

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 OAS

Tel: Belfast 612474

July Newsletter, 1969.

Dear Member,

It is one year this month since Wilson McComb, the then General Secretary of the M.G.C.C., came to Ulster and the Ulster Centre was formed. If my memory serves me correctly, there were about 30 people present at the meeting, made up mainly of the old M.G.T-Owner's Club which had had a somewhat chequered career until then. At that time there were about 14 members of the M.G.C.C. who were described as 'Unattached Overseas Members'. I think that we can fairly say that we have now become "attached" and are no longer considered as "Overseas". Since last July the parent Club has passed through a major crisis in that factory support was no longer forthcoming after the 'take-over' of BMH by Leylands. However, this storm was weathered and the Club has gone from strength to strength. Nearer home, the Ulster Centre has also gone from strength to strength. The first General Meeting was held on 11th. November with 14 members present. At this, a Committee was elected. Since then we have had 5 Committee Meetings, 7 Noggin 'n Natters (or should it be Noggins 'n Natter, or even Noggins 'n Natters), 2 Gymkhanas, 2 Social runs, 1 film show, and one dinner. We have been presented with 2 Trophies, and this is the fifth Newsletter. The Membership has increased to 54, 40 of whom feature in the score for the Enthusiast's Trophy (see later), and finally, also detailed later, we have been recognised by the R.A.C. This is a catalogue of our achievements, and with continued participation by Members in our events, and indeed one hopes 'increased participation', coupled with a steady rise in membership, I hope that we can look forward to an enjoyable year's motoring and social activities. Would it be too much to hope for 100 members by next July? Please continue to give YOUR Club as much support as you can, because without it we will founder.

What has been happening since I last wrote? Well, I have received, at last, a letter from a member! The suggestion was made in it that we might try to organise a race for T-types at one of the Kirkistown meetings. No approach has been made to the 500 M.R. Club so I don't know how they would react. What I would like to know, you T-type owners, how many of you would support such a venture, assuming it could be done? Let me hear your views. I personally have my doubts as to whether there are half a dozen T-types, if that, that would pass the R.A.C. Scrutineer. It does, however, conjure some delightful thoughts. If a speed test is

wanted, a sprint may well be a simpler, and less expensive answer. I think that this may yet be premature.

Past Events.

On 10th. May we had our run to Bishopscourt for the Motor Racing. Despite a wet start at the Ivanhoe Inn, this has turned out to be our best supported venture yet, with 15 members in 11 cars. We were rewarded with a sunny afternoon and some quite exciting racing.

On Friday 30th. May, we had our Evening Social Run which was in the form of a 'Mystery Tour'. In this event we were joined by members of the Renault Owners Club. We had a turnout of 9 Renaults and 7 M.G.s (shame on you!) The run was ably organised by Bill Sherwood and Gordon Jackson, and they even arranged a fine dry night for some 'hood-down stuff'. The route suggested was given at the start and one's powers of observation were put to the test before arrival at the Ivanhoe Inn via Dundonald, Scrabo, Comber and Carryduff. Members participating were, apparently in order of their powers of observation were Ian Milligan (TA) Noel Corry (TF), Mike Armstrong (TC), Alison and Ross Phinn (MGB), Margaret and Karl Murray (MGC), Mike Wilson (TF1500), and Ivan Wallace (TD). Penalties were incurred for averaging more than 20m.p.h. Entrance fees were 2/- per car, and the balance was 15/-.

On Saturday 21st, June, a gymkhana was held at Maghaberry airfield. Again, the morning was wet and discouraging, but the clouds rolled away on arrival at Maghaberry, and the sun shone throughout. The moral being - don't be put off by the little bit of sky that you can see from the comfort of your favourite armchair. A series of 6 tests was run. Several of these were a subtle switching or combination of some of the tests in March. Test 1 involved picking a ball from each of a circle of 5 buckets and depositing it in a 6th. bucket. Reverse gear only was allowed and there was a time limit of 2 mins. In test 2, two pylons had to be placed at the estimated width of the car and then one had to reverse between these to stop as near as possible to a 3rd. pylon, using the rearview mirror only. In Test 3, driver and passenger dressed up, reversed through a wiggle-woggle, undressed, drove back thro' the pylons. Test 4 involved reversing the car so that the ~~w~~ off side front wheel was on a marker. The driver was blindfold and instructed by the passenger. It is very difficult to know whether or not the car is moving when you cannot see, and many an exclamation of disgust was expressed to the luckless driver sitting stationary with the clutch half depressed! Test 5 involved reversing over a line, climbing into sacks and hopping around the start line to finish by getting into the car and driving back over the start line, all in 90 seconds. The last test was an egg and spoon race (against the clock) with a wooden ladle, ~~a~~ golf ball and some rough ground. The results were as follows:- (I might add that Ian Dunlop seemed to have some difficulty keeping the same passenger for more than two tests.)

