

MGCC South-East Annual General Meeting
Held on Saturday 22nd February 2025 at 11.00
At St Nicholas Youth Centre Godstone RH9 8DT

22.2 1

Welcome to members.

The chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

Michael Murkin (MGCC director responsible for SE Centre) and his wife Marion were welcomed to the meeting.

There were 25 members present, and the meeting was recorded for the recording to be placed on the Centre's YouTube channel.

It was noted that all the reports for this meeting had been published on the Centre's website except for the treasurer's report and accounts which had been provided as hard copies.

The agenda and minutes of the last meeting were also provided as hard copies.

Some reports were also displayed in hard copy on the display boards.

22.2 2

Apologies for absence

Ray Ruffels, Ian Ailes, Jon Glover, Gerry Edwards, Malcolm Nichols, Doreen Nichols, David Oakenfold, Su Joel, Peter Haynes, Maria Charobel, Richard Clark, Gwen Davies, Diana Calvert, Peter Calvert.

22.2 3

Minutes of the AGM held on February 24th, 2024.

The minutes were received.

John Morgan noted that there is an omission from the minutes.

The AGM had been asked to approve a committee size of 15 which it had done unanimously.

The motion was;

"The SE Centre committee proposes that the maximum number of members serving on the committee should not exceed 15."

The amendment to the minutes was approved unanimously as were the remaining minutes and revised minutes will be signed by the chairman

22.2 4

Matters arising from the minutes previously notified to the secretary.

There were none.

22.2 5

Chairman's report

The chairman's report had been published on the Centre's website.

He introduced his report with an audio-visual presentation about the MG Car Club produced for the Historic Motoring awards.

He noted that the SE Centre is the oldest and largest in the Club. He showed a copy of the Southeast Centre Bulletin from November 1966 which illustrated the Nuffield Gold Cup awarded

to SE centre in 1966 for Enthusiasm, and enterprise.

He drew parallels between the Centre in the 60s and the current Centre and its activities.

Our own newsletter will be developed further into a more magazine format.

The centre has shown enterprise with its recent review and reset day.

He noted that Sammy Davis, Ron Gammons and Allan Scott in his J2 were mentioned as racing at the time and some speaking to the Centre.

He was pleased to note that Su Scott was present at the meeting. The Meeting held a one-minute silence in respect for, and memory of Allan and other members who had died during last year.

He reported that £2803 was raised for Prostate Cancer UK last year some of this money came from sponsorship and some from the sale of books from the late Derek Edwards and Piers Hubbard.

The charity winning the vote for the coming year is The Royal Marsden Hospital.

22.2 6

A preliminary report of the committee's Review and Reset Day

The secretary apologised for the fact that his printed notes that should have been available for the meeting were in fact still in his office.

These notes have not yet been seen by the participants in the meeting and so were only draft.

The committee will be discussing and implementing some of the outcomes of the meeting which will be made public as that happens.

He pointed out that the current committee has been running with little change for some years and that membership has been reducing over recent years.

Each committee member responsible for a specific activity would lead a discussion for that area.

William Opie will address the issue of the Newsletter.

Trophies will be the subject of small working party to bring them into line with the current activities of the Centre.

The website is to be addressed by Tim.

Ron Kemp gave a very useful and informative presentation on the much of the detail of the workings of the spreadsheet that he uses and the interaction that he has with main Club.

Michael Murkin (main club director) joined us and was able to get to know us and bring us up to speed with main club thinking, particularly in relation to membership recruitment and retention.

The Centre is collecting articles of historical interest. The committee will be considering an appropriate policy for storage and display of both physical articles and electronic material.

Tim Morris has already started a History section on the website.

There was some disappointment that we had been unable to encourage the Young Members Branch to involve themselves with the competitions that are organised by the Centre.

The committee meets online. This has been very successful, but the success of the review day has encouraged us to propose one face to face meeting each year timed well clear of the AGM.

Membership. Diana will continue as membership secretary, but the welcome material will be revised and due to pressures at home activities requiring face to face working will be largely undertaken by others.

22.2 7

Treasurer's report and annual accounts to Y/E 31st December 2023

The treasurer's report was available on the website.

