leisure!

Colin has a unique Marmite vehicle, now completed and original after many hours of his own labour. Seeing it made my trip to Gaydon, as did the Museums display of all their MG Land Speed Record MG's.

How sadly nostalgic to look into the cockpit of the Utah Salt Flats car, driven by Stirling Moss, only a few months after the great mans passing.



The courage to cram into that tiny space, imprisoned by the folding steering wheel within a perspex bubble and then drive the thing at 245.6 mph powered by the MGA Twin Cam engine - "It must have been tweaked a bit old boy – mine only does 90!"

So, onto Brooklands the next day – "Brooklands now you're talking! Selby and Hendy in their C Type, Double 12 – 1931 – proper MG's not to mention the Midgets!"

Yes, well our Event, organized by The Fairmile Natter, after an idea by joint leader Ian Ailes, attracted a small but select gathering including Ian's own restored TD, finished and again displayed publicly for the first time, not 20 years to the day after a younger Ian purchased it at Sandown.

Can anyone boast a longer restoration?! – see page 23

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Events

Then three
come along
at once!

Other snapshots from a thankfully dry and warm day included the late Colin Reynolds Cream Cracker posing with us on the Members banking, demonstrating our cars to the paying public on the newly reinstated Start /Finish straight, with commentary by the afore mentioned Ailes – normally shy and retiring but positively oratorical, perhaps buoyed up by relief at finishing his little project! See www.mgccse.co.uk for full Brooklands Radio Broadcast.



And learning about the early origins of car racing on this the first purpose built track . long before MG. Early cars and their pilots were compared to race horses and their jockeys – hence ‘Horse Power ‘ and ‘The Paddock ‘. Races Meetings attracted keen betting with Bookmakers on the course and Brooklands own Race Course type giant Scoreboard – fascinating – fascinating.

Finally, on October 18th to The Owl PB at Kingsfold, the Start / Finish location for the Surrey / Sussex leg of The SEC’s own 90th Anniversary Run.

50 cars took part on another warm and pleasant Autumnal day. At last get the hood down and enjoy 45 miles of a lovely route planned by David Griffiths .The Route book was so good, even Caroline and I managed to follow it without the usual fist fight!

As we motored gently through the Surrey / Sussex highways and byways, we just kept expressing our surprise at still finding such a green and pleasant land, pretty villages and Autumn colour. Scenes that would be recognizable to our 1930 ancestors who would have visited the Owl in the course of their Sunday jaunts in the old J2 or two.

A splendid pub lunch followed and the tireless John Morgan was finally able to enjoy a well-earned, socially distanced Pint! “Tell you what John – how about a repeat for the Centenary?”

“Good idea Chum, but I can’t see many of these modern A’s and B’s - C’s and F’s being around then, can you? Old number one will be of course as she was built to last – here’s to William Morris eh – down the hatch old thing!”

I must get these voices out of my head. I blame too many Pathe voiceovers, which I sometimes do for a living and sometimes for my own amusement!

Many thanks to the organisers of these events, who gave up their time so that we could finally enjoy our MG’s.

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2021

Events

90th
Anniversary
Run West

October 18th
2020

90th Anniversary Run West - Tim Morris

Whilst the sun did not greet us on Sunday 18th October, the day dawned fine and dry, although a little misty at the start. Some 45 entrants gathered for the Western Run centred on The Owl at Kingsfold, on the Surrey / Sussex border. Many eager entrants arrived in the car park by 10.00am and spectators experienced a wonderful display of pristine MGs, many with hoods furred, from the L2 of David and Ann Naylor and Peter Wallace's splendid VA, through virtually all the MG models to the rare 5 lire SV-R of David Hamilton and the latest model from the MG factory, being the all-electric MG ZS EV of Robert Vincent.



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90th
Anniversary
Run West

October 18th
2020



It was good to be able to return to some form of normality and to maximise the day, there was much chat behind masks, whilst respecting social distancing, before adjourning to the pub, where bacon rolls and coffee had been organised. Having taken on board much needed fuel for the circular tour, drivers and navigators departed in groups from about 10.30 am to start the circular tour, which extended to about 46 miles. The varied route included many Surrey and Sussex villages, and great views 'en route' of the North and South Downs. Features along the way included Dunsfold- the home of Top Gear and Loxwood, where the Wey Arun canal has been re-aligned including construction of a new lock to enable it to pass under the road.

The run took about 90 minutes to complete, and on returning to The Owl, many of the participants took advantage of lunch in the pub. A day to be remembered and one to be repeated, hopefully in the not too distant future.



