

**MGCC South- East Centre  
AGM February 2026  
Secretarial and Membership Report for  
2025**



Introduction

This is my 6<sup>th</sup> Annual report.

The appearance of a huge sink hole in Godstone just a few hundred metres away from our venue added some spice, interest, amusement and inconvenience to last year's AGM.

The hole is still there but will be hopefully fully dealt with by next years' AGM.

The pace in the secretarial office eased somewhat in relation to 2024 after the flurry of activity to organise MG100 SE.

However, we thought that the time had come not to rest on our laurels but to review the Centre's activities in more detail than is possible at routine committee meetings, so we held a

**"Review and Reset"** meeting in February.

We were delighted to be awarded the **Nuffield God Cup** by Main Club for MG 100 SE, which was presented to Tim and me on behalf of the Centre at council last October and was re-presented by the vice chairman Michael Murkin to the team at our awards ceremony and lunch in November.

Personal

The load lugger (my RAV 4) that I used to move equipment to events was getting quite long in the tooth, so I traded it in for a newer model.

The price, the value and the badge meant that it is a nearly new MG HS.

At least I can go to events now and not hide the car after unloading.



I also am getting quite mature and passed the **80** mark in December. I can't provide the Centre with a newer me so you will need to take note!



Review and Reset Day

This is the first time in my tenure that the committee has taken time to step back and take stock.

## AGM 5

We met in February in a pub (where else), and we were delighted that Michael Murkin was able to join us.

I made a full report to committee which is available if anyone would like to see it.

A headline results sheet was also produced which I have reproduced here with my colour coding.

### MGCC SE Centre

#### Results of the Review and Reset Day 2025

*This is intended as a headline document only. Details are available elsewhere and personnel may need to be changed and augmented.*

Newsletter	Review length, change style, change name – Spark	William / Tim
Trophies	Review and update the use of each trophy Set up a working party	
Awards Ceremony/ Annual Lunch	Tune the programming. <b>Seek sponsorship</b>	Philip/ Austin
Comms	Discontinue X, New headlines. Increase range, content for YT Develop History section and add feature items	Tim Morris <b>Need deputy</b>
Finance	Improve booking system to facilitate info to organisers/ treasurer – sponsors for events/ new magazine	Ron Kemp <b>Need deputy</b>
Regalia	Limited editions, some non-clothing items	John Morgan
Natters	Inaugurate a new natter	Ian Russell, John Morgan, Austin Banner, Others
Main Club	Provide committee agendas and minutes and briefing doc to Michael Murkin	Austin Banner
Archive	<b>Central location for physical archive,</b> Develop electronic archive (website display)	John Davies, John Morgan Austin Banner, Tim Morris
Events	<b>Auto population of entries?</b> new signage	Andrew Mitchell, Tim Morris John Morgan Austin Banner

Key;

Largely or completely done

In hand and progress being made

Still to do

The annual lunch with trophy presentation

Philip Roussel-Smith organised this year's event which was very successful with increased numbers such that we needed to move to a larger room at short notice. Only 2 trophies were remaining to be delivered to their recipients after the ceremony.

At lunch, Simon Gray brilliantly delivered two monologues to piano accompaniment and Dr Ian Pogson again delivered an insight into the transfer of MG production to China.

We hope to return to Hartfield Manor in 2026, probably for the last time as the Manor has been sold and is due for extensive refurbishing and re-modelling.

#### Secretary's challenge

Once more I set the attendees to the annual lunch a challenge, with a chance to win one of this year's batch of my "MG Nuts" turned in my garage.



This time performance challenged was modulated by age of car/ owner and driver. I am pleased to say I still had a good entry.

The challenge for me is to design a challenge for this year and produce a suitable prize!

#### Natters and Wanderer Groups

Overall, the natter and wanderer groups are thriving. A **new natter in Tudeley** is slowly coming into being and I am hopeful it will develop into a fully functioning natter with its own leader in due course.

The relationship of the Centre to some of the groups is still somewhat tenuous and I think that is probably to the detriment of both. This is a work in progress, but I would encourage natter and wanderer goers to seriously consider helping with the running of their group and joining the Natter and Wanderer Leader's meeting on Zoom. The Centre would love to have your input.

#### A Bee in My Bonnet

Quite frequently I hear complaints that the cost of our activities is too high.

This concerns and disappoints me and is not good PR for the Club.

The true situation is;

- The Centre receives no grant from Main Club and is financially dependent on raising its own income in order to function.
- Our primary income is from event fees augmented by occasional donation and sponsorship.
- It follows that our activities need to make a surplus to cover unfunded costs like equipment, consumables and organising expenses.
- The Centre does not expect individuals to cover their expenses when doing things for the Club and Ron our treasurer reimburses claims quickly and efficiently.
- There is a natural desire to keep "ticket" prices to a minimum, which the Centre does.
- The centre has sufficient funds in the account, so all is well.

Not really.

- Looking at the situation more carefully, it transpires that expenses are frequently (commonly) not claimed due to the generosity of our members.
- This means that many (most) of our events are under-priced and probably undervalued.
- My best guess is that this could be as much as 20-30%.

#### Resolution for the future

- An attempt will be made to estimate more accurately unclaimed expenses.
- The impact on prices and the extent to which prices have been subsidised can then be published.
- A more realistic picture of the cost of running the Centre will be revealed.
- An answer for complainants will be available.

#### Relations with Main Club

We congratulate Lorraine Noble- Thompson on being elected chairman and Michael Murkin as Vice-chairman. Vivian Vleeshouvers was elected as overseas director, and with Angie Haughton as treasurer there are now 3 women on the board of the Club.

Tim Morris and Austin Banner attended both Councils and the AGM in 2025 on behalf of the Centre.

#### 2025 figures

During 2025 the Centre put on 11 events **including 3 competitive driving events** and 3 Alternative Pride of Ownership competitions.

The Centre had a presence at "Cars at the Castle" at Hever Castle and at the Bromley Pageant of Motoring.

We held 9 Committee meetings, 4 Natter and Wanderer Leaders' meetings and 1 sub-committee meeting all via Zoom. In addition we held the all-day review and reset day in person.

#### Membership

In December 2025 the Centre had a membership of 1238 of which 204 are joint memberships. The figure for December 2024 was 1282, representing a reduction of 44 or approximately 3-4 per month. Although this is a similar picture to many membership organisations, it remains a concern and both Main Club and the Centre are focussing on both recruitment and retention of members.

#### Committee Appreciation

It is a privilege and mostly fun and rewarding to work with this excellent committee.

The chairman and vice chairman are adept at staving off any incipient boredom on the part of the secretary. Everyone pulls hard and as a result the Centre, I believe is in rude health.

My thanks to each and every one of them.

Austin J Banner  
Secretary MGCC SE Centre  
January 2026