

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:

~~Frank McComb~~
Gordon Cobban

ULSTER CENTRE.

May Newsletter, 1969.

Dear Member,

Once again the time has come to produce the Newsletter and, as usual, I have not received any pearls from your pens. The problem is knowing where to start and what you want. Until I hear to the contrary, I shall produce this in a similar manner to the previous letters.

Past Events.

Gymkhana. Report from your "Special Correspondent."

The Centre's first Gymkhana was held at Maghaberry Airfield on a sunny, if windy, Saturday, 22nd. March. There were 7 entries for this event, 2 of which promised to become members but, as far as I know, only one has fulfilled this. There were 5 other members who turned out to marshal, and to whom we are very grateful, and there was 1 spectating member. So that you may know what you missed, here is a run down on the 8 Tests. In the first, there were 5 buckets in a circle in which a ball had to be placed, one at a time, within a time limit of 2 minutes. Reversing was not allowed. Test 2 consisted of a wobble-wobble forwards and in reverse. The driver was blindfolded and on the backwards run the passenger had to carry a very large ball. You have no idea how difficult it is to drive blind to your passenger's instructions. This test had a limit of 4 minutes. Test 3 was a simple width judging test and marks were lost for each inch you misjudged. In Test 4 the car had to be reversed, again with the driver blind, to the passenger's instructions so that the offside rear wheel was on a marker. Change of direction was penalised and the distance from the marker measured. Noel Corry and Gary Gibson managed to land 'spot on'. In Test 5, perhaps the most amusing, driver and passenger had to dress up, drive round a pylon, undress (to their original garments), and then drive to stop astride a line. This was timed. In Test 6 the car had to be reversed between 2 pylons to stop as near as possible to another pylon—USING THE REARVIEW MIRROR ONLY! Noel again won this being only $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the pylon. Good luck, or good judgement? Test 7 was simply driving round a circle of pylons forwards and in reverse. Marks were lost for the difference in time taken in each direction. In Test 8, the passenger had to balance a golf ball on a wooden ladle while being driven over some rough ground. If the egg was dropped, "return to start, do not pass Go, and do not collect \$200." Gary Gibson was adjudged the winner, although provisional results suggested that Noel Corry had won. I think that everyone enjoyed

themselves. I am a bit disappointed that there were not a few more entries, and for 5/- it was not too expensive. However, the event ran at a loss, and if entries are going to be low, then the entry fees will have to go up! WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A GO NEXT TIME.

RESULTS OF GYMKHANA.		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	Total
Patrick Johnston,	M.G.TD.	0	0	7	7	124	32	6	0	176
Peter Robinson,	M.G.MGA.	0	40	13	13	134	29	1	0	230
Ernest Calvert,	M.G.1100	0	0	10	2	118	16	2	40	188
Gary Gibson,	M.G.MGB.	0	20	9	0	141	2	2	0	174
John MacBride,	M.G.YB.	0	40	15	17	126	47	5	0	250
Noel Corry,	Triumph.	20	40	8	0	90	1	3	20	182
Ian Hamilton,	Humber.	40	40	15	12	142	44	4	0	297

Inaugural Annual Dinner.

The Centre's Inaugural Dinner was held at Drumkeen House Hotel on Wednesday 9th. April. There were 21 persons present. Guests included Dr. and Mrs. Jack Armstrong from the North East Centre, and Richard St. J. Young from "Motorweek" who was kind enough to take some photographs and put a report on the Ulster Centre in "Motorweek" on 19th. April. After a pleasant meal, we retired to a separate room where the "Enthusiast's Trophy" was presented to us by Jack Armstrong on behalf of the N.E. Centre, and the "Leslie Porter Trophy" was presented by Archie Phillips on behalf of Leslie Porter Ltd. For these beautiful cups we are most grateful. They will look magnificent on your sideboard if only you will compete for them. Everyone has a chance of winning either.

Attached to this letter you will find a list of points to date for the Enthusiast's Trophy. If anyone has any claims, please let me know soon or you will not be credited with the points. Will all those who were at the February Noggin 'n Natter please claim their points, if not already mentioned, as I am working from memory.

You will be pleased to hear that our application for registration with the R.A.C. has been sent in for approval. We must now wait and see if there are any objections. When approved, we can go ahead with our Driving Test Meetings. Because of the imminence of our registration it was decided to postpone the April Driving Tests. These will be held at a future date.

May I welcome the following New Members:-

Samuel F. (Ricky) Carruth. 20, My Lady's Mile, H'wood.	TD.	NZ 4066
Miss Gail Creighton, "Cosy Lodge", Church Ave. D'murry.	MGB.	
Terry Chambers, 47, Kings Road, Belfast 5.	MGB.	
Gary Gibson, 7, Knocklofty Pk., Belfast 4.	MGB.	
John MacBride, 34, Marlborough Park North, BT9 6HJ	TC and 2 YB's	
Miss Valerie Power, 231, Belmont Rd., BT4 2AH	Ford Capri 7061WJ	
Barry Quin, 76, Bawnmore Rd., BT9 6LD	MGB	5400 GZ

May I remind you of the various items of Club regalia. I have a small stock of ties (red, blue, green) 17/6d. each, and small lapel badges at 3/6d. each.