1st.	Ian Dunlop/Ivan wallace, Michael Gardiner, Margaret McBride.....	43 pts.
2nd.	Mike Armstrong/Fullerton Jelly.....	83 "
3rd.	Eileen Wilson/Jennifer Armstrong....	97 "
4th.	Karl Murray/Margaret Murray.....	170 "
5th.	Peter Slip/Ann Slip.....	183 "
6th.	Ann Slip/Peter Slip.....	193 "
7th.	Jennifer Armstrong/Eileen Wilson....	202 "



... does a balancing act with a golf ball and a wooden ladle at the Gymkhana while Ian Dunlop tries to smooth out the bumps.

(photograph by kind permission of Karl Murray)



"I'm getting out of here"

Jennifer Armstrong seems ready to abandon ship, which is being steered by a blindfold Eileen Wilson.

(photo. Karl Murray)

A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was had by all the competitors, and our thanks must go to Mike Wilson and Gordon Jackson who organised the event, and to Carolyn McDevitte and friends who so ably helped with the marshalling. At 2/6d entry fee we managed to break even, and with a few more entries we could have made a small profit. You don't know what you missed! Do try and get to the next one as I am sure that you will have plenty of fun. Bring the kids too. I saw 9 children holding their own private gymkhana, including a young Wilson, and a young Armstrong who managed to find a drum full of paraffin!

R.A.C. Registration.

We have at last received recognition by the R.A.C. This will be announced in the R.A.C. Motor Sport News on 1st. July and will, barring objections, be in effect from the 1st. August 1969. This means that we can run driving tests (to be called Autotests in future), rallies etc. under the regulations of the R.A.C. We shall to have the dates on which we hope to hold these meetings ratified by the R.A.C. and the N. Ireland Association of Motor Clubs. It is to be hoped that we will have an Autotest in September and in January, and a Production Car Trial in December. Because it would mean cramming all 4 Autotests into the winter months only, it has been decided not to award the Leslie Porter Trophy for 1969/70, but with a full programme of events in 1970/71 we shall by then have the experience to award this Trophy on a much sounder footing. Details will be issued later when the dates have been confirmed.

Turning one's thoughts to winter (no, it is not so far off) ideas ~~xxxxx~~ mooted so far include film shows; talks on organisation of motoring competitions; and on aspects of rebuilding a car; a question panel; an indoor rally; model car racing (have any of you got any Scalextric)? a dinner/dance, as well as our regular Noggin 'n Natter. Ideas for activities are welcome, and if anyone wishes to organise, or help to organise, any of them, please let me know. Remember it is your Club and we want to put on what you want, if possible. Think it over- SOON!!!

Thinking even further ahead to next May, would there be anyone interested in going to Silverstone for the M.G. Festival (see June Safety Fast) which includes racing on the Saturday, and the California Cup Driving Tests on Sunday? I am sure that a visit to the Abingdon factory could also be arranged.

By the way. Are all you T-type owners members of the T Register? This membership costs 5/- a year and entitles one to a Bulletin quarterly (which is a good source of tips) and to the facilities of the Spares register which is fairly comprehensive, as well as 15% discount on tyres at Toulmins, to mention a few. I have some application forms for registration, and the address of the Register Secretary is:-

Ron Gammons, 3 William Way, Letchworth, Herts.

I have an almost complete set of the original "Safety Fast" (prior to Jan. 1969). These contain many interesting articles, and at a later date I hope to have them indexed. I am not prepared to lend them out as they are irreplaceable, but photocopies can be made. Which brings me

to the next point. Mike Wilson can arrange, for a very modest sum, to photocopy service manuals, magazine articles etc., as long as they do not infringe a copyright (i.e. are not for resale). If you wish to have anything copied, contact Mike.

I also have some back numbers of the new "Safety Fast" (Jan. 1969 onwards) if anyone is missing a copy. These are free.

Windscreen Repairs.

Jim Harrison, 37a Lisburn Road, will cut a new Triplex Windscreen for you while-u-wait (or most in a day). Only flat windscreens can be done, and the cost is approx. £2-10-0d.

Mirrors.

