**MGCC South- East Centre**

**AGM February 2024**

**Secretarial and Membership Report for 2023**

Introduction

2023 was a full year for the Centre.

April saw the Centre’s return to competitive driving with an Autosolo at Filching Manor kart track.

This was a great success due to John Morgan’s organisational skills and boundless energy. See John’s report.

We had no fewer than two “annual” trophy presentations, one at Kingscote vineyard, our first open air presentation, and one more conventionally at the annual lunch. Unfortunately, this meant that some trophy winners only got to keep their trophies for half a year, but that brought the Centre back on track for annual awards after the confusion wrought by covid.

2023 saw the start of the yearlong Centenary celebrations for MG cars and our first-place rosette winners were gifted the Club’s very smart Centenary badge.

Some of our members were able to attend MG /Triumph 100 at Silverstone where the Centre had a display in the marquee.

The Centre’s own Centenary event held at the Bluebell Railway was held in July. It was a great success, even if one of our guest’s car decided to move on its own while its driver was on the train! Our Centre’s rally plaques proved very popular, and sales were brisk. Just a few are left. See John Morgan if you would like one.

The annual lunch saw the inauguration of the “Secretary’s challenge” which encouraged members to dig out their rally plates, mementos and prizes and display them on their cars. Just a pity that the secretary was unable to prevent the event being held in the mother of rainstorms. He will have to try harder in 2024.

Committee Members Activity

It was with great sadness that we reported that our Centre President Derek Edwards died in November. He was given a fitting funeral in December and Tim Morris and Anne, Derek’s wife were able to produce an obituary for publication. Derek is greatly missed, and our condolences are with Anne and the family.

The committee members have again worked extremely hard and cheerfully for the Centre.

Detail is available in each of the officer and committee members’ reports.

I am very grateful that they make my life as secretary straightforward and even fun – sometimes.

**Ron Kemp** our treasurer has brought us through 2023 with a steady hand and a cool head. The Centre had a surplus on its activities which enabled it to purchase some much-needed kit.

**John Morgan** our vice chairman, competitions secretaryand natter leaderhas added regalia and merchandise to his portfolio. His organisation of our first Autosolo for many years was a triumph.

His work output remains prodigious which leaves the secretary somewhat breathless.

**Andrew Mitchell** our events secretary, who is still gainfully employed, again put together a full and excellent events programme for 2023.

**William Opie** (with Ray Ruffels). The quarterly newsletter and “Safety Fast” notes speak for themselves. The Centre’s activities are recorded and promoted with enthusiasm, skill and flair.

William is also a natter leader.

**Diana Calvert** keeps a close eye on changes in our membership, contacts all our new members and puts them in contact with the appropriate members in their area.

**John and Gwen Davies** look after all the trophies and awards, ensure everyone gets their award and / or trophy properly engraved and presented at the appropriate time. They are also documenting the history of the Centre. John has been particularly busy this year with two “annual” awards to look after.

**Alex Lemon** started the year with a root and branch overhaul of the regalia and merchandise, but unfortunately work pressures necessitated his standing down from the committee.

I and the Centre are very grateful for the work he has put in to date and hopefully we will entice him back in due course.

**Ian Russell** continues to run a Natter and a Wanderer group and chairs the Natter and Wanderer meetings.

**Tim Morris** has driven the Centre with skill and enthusiasm. He has moved the Centre’s online presence up another gear, particularly with the YouTube channel.

The annual lunch with trophy presentations was held at Stanhill Court in 2023. There were 54 diners.

Our invited speaker was Jonathan Suckling who talked about record breaking in the fastest estate car on the planet. The secretary disrupted the normal smooth event with his secretary’s challenge.

MG 100 Southeast

The Centre initiated and leads a multi club planning group for this event which will run in May 2024.

The Centre hosts the planning meetings and the Centre’s committee members are taking a leading role. The group is chaired by Tim Morris. Full details are available on the event’s website.

Some figures

During 2023 the Centre put on 7 major events plus 3 Alternative Pride of Ownership competitions.

The Centre had a presence at “Cars at the Castle” at Hever Castle, joined the MGF register for fish and chips at Hayling Island held a display at Brooklands Best of British Day, Cranleigh Classic car show and Brooklands motorsport festival.

We held 12 Committee meetings, 6 Natter and Wanderer Leaders’ meetings and 7 Centenary sub-committee meetings all via Zoom. There were 2 face to face meetings at Brooklands and the chairman and secretary attended two face to face council meetings plus the chairman attended a further council via Zoom.

Austin J Banner

Secretary MGCC SE Centre

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