

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:

~~F. Wilson McComb~~

Gordon Cobban.

ULSTER CENTRE.

68, Locksley Park,
Belfast,
BT10 0AS

November Newsletter, 1969.

Dear Member,

There is feverish activity behind the scenes getting some of our events organised. The coming events, which are detailed later, should give you plenty of enjoyment, both motoring and social.

Since my October Newsletter we have had our October Gymkhana. This was the third and last gymkhana for this year and attracted a larger than ever entry with a wide variety of M.G.'s. It was held, as usual, at Maghaberry airfield on Saturday 18th. October. The sun was shining and there was little wind. For pictures and a report I refer you to "Motor Week" October 25th. The first and last tests were identical, being a simple forward and reverse around a pylon. Marks were lost for the difference in time taken on each run. The second test was to see if you knew how long your car is and required each competitor to stop one car's length from a pylon. In the third test one had to drive around a not very stable pylon attached to the car by a piece of string. The aim was to keep the string off the ground and not to topple the pylon. A see-saw test followed in which the near side wheel had to be placed on a see-saw which had to be balanced exactly horizontal. After a blindfolded wiggle-wobble in reverse, drivers had to drive up a 1 in 2 ramp, stop halfway, and then proceed without running backwards. One competitor managed somehow to suspend his car on the top of the ramp but without, fortunately, any damage to car or ramp. This was followed by a tricky piece of driving over rough ground at the same time balancing a cup of water on the car. Finally, there was a team test where three cars abreast were joined together with a 5 foot piece of string (with what seemed to be of spider's web strength) and then had to drive around a pylon without breaking the string. Congratulations to Roger Nethercott and Bill Sherwood on their organisation, and many thanks to all those who helped with the marshalling. The results show a grand selection of M.G.'s and they really were a sight for sore eyes when lined up for their photographs.

Results of October Gymkhana.

1st. Ernest Calvert.....	M.G.1100.....	34.1
2nd. Mike Armstrong.....	TC.....	36.8
3rd. Patrick Johnston.....	TD.....	40.7
4th. Sidney Armstrong.....	MGBGT.....	57.9
5th. Brian McTear.....	TD.....	60.8
6th. Peter Minnis.....	TF.....	67.2
7th. Carolyn McDevitte.....	TF.....	70.7
8th. Vivien Scott.....	TC.....	91.0
9th. Jack Armstrong.....	MGBGT.....	95.5
10th. Karl Murray.....	MGC.....	98.3
11th. Terry Chambers.....	MGB.....	103.6
12th. Garry Gibson.....	MGB.....	108.4
13th. Noel Corry.....	MGB.....	114.2
14th. Jennifer Armstrong.....	Mini Traveller...	181.9
15th. Peter Robinson.....	M.G.Midget.....	202.8

The team winners were G.Gibson,B.McTear,V.Scott.

Enthusiast Trophy. The table of points to date appears at the end of this letter.

Library. A list of books and manuals available from our own library is also attached at the end of the letter. Please remember if borrowing that the period of loan is 2 weeks and prompt return of books will be appreciated. Fines will be imposed of 3d. per day overdue, and a deposit of £2 must accompany any request for loan. The deposit will be returned promptly when the book has been returned. If any member has any books, manuals, or articles of interest that can be photocopied, they will be gratefully received.

Coming Events.

Thursday, 6th. November, Noggin 'n Natter, Stormont Hotel

Friday, 14th. November, WINE AND CHEESE PARTY, Imperial Hotel, Donaghadee,
Admission by ticket only (see later for details)

Wednesday, 19th. November, Noggin 'n Natter, Sportsman's Inn, Lambeg,

Thursday, 20th. November, INDOOR RALLY, (see later for details)

Thursday, 4th. December, Noggin 'n Natter, Stormont Hotel.

Saturday, 13th. December, PRODUCTION CAR TRIAL. (see later for details).

Wednesday, 17th. December, Noggin 'n Natter, Sportsman's Inn.

Thursday, 8th. January, Noggin 'n Natter, Stormont Hotel.

A few words of explanation with regard to the three main events.