Resilvering of mirrors can be done at a ridiculously low price by 'a wee man Mike Wilson knows up the Springfield Road'. These are done to a high standard, apparently done on a Wednesday only, and if you want to learn more, ring Mike - Bangor 5574.

New Members.

May I welcome the following new members:-

Ernest Calvert, George Donaldson, Francis Jennings, Fullerton Jelly, Carolyn McDevitte, Peter Minnis, Karl and Margaret Murray, Alison and Ross Phinn, and Ann and Peter Slip. ~~A full list of members is attached to this newsletter.~~

Forthcoming Events.

Thursday - 3rd. July, Noggin 'n Natter, Stormont Hotel, 8.0p.m.

Sunday - 6th. July, Picnic.

This will be held at Castleward. The aim is to provide everything necessary to eat and drink, so all that you have to do is climb into that car and come. If the looks bad on the day, then please ring Belfast 612474 for a decision - by 11.30 a.m. Bring your own eating irons. A small fee will be charged. To get there - proceed to Downpatrick and turn left at the T-junction after entering the 30m.p.h. In about 200 yds. fork right onto the Strangford road and proceed along this road until you come to the signpost for Castleward (which is National Trust Property). Meet in the old castle yard car park, which is beyond the main car park, at about 2.30 - 2.45p.m. ~~If~~ you intend going please fill in the form at the back of this newsletter and send it to me

at 68, Locksley Park, Belfast, BT10 OAS by Friday 4th. July, or ring one of the Phone numbers on the form by 11a.m. on the 4th. This is to facilitate organisation. If you don't fill in the form, or phone, come anyway, but don't expect too much to eat!

Tuesday - 29th. July, "Full Moon Barbecue". Details of this have not yet been finalised. It is likely that a form of 'mystery tour' to the destination will be held for those who to take part. If you want to go, or even think that you might go, please fill in the form at the back. If you don't fill this in, you won't get further details as I do not want to have to send out a general circular, in the interests of economy (our mailing bill is the largest item of expenditure.)

Thursday - 7th. August, Noggin 'n Natter, Stormont Hotel.
Thursday - 4th. Sept, Noggin 'n Natter, Stormont Hotel.
Monday - 15th. Sept, Annual General Meeting, Stormont Hotel, 8. Op. m.

For Sale.

Triumph TR3 - good condition, approx. £250

Gordon Jackson, 25 Old Holywood Road, Belfast, Belf: 63334

MGA - good condition, Billy Orr, Tel: Belf. 749350 (evenings only)

Remember that Ivan Wallace keeps a spares register if you want a part, or if you have any bits for sale.

If you have read this far, well done. Remember that I always want to hear your views, so don't hesitate to write or phone. Make a note of the forthcoming events and I hope to see you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Armstrong, Secretary,

Points for Enthusiast's Trophy as at 31st. June, 1969.

W. Sherwood	46
M. Armstrong	46
M. Wilson	42
G. Jackson	33
I. Wallace	30
N. Corry	28
I. Milligan	28
R. Nethercott	23
P. Robinson	21
Mrs. E. Wilson	20
Mrs. J. Armstrong	17
Miss C. McDevitte	17
Miss P. McKay	17
K. Murray	17
Mrs. M. Murray	17
G. Gibson	15
P. Slip	15
Mrs. A. Slip	15
J. MacBride	14
R. Phinn	12
Mrs. A. Phinn	12
E. Calvert	10
I. Dunlop	10
I. Hamilton	10
F. Jelly	10
P. Johnston	10
P. Minnis	9
Miss V. Power	8
N. Greer	7
M. Thomas	7
V. Scott	6
A. Phillips	5
Mrs. H. Thomas	5
R. Carruth	4
N. Murray	4
L. Ardill	2
Miss G. Creighton	2
G. Donaldson	2
Miss M. Erskine	2
D. Nichol	2
J. Wilton	2

Picnic, 6th. July.

Name.....

I wish to come to the Picnic on the 6th. July.

*I shall/shall not be bringing(number) friends

Please return to M. Armstrong, 68 Locksley Park, Belfast, BT10 OAS
to arrive by Friday 4th. July, or phone Belfast 612474 or Bangor 5574
by 11.0a.m. on Friday 4th. July.

*delete whichever is inappropriate.

"Full Moon Barbecue", 29th. July.

Name.....

I hope to be able to come to the barbecue on 29th. July and would
like further details when they become available.

Please return to M. Armstrong, 68 Locksley Park, Belfast, BT10 OAS
as soon as possible and in any case not later than 22nd. July.