Pictures John Morgan

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90th
Anniversary
Run East

October 18th
2020

MGCC 90th Anniversary (Windmill) Run East

by Richard Hamlyn (picture bottom left p17)



A cynic might say that the pleasure is all in the anticipation. However, they would have been hard pressed to support this adage on Sunday 18 October. It was a delight to wake to sunshine and head to the coastal starting point at the Hampton Inn, Herne Bay.

Entrants, arriving within pre-arranged time slots, were welcomed by marshals who saw everyone parked up safely with correct social distancing. Around twenty five MGs took part with Mike and Helen Walcher's fine TC, several TDs and TFs, a selection of As including Chris and Janice Leigh's twin cam, John and Sheila Bennett's ex Piers Hubbard Mk 2, numerous Bs including Ian Steggle's well-travelled, smart black GT V8, Midgets, MGFs, TFs and ZRs and a duo-tone YA from Hertfordshire.

After refreshments and some catching up with friends, participants set out, at somewhat random Targa Florio/TT style intervals, on a forty six mile tour visiting the sites of eight Kentish Windmills. We were guided by excellent route directions with notes on each individual windmill passed. From these it was clear some were in perfect working order, some were running restorations and others were in more varying states of disrepair: all sounding familiar to some of us owning old cars.

Having left Hampton and Herne Bay, we looped by Herne and Chislet mills before joining the dual carriage way, A299, to blast further east in the sunshine across the marshes towards the Isle of Thanet; no longer truly an 'Island' owing to the silting up of the ancient Wasnum Channel.



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90th
Anniversary
Run East

October 18th
2020



Turning inland through the village of Sarre with its fine post windmill where once the MGCC started a similarly named Windmill Run in the 2000's, we were now driving on country lanes through undulating countryside to reach the water mill at Wickambreaux and then onwards to the restored post mill at Chillenden. Here, some MG owners will have been aware of the proximity of the Griffins Head pub where the VSCC and other classic car clubs meet informally on certain Sundays. Now driving north east, still on narrow roads, we were bound for the Cinque port of Sandwich, but not before passing the smock mills at Eastry and Northbourne. On joining the Sandwich bypass, we could see the impressive 'White Mill' standing amongst the trees; open to the public in 'normal' times, it's now a KCC rural life centre.

So, with eight mills passed and A roads ahead, we were off up through the gears towards our lunch time destination, passing on the way the controversial Manston Airport and the modern technology 'glass' houses of 'Thanet Earth'. Being a beautiful day by the sea, Minnis Bay was 'en fete'. On arrival we were welcomed by MGCC officials and parked our cars on the promenade and by the cafes. In the company of likeminded people, many enjoyed either picnics or pre-booked meals at the eateries along the sea front: a fine ending to a grand day during which the pleasure was far greater than just in the anticipation.



Congratulations and thanks to John and Sheila Bennett for their efficient administration, liaising with the start and finish venues, preparing navigation and factual notes and conjuring up such an interesting tour. Also, thanks to other helpers who ensured everything ran smoothly. In all, an event worthy of any 90th Anniversary, especially - of the oldest one-make car club in the world.

Pictures Chris Leigh

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Events

Table Top
Rally III

Sunday 8th
November

Nightjar
Table Top
Rally

Saturday
21st
November

Report on Table Top Rally III

8th November 2020

by Philip Bayne-Powell

On Sunday 8th November we ran our third Table Top rally for the MG Car Club and the Inter Register Club (IRC) to which we are affiliated and who help to fill our Naviscats. During lockdown we have been running these Table Top rallies to keep members interest and this was the third TT rally that we have organised. The turnout of 31 entrants was very gratifying even if only 5 MGs were entered (in virtual mode) with the rest of the entrants from the IRC with Austins, Rileys, Humber and even two Jowetts.

The format was similar to the previous TT rally with 15 sections, of increasing difficulty, starting off with following spot heights, grid line crossings and road numbers. All sections ended up at a spot on the map where a simple question was to be answered to prove the entrants had arrived at the correct place (e.g. a house name or a local activity). Entrants were divided into Novices and Experts, dependant on their past successes (or not). We had 20 experts, who were mainly experienced returning competitors and 11 Novices, who had easier instructions, as well as half an hour longer to complete the rally. Experts had two hours to complete and all had a point deducted for every minute late at the end,

The winners were Andy and Do Ranson in an Austin 12/4, whilst the best MG was Howard Skelton with his MGA 1600 in 9th place, next MG was Liz and Keith Cooper in their MG TF LE500 in 18th place.

The team awards showed that the MGCC came 4th behind the Riley, Jowett and winning Austin teams, but beating the Humber team.

Two weeks later the last IRC event run by the Austin Ten drivers Club was their "Nightjar" rally, which this year had to be a virtual event with street Google needed to find the clues. Just two MGCC entries were among the 37 competitors.

