

# Y-TYPE RESURGENCE

Congratulations are deservedly due to the MGCC Y-Type Register and their MG Octagon Car Club and MG Owners Club friends for organizing the ambitious Round Britain Relay that saw 50 Y-Types celebrating 70 years of the model. That this once virtually ignored MG now has its place in the sun and is properly acknowledged as a significant MG is no more than the YA/YBs deserve, for these once very much underrated cars were part and parcel of the 1950s motoring scene and delivered sporting, accessible performance and quality to a fast expanding middle market.

The resurgence of interest in the 1950s era shows no sign of abating and the Y-Types and the T-Types perfectly reflect this, hence their demand for film and television roles. But the Y-Type, as



*Regular Y-Type campaigner Marc Hanson in his YB took a First Class Award in the Brooklands Double Twelve Driving Test at the celebration of the 110th anniversary of the track opening.*

much as being a car of its decade, broke important new ground for MG that would have long-term influence on future designs. This was the introduction of the

independent front suspension designed by Jack Daniels and Alec Issigonis. The MG TD was an immediate beneficiary of the new design, and the suspension would continue throughout the sports car range, culminating in the MGB through to the end of production in 1980.

The Y-Type was actively campaigned in period, both on track and in the road-based rallies, where its finishing record belied its pre-war appearance. So it was particularly pleasing to see the Y-Type featuring in the Brooklands Double Twelve celebrations – had the Y-Type been launched in 1939 as planned, it would have been precisely in period. Marc Hanson, who regularly campaigns the ex-Dick Jacobs racing Y-Type, now also has a YB and this reflects the rally cars of the time, recalling memories of the pipe-smoking Len Shaw. Keeping the Y-Type firmly in the spotlight, Marc posted a First Class Award in the Driving Tests, a tantalising hint of what might have been at the famous Surrey track.