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY. Friday, 14th. November, Imperial Hotel, Donaghadee, at 8.30 p.m. Admission is by ticket only - price 10/- each. The proceeds of this will be used towards various items for your Club, such as books for the library, prizes for some events, or a stopwatch. The bar will be open until 1.30 a.m. There will be free wine and food. There will be raffle prizes. The number of tickets will be limited so get yours now. Tickets can be obtained by filling in the slip at the back of this newsletter and sending it with remittance to:-

either Carolyn McDevitte, 39 Ardmore Park, Finaghy, Belfast 10
Telephone: Belfast 615127

or, Karl Murray, 12 Lenaghan Avenue, Belfast, BT8 4JF
Telephone: Belfast 643861

Remember this is for the benefit of your Club so give it your support and bring along friends, wives, (or wife), and/or mistresses, sweethearts, etc., who will be most welcome.

INDOOR RALLY. Thursday 20th. November.

To be held at Rathcoole County Secondary School, Derrycoole Way,
Newtownabbey.

To get there, from Belfast proceed along the Shore Road to the Doagh Road, turn left up this road, and at the Rathcoole Housing Estate, turn left up Derrycoole Way. In about 3/4 mile you come to the school on the left.

What is an Indoor Rally? This is really a navigational exercise run exactly on the lines of a rally. Full instructions will be issued at the start but in brief, you clock in at the Start Control, receive directions on how to find Control 1, work out the route, time allowed or average speed and clock in at Control 1 at the correct time. You will then receive instruction on how to reach Control 2, and so on. As this is our first attempt at an indoor rally, it will be relatively simple and no previous experience at navigation is necessary.

What equipment do you need?

Essentials; (i) 1 inch to mile Sheet 6 (Belfast) Ordnance Survey map.

(ii) pencil and paper and ruler

(iii) a cool head.

Items of help:-

- (a) A Garford Romer or Paddy Hopkirk Romer (for exact location of map references)
- (b) A magnifying glass (for seeing detail on the map)
- (c) A map measurer (for calculating exact mileages)
- (d) An accurate watch or stopwatch
- (e) A set of tables for working out average speeds quickly
- (f) A pencil sharpener and rubber

Each entry will be for two people only, i.e. 'driver' and 'navigator'.
Start 8.0p.m.

Even if you don't compete, come and watch.

PRODUCTION CAR TRIAL. Saturday 13th. December.

This is our first competitive event held under R.A.C. Competition Rules. It is being held at a field at reference 437799 Sheet 6 1 inch to mile (Third Series). In order to get there-if you leave Hollywood on the Bangor road, 1.1 miles after entering the 40m.p.h. speed limit (or 0.5 mile after the Ulster Folk Museum) turn right opposite the Craigavad Stores and Post Office. Proceed up this road for exactly 1 mile and turn left up a narrow road signposted 'M.G. Production Trial' and the field is 0.2 mile up this road on the right.

What is a Production Car Trial?

The trial consists of a series of slippery slopes which are marked by posts and tapes. The higher up the slope that you reach, the less marks you lose. Once the car has stopped moving forward you are then marked to this spot. Details of each section is given at the start, ~~only one driver~~ the same driver has to drive throughout the event, the passenger must be not less than 16 years old, the rear seats may be occupied by the number for which they were designed, "bouncing" is permitted only within the confines of the seating compartment, standard tyres and wheels must be used (smaller than standard wheels are permitted on cars where standard tyres are unobtainable), minimum tyre pressures are 12 lbs.

Is your car suitable? A Production Car Trial is for ordinary Production saloons and sports cars, old or new.

Will it damage your car? The field has been specially selected so that your car should not be damaged in any way. It may get dirty, but mud will wash off!

HOW DO YOU ENTER? Return the slip at the end of this letter to me and I shall forward regulations and an entry form. I am not sending out entry forms unless requested to do so. Complete the entry form and return it BEFORE the closing date of 7.0p.m. Wednesday, 10th. December. Late entries will not be accepted. Entry fees of 7/6d. must accompany the entry.

Do you require a competition license? No, as it is a closed event to members only and your membership card covers this. Non members will not be allowed to start, and membership cards will be inspected at the start.

Does it affect your insurance? As the event is entirely on private ground no special insurance is required, and your own insurance will not apply to the event. The R.A.C. take out insurance for damage to the landowner's property.

If you want to know more about it, contact me, or better still, send for an entry form and come along. Even if you don't compete for any reason come and help by marshalling. If you can marshal, please contact me as several marshals are required. Please help to make this, our first competitive event a roaring, if dirty, success.

Publicity for the Club. There are some pamphlets being prepared, and if they are ready in time will be sent out with this newsletter. If you see an M.G., slip one under its windscreen wiper, or hand it to the owner, If you run out, I have plenty more.