May I also ask you to let Ivan Wallace, Spares Secretary, know if you have any spare parts for sale. If there any parts that you want, he will try and help. Address: 13 Lismoyne Park, Belfast 15. Tel: 761111

Additions to Firms.

Re enamelling, e.g. Radiator and Spare-Wheel Nut Badges.

B.H. Collins and Co. Ltd., Progress Works, 81-82 Bickingham St.,
Birmingham 19.

(Cost approx 16/-)

Lockwill's (Coachbuilding Supplies) I have found do not carry a very good stock of rubber mouldings, but can get them for you. It may be worth trying to get these from Toulmin's in London.

Book Review.

Autopress Ltd. produce two books which I can thoroughly recommend to members.

MG Autobook One deals with TA, TB, TC, TD, TF models from 1936 to 1955.

MG Autobook Two deals with MGA, MGA Twin Cam, MGB models.

These are workshop manuals which are well bound and covered in a washable plastic. There is a comprehensive coverage of all systems with easily followed instructions on dismantling and assembly. The print is fairly small but the headings are clear and the illustrations good. There are useful hints on fault finding.

The price is 40/-, post free.

Address:- Autopress Ltd., Bennett Road, Brighton BN2 3JG

I have a copy of each of these books if anyone would like to see them. Please don't ask to borrow them unless you are prepared to pay a deposit of £2.

Talking about fault finding, I can announce that at last the Secretarial TC is on the road after its rebuild (Reg.No. ZH 914). Its first test run was, of necessity, a trip to Enniskillen. This was accomplished successfully. However, I have been troubled on 3 occasions by severe misfiring and erratic running (or rather the car has been troubled !). On the first, it was due to incorrectly set tappets on No.3 cylinder; on the second to a loose jet needle on the carb. for Nos.1 & 2 cylinders; and on the third to a blocked fuel pipe between the two carbs. All these faults produced similar symptoms but were due to very different causes. I thought they may be worth passing on. Have you any tips to pass on? If so, let me know and I shall include them in the next Newsletter.

For Sale.

Tonneau Cover Mark II M.G.Midget, half price.
 " " MGB (pale blue), half price.
 1938 'TA' M.G. with Morris 10 (1939) engine. This car is basically sound but would benefit from some loving attention. Price about £70. On view at 68, Locksley Park, Finaghy.

COMING EVENTS.

The run to Bishops Court Race Meeting is on May 10th. We are meeting at 11-15 a.m. at the Ivanhoe Inn Car Park, Carryduff, and proceeding to the circuit in convoy. We want as wide a range of M.G. models as possible, as well turned out as possible. This is a marvellous opportunity for publicity, as well as gaining some points for the Enthusiast's Trophy, not forgetting a chance to watch some racing on the new shortened circuit. I hope that Archie Phillips will be in action and as successfully as at Rossihilly Sprint at Enniskillen where he put up fastest time of the day in his M.G.Midget. Would it be too much to hope for a turnout of at least 20 M.G.'s.

On Friday 30th. May is our Evening Social Event. This will be in the form of a Mystery Tour in Co. Down. The start is at Stormont Gates at 7.30 p.m. sharp. An hour's run will probably end up with a few jars in some hostelry, (destination Top Secret). There will, I understand be penalties for going too fast or for infringements of the Highway Code.

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

Sunday 6th. July. Picnic - bring the family. More details later.

Saturday 21st. June. Driving Test Meeting (or Gymkhana if R.A.C. registration not finalised). More details later.

To those of you who have not yet joined, how about filling in that application form NOW. To all the rest who are members, I hope to see all of you at some of our events.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Armstrong, Secretary, Ulster Centre.

Points for "Enthusiast's Trophy."

Name.	Feb.N.'N.	March N'N.	Gymkhana	April N'N.	Dinner	Total
N.Murray.	2	2	-	-	-	4
M.Armstrong.	2	2	13	2	5	24
Noel Corry.	2	2	10	-	-	14
Norman Greer.	-	2	-	-	5	7
Pat McKay.	-	2	8	2	-	12
Ian Milligan.	2	2	8	2	-	14
Roger Nethercott.	2	2	8	2	5	19
Peter Robinson.	-	2	10	2	-	14
Bill Sherwood.	2	2	13	2	5	24
Ivan Wallace.	2	2	-	2	5	11
Mike Wilson.	-	2	8	2	5	17
Eileen Wilson.	-	-	-	-	5	5
Jack Wilton.	-	2	-	-	-	2
Gail Creighton.	-	2	-	-	-	2
Gary Gibson.	-	-	10	-	-	10
John MacBride.	X	2	10	2	-	14
Patrick Johnston.	-	-	10	-	-	10
Ian Hamilton.	-	-	10	-	-	10
Valerie Power.	-	-	8	-	-	8
Gordon Jackson.	-	-	-	2	5	7
Vivian Scott.	-	-	-	2	-	2
Denis Nichol.	-	-	-	2	-	2
Jennifer Armstrong.	-	-	2	-	5	7
Mike Thomas.	2	-	-	-	5	7
Heather Thomas.	-	-	-	-	5	5
Archie Phillips.	-	-	-	-	5	5
Leslie Ardill.	2	-	-	-	-	2

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Mike Armstrong, Secretary, Ulster Centre.