However, the overall results of the IRC year showed that the MGCC had come 2nd in the team results – our best ever result. On top of that Rosemary and I managed to come 2nd in the individual results.

The Inter Register Club normally run treasure hunts and scatter rallies throughout the country, allowing all to partake in these relatively easy competitions, which complement those run by our own SE Centre. All MGs up to 1963 are now eligible and if anyone wants more information on the IRC events please contact me on 01483 811428 or e-mail 1942mgman@gmail.com.

Last quarter saw the very successful Autumn Meeting and the MGCC 90th Anniversary Run – West both of which were well supported.

Many Natters continue to be active through the restrictions via Zoom or other on-line channels and 2021 may see many more events being run subject to the pandemic guidelines. Below are the Natter contacts to take full advantage of the local club scene:

Surrey Natter Locations

1) **The Ship**, Ship Lane, Mortlake SW14 7QR **and Brooklands Museum Clubhouse**, Weybridge KT13 0QN – 2nd Tuesday at 7.00pm

Danny & Wendy Byrne 01932 829814 - dannybyrne@talktalk.com

2) **The Pheasant Buckland**, Betchworth RH3 7BG – Monthly 3rd Monday

John Morgan 07802 770025 johnv.morgan@btinternet.com

Derek Edwards 01737 765891 - Edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com

3) **The Fairmile**, Portsmouth Road, Nr Cobham KT11 1BW – 2nd Tuesday from 8.30pm

Ian Ailes 01932 856960 - mgv8ian@gmail.com

Jon Glover 07802318950 - jongloveractor@gmail.com

4) **Surrey Wanderers** – Venue varies each month 3rd Wednesday (Lunchtime)

Su Joel - sujoel1@gmail.com

West Sussex Natter Locations

1) **The Black Horse**, Nuthurst RH13 6LH – 4TH Tuesday

David Griffiths 01403 264548 - dr.glazz1@timetalk.co.uk

2) **Sussex Wanderers** – Venue varies each month - 2nd Wednesday (Lunchtime March to December)

David Griffiths 01403 264548 - dr.glazz1@timetalk.co.uk

Middlesex Natter

1) **Queens Head**, Pinner HA5 5PJ – Monthly 1st Tuesday

Gerry Edwards 07768 657797 - gerryedwards@blueyonder.co.uk

January
2021

Local Club
Meets

SE/Eastern
Region
Natter
Update

Many SE members took part in the Autumn Meeting and the MGCC 90th Anniversary events which was a welcome change to the Government restrictions hoist upon all of us due the pandemic.

Some Natters continue to be active, despite recent restrictions with monthly Natter meetings, via zoom and probably catching up on MoTs after the Government 6 month extension in April!

With the roll-out of vaccinations in first quarter 21 let's hope we can return to normality. Below are the Natter contacts to take advantage of the local club scene:

Kent Natter Locations

1) Golden Lion, Mayton Lane, **Broad Oak** CT2 0QJ – **2nd Tuesday from 7.30pm**

Contacts David Smith – 07879 015525 John Clark 07940 769225 –
cmgow.sec@gmail.com

2) The George Inn, Taylors Lane, **Trotiscliffe** ME19 5DR – **4th Wednesday from 7.30pm** Contact Ian Russell 07580 498514 – mgashnatter@gmail.com

3) The Plough Inn, Stalisfield, Faversham ME13 0HY – **4th Thursday at 7.30pm**

William Opie 01795 521846 – willopie@aim.com

Ray Ruffels 07970 640219 - raywillmg@gmail.com

4) George and Dragon, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0NN – **4th Tuesday**

Grahame White 01892 654591 – pgwhitemg@gmail.com

5) Kentish Nomads – **Venue varies each month 2nd Wednesday (Lunchtime)**

Ian Russell 07580 498514 – mgashnatter@gmail.com

6) East Kent Wanderers - **Venue varies each month 1st Wednesday (Lunchtime)**

John Bennett 01277637813 - johnbennett698@yahoo.com

East Sussex Natter Location

1) The British Queen, The Triangle, Lower Willingdon, **Eastbourne** BN20 9PG

4th Tuesday monthly

Dennis Webb 07885485255 dcmotorseastbourne@man.com

2) Ashdown Adventurers – **Venue varies each month on 1st Wednesday (Lunchtime March – November)**

Richard Clark 07818 420921 – ricky140clark@btinternet.com

January
2021

UPO 767N- MY STORY

From my current custodian - Malcolm Nicholls

I was assembled (or born as you humans would say) in April 1974 at the MG factory in Abingdon and who would have thought that here I am 46 years later still going strong. I looked splendid in my new livery of citron yellow with black interior with a 3.5 litre Rover aluminium alloy engine producing 137 BHP.