I think that is all the news I have. Please give your support to the various events outlined above and I am sure you will be well rewarded for your efforts. As this is the last newsletter before January, may I wish, somewhat prematurely, all Members a Very Merry Christmas, and mind how you go.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Armstrong

Mike Armstrong, Secretary, Ulster Centre, M.G.C.C.

POINTS FOR ENTHUSIASTS TROPHY.

W.Sherwood	79	Miss V.Power	8
R.Nethercott	75	A.Phillips	5
M.Armstrong	72	* Mrs.H.Thomas	5
M.Wilson	71	R.Carruth	4
N.Corry	66	G.Donaldson	4
I.Wallace	55	Miss M.Erskine	4
Miss C.McDevitte	50	N.Murray	4
I.Milligan	48	T.Kelly	4
K.Murray	47	Miss G.Creighton	2
Mrs.M.Murray	47	D.Nicholl	2
Mrs.E.Wilson	47	M.Gardiner	2
P.Robinson	45	T.Ingles	2
P.Minnis	44	T.Campbell	2
Mrs.J.Armstrong	42	Miss H.Bell	2
G.Jackson	40	K.Elliott	2
R.Phinn	34		
V.Scott	30		
G.Gibson	25		
J.MacBride	24		
J.Wilton	24		
Miss P.McKay	24		
Mrs.A.Phinn	22		
P.Johnston	22		
N.Greer	21		
E.Calvert	20		
* T.Chambers	20		
* Mrs.A.Slip	20		
* P.Slip	20		
B.McTear	19		
F.Jelly	17		
* M.Thomas	17		
W.Orr	14		
P.Johnston	12		
L.Ardill	10		
I.Dunlop	10		
I.Hamilton	10		
S.Armstrong	10		

* have moved to other Centre.

LIBRARY

Books and manuals for loan are available from the librarian
 Roger Nethercott, 57 Glengoland Avenue, Suffolk,
 Dunmurry, Tel: D'murry 3285

Rules.

1. £2 returnable deposit on each book or manual
2. Loan charge of 2/6d.
3. Period of loan 14 days
4. Fines 3d. per day overdue.

Books and Manuals available.OFFICIAL M.G. PUBLICATIONS.

- (i) M.G. Series TC, Instruction Manual
- (ii) M.G. Series Y. Workshop Manual
- (iii) M.G. Series MGA. Workshop Manual (loaned by P. Robinson)
- (iv) M.G. Series P. Spare Parts List.
- (v) M.G. Series J2. Driver's Handbook (loaned by R. Nethercott)
- (vi) M.G. Series MGA Twin-Cam. Driver's handbook (loaned by R. Nethercott)

NON-OFFICIAL MANUALS.

- M.G. Autobook One All 'T' types (loaned by M. Armstrong)
- M.G. Autobook Two MGA, MGA1600, MGA Twin Cam, MGB, MGBGT
- Scientific Publications Workshop Manual TC, TD, TF, TF 1500, MGA, MGA 1600.
- Blower's Workshop Manual (all models up to and including TF)

BOOKS.

- "Maintaining The Breed" by John Thornley. A history of the development
 of M.G.'s (2 copies, on loan)
- "M.G. Companion" (loaned by M. Armstrong)
- "M.G.'s 1929-34" (loaned by R. Nethercott)

THE M.G. CAR CLUB
MEMBERSHIP LIST

Wine and Cheese Party Friday, 14th. November

Please send me ticket/s for the Wine and Cheese Party.
I enclose PO/Cheque/Cash (Ten Shillings each) for £.....s.....d.
Cheques and Postal Orders to be made out to "M.G. Car Club, Ulster
Centre."
and crossed.

Name.....(block letters)
Address.....
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Send with remittance to:-

Miss C. McDevitte, 39 Ardmore Park, Finaghy, Belfast 10.
or
K. Murray, Esq., 12 Lenaghan Avenue, Belfast, BT8 4JF

Production Car Trial. Saturday 13th. December.

Please send me an entry form for the Production Car Trial.
Name.....(block letters)
Address.....
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*N.B. Closing date for entries is 7.0 p.m. Wednesday 10th. December.
The event will be cancelled if there less than 5 entries received.

Send to:- M.J. Armstrong,
68 Locksley Park,
Belfast BT10 OAS Tel. Belfast 612474