

# THE M.G. CAR CLUB

~~Proprietors: The M.G. Car Club (Proprietary) Limited~~  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES, ENGLAND

Founded in 1930



President:  
Capt. George Eyston, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.

Chairman:  
John Thornley, O.B.E.  
General Secretary:  
~~Edward McCook~~  
Gordon Cobban

## ULSTER CENTRE.

March Newsletter, 1969.

Dear Member,

The time has come round again for another Newsletter. As I have not received any articles, letters, or comments from other members you are going to have to put up with my 'blurb'. Again I appeal for your comments for inclusion in this newsletter.

The Committee have at last drawn up a programme of events which we hope will suit all tastes. All that is needed now is for you to partake and enjoy yourselves. The programme is as follows:-

Thursday, March 6th. Noggin 'n Natter, in the bar at the Stormont Hotel at about 8.0 p.m.

Saturday, March 22nd. Gymkhana, at Maghaberry Airfield. This is a light hearted motoring event which can be enjoyed by all, no matter what age or make of motor car you drive. It will start at 2.30 p.m. and will consist of 7 or 8 tests of your driving - not the car's - ability. Even if you cannot compete, we shall need helpers. If you wish to help, please contact me or Bill Sherwood beforehand. Helpers will, of course, collect marks as Marshals for the Enthusiast's Trophy, as will competitors. See later for details of the Enthusiast's Trophy.

How do you get there? Proceed to Lisburn and leave by the Moira/Lurgan road. On the outskirts of the town, about 200 yards past a pedestrian crossing, fork right onto the Ballinderry road. About 1 mile past the gates of the Lissue Children's Hospital there is a cross roads. Go straight over, and in about 0.8 mile ~~th~~ turn left opposite the Church. This turning is easy to miss if you are going fast! The road goes under a railway bridge, and then turn right at the X-rds. sign-posted Maghaberry. Keep on this road for about 5 miles. At a gateway on the right hand side of the road, which will be marked, turn up and follow the arrows.

PLEASE CLOSE THE GATE AFTER YOU. You will be given details of the tests when you get there. The entry fee is 5/- per car. As the airfield is being kindly lent to us - please do not use the runways as a racetrack, as there may be cattle roaming free. Also please try not to leave any litter. On our behaviour depends whether we shall be able to use this venue for other tests later.

Wednesday, 9th. April. First Annual Dinner.

This will be held at Drumkeen House Hotel (near Supermac) - 8.0 p.m. for 8.30p.m. Dress will be informal. The cost will be 21/- per head and wife, girlfriend, boyfriend as the case may be, are welcome. We shall have a private room after the Dinner, and there will be an extended license. After the Dinner, J.K. Armstrong will present the Centre on behalf of the North East Centre of the M.G.C.C. with a Trophy which will be known as the "Enthusiast's Trophy". Also, Leslie Porter Ltd., will present the Centre with a Trophy. Details of how the Trophies can be won comes later. It is important that I know how many people are going to be present at the Dinner by 1st. April at the very latest. No bookings can be accepted after this date. If you are going, please fill in the form at the end of this letter and return to me, together with PO/cheque made out to "M.G. Car Club, Ulster Centre".

Saturday, 19th. April. Driving Test Meeting

This is the first of the series of Driving Test Meetings for the Leslie Porter Trophy. More details and entry forms will be circulated later. It is likely that this will also be held at Maghaberry.

Thursday, 1st. May. Noggin 'n Natter, Stormont Hotel.

(sorry, I forgot to mention that there will also be a Noggin 'n Natter on

Thursday, 3rd. April)

Saturday, 10th. May. Organized Run to Bishops Court Race Meeting.

It is the intention that we meet at some place prior to the racing and proceed down to the circuit together. I hope that we can have a really good turnout of M.G. cars (preferably clean) and that this will be an added attraction to the motor racing and a good advertisement for the Club. So keep that Saturday free. I will send more details of where to meet etc., later.

Friday, 30th. May. Evening Social Event.

The nature of this event has yet to be decided. Any suggestions?

(Kirkistown Race Meeting is the following day)

Thursday, 5th. June. Noggin 'n Natter, Stormont Hotel.

Saturday, 21st. June. Driving Test Meeting.

This will be the second in the series for the Leslie Porter Trophy.

Thursday, 3rd. July. Noggin 'n Natter.

Tuesday, 29th. July. "Full Moon Barbecue"

Depending upon the response we get from members, we may be able to organise other events in July. The programme for August onwards has not yet been decided. What would you like? Let me know and we will try our best to vary the programme to suit.