The accounts and balance sheet were available in hard copy and distributed to members. Ron Kemp delivered a comprehensive power point presentation and then noted some highlights.

The Centre made a surplus of £112.

All events in 2024 made a surplus.

MG 100 was expensive, and sponsorship came in later than hoped which meant some ticket prices were higher than may have been necessary.

Moss provided £4.5k and MG Motor £6k.

The final surplus from MG 100 was distributed to MGOC, MGCC SE and the charities.

Reserves are now just under £8000 including a legacy donation of £1000 from the wife of the late John Brinkhurst.

The majority of income and expenditure is on social events.

Total income £34k, Total expenditure £23k giving a surplus £11k. Administration expenses £10k. Providing an overall surplus for the year.

Total assets are £33k including trophies.

The Centre is financially sound and has a stable future.

There followed some discussion about the security and insurance for trophies in members possession. It was agreed that this issue would be raised at committee.

22.2 8

Secretary and Membership report

The secretary's report was published on the website.

He made the following comments.

The highlight of the year was MG 100 SE.

He thanked members of the committee for their support to the chairman and secretary and even making the task sometimes quite fun.

The committee works hard to run a very active centre.

We are looking to elect Lis Woolley to the committee. She has been attending the last two committee meetings as an observer.

The Centre ran 7 major events, plus 3 Alternative Pride of Ownership, there was a presence at "Cars at the Castle".

We held 10 committee meetings, 5 natter and wanderer leaders' meetings, 5 Centenary sub committee meetings, 3 other ad hoc working parties and the chairman and secretary attended 2 face to face main club council meetings. The chairman attended a further council meeting.

Membership is steadily declining both in the Centre and at main club.

The figures indicate an increase in the last month which may indicate a turning point but may be just a "blip".

AGM 2

Main Club is concerned about declining membership and Michael Murkin outlined the action that the club is taking.

Most new members are coming via social media rather than at shows.

Main club is seeking to recruit a member of staff specifically to take responsibility for the club's social media presence.

Currently there are 29k followers on Facebook and 17800 followers on Instagram.

These figures are well in excess of current membership. CRBs also have followers on these platforms in excess of their membership.

Most new members are aged 40-60. The club is intending to do professional targeted social media.

Retention of members is also important, and emphasis of member financial benefits via the Advantage scheme and the Affinity Scheme for new cars can encourage members to renew.

In addition, MG Car Club insurance (via Peter James) provides very competitive bespoke insurance.

Tim Morris presented a slide which analysed the demographic of the Centre's membership. The majority of memberships are single memberships. There are currently no additional benefits to joint membership.

Digital membership is increasing.

22.2 9

Competition secretary's report (and regalia).

This report had been published online and reproduced in hard copy on the Centre's display boards.

What distinguishes MGCC from other clubs is the sporting heritage.

The Centre also has a sporting heritage which we are trying to maintain.

The events provided are designed for people "to have a go". The auto solo enables fast driving but not very fast because of the small size of the track. In 2024 14 MGs entered the event which was run in association with the Sevenoaks and district motor club.

It would be good to involve young people, perhaps in a similar vein to the VSCC which hold family events when younger members of the family take part.

We will be introducing mid-week evening autotests on grass in 2025.

Our membership of MSUK means that our members have access to other club's events.

Regalia.

This is now online with ACE embroidery. It is proposed to introduce some short term special items and some non-clothing items.

22.2 10

Events secretary's report

This report has been published online, and it has been reproduced on the Centre's display boards.

AGM 2

We held some excellent events in 2024 including MG100 SE.

In 2025 we look forward to the Autosolo at Filching the BBQ and PoO at the Kentish Horse. We will visit Hever Castle for Classic Cars at The Castle for the excellent price of £10 per car.

We will have a stand at Bromley Pageant of Motoring which will run at Ardingly. The summer gathering will be at Chiddingstone in August, and we will also be going to Newhaven Fort.

We have our first SE Run in May starting from Denbies vineyard.

He thanked members for their assistance with running the events, none of which had made a loss.

