



Chairman's Report for 2025

We celebrated 95 years of the MG Car Club this year and that is a reminder as to the heritage of your club, the original MG Club. In the South East we marked the occasion with our inaugural South East Run in May, a trip on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway complete with engine headboard, Summer Gathering and Annual Lunch in November.

At the lunch the main club's vice-chairman, Michael Murkin, presented our committee with the Nuffield Gold Cup for the most

"meritorious" Centre. We were very proud to win this again, after 45 years! That is another link to the club's history as the Gold Cup was presented to the Club by Lord Nuffield himself in 1936. The South Eastern Centre first won it in 1949 and then a further eleven times until it was last awarded to us in 1980. Forty-five years later we won it again! Let's not leave such a big gap next time.

However, we do live in the present, and the club is making its own history as we move through the modern era. Ever mindful of our responsibilities we balance, for the first time, the climate, through carbon offset (3.5tonnes in 2025) and also support our community through our annual charity fundraising and I am delighted that we have exceeded the £1000 target to help Royal Marsden Cancer Care. Some of our Natters have also raised funds for their own local charities and I would mention the Sussex Wanderers who have raised an incredible £2500 for Riding for the Disabled, a charity they have supported for many years. Other charities benefitting from our natters include Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Alzheimers Society. A new charity for 2026 will be announced at this AGM. Donations for the main charity are always visible on our Just Giving charity page so you know where your donations are going.

We are one of the few historic car clubs that can look to the future whilst appreciating the past. That past was embraced at the Lands End Trial this year when "Old Number One" returned to Blue Hills for the first time in 100 years. It is fantastic that we can compare that first purpose built open-top MG to the very latest open-top MG one hundred years later - the MG Cyberster. An amazing example of technological progress in a century - I wonder what the next century will bring?

2025 saw the introduction of some new events – the South East run, intended to be a single main run for the Centre had to have a last-minute change of end point as Herstmonceux Castle was over running its renovations. Not to worry as we will now be finishing the second South East Run at the Castle in May. Our grassroots motorsport offering also expanded with the introduction of two evening autotests in Newdigate. We are grateful for the use of this flat field and to our competition secretary, John Morgan, for arranging these and all our motoring competitions. Once again in 2026 we will have 2 autotests, 1 autosolo, 2 naviscats and a scavenger hunt to salve our competitive itch. For those who enjoy polishing and showing their



MGCC President John Day presents the Gold Cup to the South East Centre at the Club's AGM in October.

MGs we have 3 concours/PoO events and 3 Alternative PoO events in which your MGs can shine.

We will also be looking forward to MG Fest 26 which is based at Brands Hatch. The Centre will be helping with the running of this main MG Car Club event and will be organising a road run on the day before from near Brands Hatch to Lullingstone Castle.

You can remind yourself of the 2025 season by going to our ever-growing YouTube channel where a new video “MGCCSE 2025 Looking Back” can be seen - and don’t forget to subscribe to our YouTube channel when you are there!

Following our successful “Review” day in April for the committee we have introduced a new magazine for the Centre. “Spark” is a departure from the standard newsletter and now includes feature articles, a magazine layout and classified adverts as well as event reports and previews and news from the natters and wanderer groups. There have been four editions so far and I hope that you have enjoyed reading them. The articles deliberately cover the whole range of MGs and MG history to reflect the interest of members from the early vintage years through to the most modern and ever-changing modern MG era. Sometimes it’s hard to keep up with what MG Motor are doing next!

The review also saw us looking in detail at how the Centre operates and several ideas sprung from that which have influenced the committee’s decision making throughout the season. One example is the annual lunch which now incorporates two sections – an awards ceremony in the morning followed by lunch and a guest speaker. Members can come to the awards without the lunch or vice versa which led to increased numbers this year. Another innovation was member, Simon Gray, performing two Nosmo King monologues to piano accompaniment – an unusual and enjoyable item for this type of event.

I stopped producing the MGF Register quarterly FastForward in December after 20 years of doing so. Whilst that was a sad occasion it does mean I can now concentrate more on South East matters and Spark magazine with Will Opie. I have also been tinkering with AI and you can expect more AI images/adverts etc in the future – not to everyone’s taste but it is improving all the time. Below is an AI image of my own MG collection at Brooklands in the snow!

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to the committee and the natter/wanderer leaders who all perform a splendid job in running the Centre and providing MG entertainment for our members in the South East. From large main events to regular pub meets and runs out they are all possible thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of these volunteers.

Tim Morris, Chair MG Car Club South East

February 2026



AI image of my MG collection



The 95th Anniversary headboard on a little train at RHDR