At the end of the Newsletter you will find an up to date list of members. As you can see there are now 31 members, which is an encouraging rise. There are probably also several application forms which have been sent in but have not been returned from Abingdon for ratification. If your name does not appear on the list, it will! - next time. May I welcome our new members, Patricia McKay, Ian Milligan, Robert Moodie, Noel Johnston and Ian Hamilton.

I have also attached a list of firms from which you can obtain spare parts and a list of local firms which we know have given us good service. I hope you will find these of use. It is by no means fully comprehensive, and I shall be pleased to add to it if you will tell me of any additions that should be made.

Remember that Ivan Wallace runs a spares register, and is always willing to help if he can. However he must know of the whereabouts of any spares for sale - so drop him a line. If you want a reply from him, please enclose a S.A.E.

The Centre will be very grateful if anyone would care to present it with a stopwatch - new or secondhand.

I was over in London on 17th. January to an M.G.C.C. Council Meeting, and my impression was that the Club as a whole is in a very healthy state. I also had the opportunity of paying a brief visit to the Racing Car Show. A photograph of the M.G.C.C. stand at the Show appeared in the February issue of Safety Fast, and considerable interest was shown by the general public. I could not ~~not~~ fail to be impressed by the quantity and variety of "bolt-on" goodies which were to be seen. Unfortunately none of the stands were left unattended.

Oh yes! How can you win the Trophies that we will have soon. First of all the "Enthusiast's Trophy", presented by the N.E. Centre. As its name implies, this is awarded to that member showing the most support for the Club. In order to determine

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who this lucky person should be, a points system will be operated, and the member with the highest score at the end of the "year" will receive it at the following Annual Dinner. Details of the points system are shown on a separate sheet. The Leslie Porter Trophy will be awarded annually to the best overall competitor from a series of four driving tests. The 4 events which will count will be nominated by the Committee. A system of marking for these particular tests will be attempted in order to allow owners of the older type of motor car to compete on a more or less equal footing with more modern M.G.'s. It will be awarded only to a member who competes in all four of the events and who drives an M.G. car in each. The exact details of this marking system will be publicised at a later date.

While on the subject of competitions. We are not yet able to run events with an R.A.C. permit as we cannot register as a Motor Club until we have 50 members. This means that for the time being any competitions that we run must be held on private ground; be open to Club Members only; and R.A.C. Competition License holders cannot compete at present without the risk of having their License revoked. This state of affairs should not last long, I hope, as our membership is rapidly heading for the magic 50.

Should you have any friends who are willing to join the Club - please contact me and I shall send them the necessary application form.

Our Film show on 28th. January was a moderate success as we had 21 persons present and at that stage our membership was much less. The films were most enjoyable and our thanks must go to Mike Wilson and Ivan Wallace who organized it.

There are several items of Club regalia which are available to members. I shall be pleased to send them to members if you will let me know your wants. It is not possible to hold a stock of all items so a short delay should be allowed for.

The midnight oil is getting low, so I shall close. I hope to see you all at the various meetings, and please let me know your wants and queries. Go carefully.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Armstrong.

Secretary, Ulster Centre.

CLUB REGALIA.

Car Badges.	- dealt with by Headquarters only.
Ties (Red,Blue,or Green).....	17/6 each
Overall Badges.....	5/- "
Lapel Badges -small (pin or stud) .....	3/6 "
Lapel Badges - large .....	4/6 "
Pinless (unmounted) Badges .....	3/6 "
Transfers of Club Badge .....	2/6

It is hoped that headscarves will be available again soon for the lady members.

Rules for the award of the Enthusiast's Trophy.

The Trophy will be awarded annually to the Member of the Ulster Centre having the highest number of points. The "year" will run from 1st. February to 31st. January. The Trophy will be presented at the Annual Dinner. The onus of claiming points rests with the member insofar as he or she is required to make his or her presence known to the organiser of the event for which he or she is claiming. The organiser will then submit the claim to the Secretary who will keep a list of the points won.

Competitor/Navigator.....	10 points
Marshal, Timekeeper .....	8 "
Organiser (Max.3) of outdoor events .....	13 points
Attendance at Dinner or Dinner/Dance .....	5 "
Attendance at A.G.M. ....	10 "
Attendance at General Meetings .....	5 "
Spectator at 'off the road' events .....	3 "
Attendance at Noggin 'n Natter .....	2 "
Attendance at Social Events .....	2 "
Attendance at Social runs or driving events .....	5 "
Organiser (Max.2) of indoor social events .....	10 "