Members
Corner

MGB GT V8

In August 1974 I was sent to the Wadhams Stringer show rooms in Chichester and given my West Sussex registration number. Priced at £2,294 I soon attracted a buyer and my home became Home Farm Cottages in Cholesbury, Bucks. Two years later in March 1976 I was sold so went to Teddington where I resided for another two years. But horror of horrors I was traded in to the local MG garage in Twickenham and sold on to a new owner who lived in Marble Arch who kept me for another 2 years. In 1980 I was sold again this time remaining in London in Peckham then moving again to Brentford Dock with my existing owner. In 1982 I was acquired by a new owner in Wimbledon but this was not a happy time as he sold me after 5 months and I went to live in Slough. For some reason, of which I am not quite sure I was bought by a gentleman who lived in Solihull who moved later to Grantham in Lincolnshire. However, I must have been well liked because I resided with him for 8 years. My chequered movements were continued in 1994 when I was sold again and this time went to live in Ramsgate, Kent. By 2005 I was looking somewhat shabby and was rescued by a Director of a local company who wanted me as his company car. I was sent to Maidstone Sports Cars for a complete refurbishment and my colour was changed to British Racing Green. At the end of this I felt completely rejuvenated, however, my joy was short lived as a change in circumstances meant I was sold on again and at the end of 2008 I found myself in the yard of Fishers MG Garage in Sydenham. Luckily for me I was spotted by my current owner who after some hesitation and persuasion from his son eventually decided that I was the car for him and a deal was done. So I went to live with him in Sanderstead in January 2009 and have stayed there ever since!

We have been all over the country to various MG events and even to France and Belgium. So here I am, all my needs are met, servicing and repairs carried out and a current MOT to boot. I even live in a nice warm garage. What more could an MGB GT V8 require.



January
2021

Members
Corner

My MG TD
Restoration

Labour of Love for 22 Years - Ian & Kay Ailes

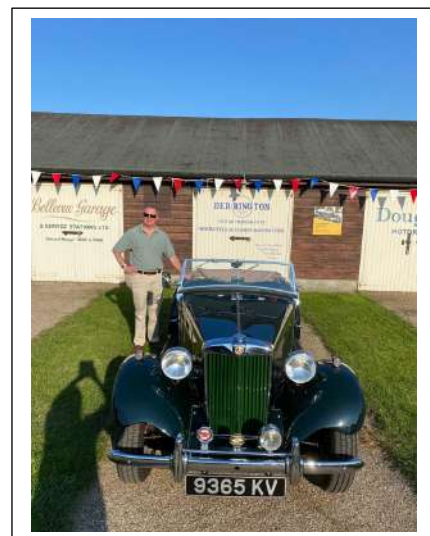
I bought my TD, chassis No. 24680, in October 1998 at the Sandown Park MG day. It was very cold I could not afford a runner but managed to do a good deal!



It came from a dealer in Taunton and had been in a barn since 1972 so needed a complete strip down and rebuild. The car started life in March 1953, black with red interior, very popular then and was exported to California. It came back to Coventry in 1964 and was re-registered there, hence the unusual registration, 9365 KV. It's now Woodland Green and green interior which is what I would have ordered if I had been around in 1953.

I thought it would take 2-3 years, 5 at the most to get it running but having made some new friends at the Ripley natter (which I now run from the Fairmile) I realised a full rebuild was the only option. I tagged along with my TC pals, joined the T Register and went to their rebuild days. They are probably the friendliest Register in the Club so I reunited with them for the fire up in April last year and it started first pull!!! It's taken a year to iron out the running problems and finish but now it looks like its road ready. The car has been totally rebuilt using as much of the original as possible, to full UK RHD specification, with parts sourced from everywhere including the USA and Australia.

Here we are on our first run up to Brooklands!



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 (blue or red)	£3.50 (special offer)
MGCCSE Mugs	£5



Tony Atcheson, our Treasurer, now manages Regalia with the help of our Secretary Austin Banner.

A recent audit has determined that there are stocks to clear. Please take a look at the above and see if there is anything of interest, in particular the polo shirts, t-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 payments by Paypal, so if you wish to make a purchase please contact Austin Banner at Austin.banner@gmail.com.

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

Chairman	Derek Edwards	01737 765891 edwards.mgmadness@ntlworld.com
Vice-Chairman	Chris Leigh	candleigh@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	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	John Davies	01737 241971 santana@sweethaaven.biz
Members	Roy Baker	07768 314226 roycbaker@gmail.com

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, Trottscliffe	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

MG QT Replica – Nick Holyer with his completed QT Restoration featured in the October 20 newsletter