Jenny Morgan suggested that the committee consider making someone specifically responsible for advertising. Other Centres, MGOC groups, clubs and publications could be specifically targeted.

22.2 11

Safety Fast scribe and Newsletter editor report

William Opie's report has been published on the website.

Safety Fast copy needs to be provided well in advance which results in the occasional inaccuracy.

Ray Ruffels and William Opie have been producing the Newsletter for 6 years.

The click through rate is only about 24%.

The proposal is to shorten the newsletter with references to other material rather than full publication and more and larger pictures. There will be a name change probably to "Spark".

22.2 12

Archive, Trophies and History report.

John Davies' report is published on the website.

The purpose of each of the Centre's trophies is under review. There was also a discussion about the security for and insurance of the valuable trophies. Effective insurance is not available.

In the past there was a greater emphasis on competition and racing.

One of our primary trophies was awarded to Vic and Andrew Young for their racing achievements.

John would like to see the Banana trophy retained for competition to a SE Centre member.

The history of the Banana trophy was available to view and will be placed on the website.

Bognor Regis Motor Club have returned a SE Centre Trophy to John Davies. It was last awarded in 2001.

There is an ongoing issue with the cost of issuing keepsake trophies to those who do not collect them in person.

Archive.

Some early MGs were present at MG 100 SE, although their owners were not MGCC

AGM 2

members.

Philip Bayne- Powell has an audio tape of George Eyston which can be digitised.

22.2 13

Webmasters report

This is available on the website.

Most of the Centre's communication is now via the internet.

The Centre will no longer be using Twitter / X.

The Centre will use Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Website has nearly 24k views in 2024. The newsletter will direct members to specific pages of the website.

YouTube had 21.5k views with 99 videos (now 100). All the videos are branded MGCC SE.

There are 428 subscribers. Since the start of using YouTube there have been 1.6m impressions resulting in 57700 views, about 3,500 hours viewing time.

There are 1058 followers on the Facebook main page but only 163 members on the chat group.

There are 428 followers on Instagram. The number is growing and tends to be used by the younger members.

Mailchimp reaches over 90% of the membership and this is augmented by Natters also contacting members.

Main Club has a central register of all events which is populated by CRBs. The SE Centre has started loading its events to the system.

There is need for an assistant / deputy to provide more resilience in the system.

22.2 14

Programme for 2025

The completed programme is available on the Centre's website and the printed calendar is now available for distribution.

There are changes being made to the destination for the SE run due to overrunning works at Herstmonceux Castle.

Committee elections

The secretary asked if there were any further nominations for any of the officer positions or committee membership. There were none.

22.2 15

Election of officers

Chairman – Tim Morris	Proposed Austin Banner	Seconded John Davies
This was carried unanimously.		
Secretary – Austin J Banner	Proposed Tim Morris	Seconded William Opie
This was carried unanimously.		
Treasurer – Ron Kemp	Proposed Austin Banner	Seconded Tim Morris
This was carried unanimously.		

22.2 16

Election of committee members

Members for re-election

The following committee members have indicated their willingness to be re-elected. They have all been proposed by Tim Morris and seconded by Austin Banner.

Competition secretary (and merchandise) / Vice chairman–	John Morgan
Events secretary –	Andrew Mitchell
Membership secretary –	Diana Calvert
History, Awards, and trophies –	John Davies
Safety Fast scribe and Newsletter–	William Opie (committee) and Ray Ruffels joint editors.
Webmaster and social media –	Tim Morris
Natter and Wanderer Leaders liaison –	Ian Russell
Committee member –	Gwen Davies
Committee member –	Philip Roussel-Smith

This was carried unanimously

New member election

Lis Woolley – proposed by Ian Russell, Seconded by Gwen Davies
This was carried unanimously.

22.2 17

Any other business previously notified to the secretary.

Jon Langford suggested that winners of trophies be informed at the event that they have won a trophy and how to receive it.

Vic Young reported that he is involved with the Dum Ball rally for charity. All details are on the website. He encouraged members to make a donation.

22.2 18

Time, date, and place of the next AGM

TBA

Austin J Banner
Secretary MGCC SE Centre
February 2025

Signed
Tim Morris - Chairman