

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear David

Thank you for the copy of the 1991 T Register Yearbook. This handles as well as ever and I see what you mean about widening its scope, and who am I to question the wisdom of this. So much has been written of MG in all its forms over the years that the subject must be almost exhausted!

Having read the Editorial I regret to say that this includes what is to me a 'howler'! You say "The MG Car Club . . . being founded . . . by The MG Car Company". Oh no, it wasn't. It was founded by enthusiastic owners and was in being before the Company knew anything about it.

During most of my time at Abingdon I had two hats: General Manager of the Company and Chairman of the Car Club. I always tried, very hard, to dispel the illusion that the Club was a publicity medium for the Company, and indeed, if any attempt was made by the Nuffield Organisation, or by BMC, to use it in this way I stood up and shouted, loud and clear – "Hands Off". Now there is no Company so the threat does not exist, but I am still anxious that it should not pass into history that the Car Company maybe founded the Car Club for its own ends.

Obviously, you didn't know this so it is not a 'gremlin intrusion', but I would be glad if you could put the record straight next time round.

Now to the 'pix', which I return herewith. Frankly, they all have me baffled and I cannot recall any of the events portrayed. Clearly they are publicity exercises and it must be remembered that the Y type saloon was, in its earliest days, a home-market-only car, while the TC was almost totally export.

If we could get at the facts I think we would find the joint hands of Reg Bishop (Publicity Manager, Nuffield Group) and Dickie Benn (owner of the Nuffield distributors in Brighton) behind the parade of Y types. They carry FC-numbered trade plates and were doubtless sent down from Cowley for the occasion.

Best regards

John Thornley

*Note: Photo(s) kindly loaned by Roby Cruyswags of MG Car Club Antwerp, Belgium. I wonder if, like me, anyone else can remember as a child having a ride in those miniature Southdown charabancs on the Brighton sea front. I had an uncle and aunt living there that I visited for holidays -- Ed.*



Madeira Drive, Brighton – Circa 1947.

(Photo: J.W. Thomas)