

# The evolution of the Z-Magnette-Day



The idea for a German Z-Magnette-Day was born in the mid 90's. At this time the Magnette was a rare beast in Germany and you seldom met another Magnette on an M.G. event. Because of this the author of these pages tried to get some owners together for exchange of experience. The origin idea of a rally to meet somewhere in the middle fizzled for some reasons.

I can't recall what my intention was, when my wife and me invited several German Magnette owners and some English friends for a BBQ in familiar atmosphere in Siegen. But this was the beginning of the Z-Magnette Day, which brings every year more and more likeminded friends together.

Even if it was called „German Z-Magnette Day“ we always had a handful foreign guests. And I guess the event already wouldn't exist anymore without them.

Meanwhile we have more participants from other countries than from Germany and since the venue went over the border in 2002 it was time to rename it and use the term „European“. (I wonder when the first non-European Magnette comes across...)

And every year new faces appear among old friends just to recognize they are all like-minded!

Well this is the story so far how a more or less private BBQ became an international event. The following pages show a short review of the events so far.

Günter Graskamp

# 1. Z-Magnette-Day 1997

in Siegen organised by Graskamps

Participants: Paul & Sarah Batho(ZA), Malcolm & Liz Eades with Edward und Cathrin (ZBV), Dieter & Susanne Otten with Sarah (ZB), Claus Peter Holzigel (ZBV) and the Graskamps family (ZBV).

As mentioned on the intro page my wife Antje and I invited all known German Magnette owners and some of our British friends for a BBQ. We just sat in our garden drinking beer, eating steaks and talked all night, before everybody fell asleep in their tent.

The only program was when Malcolm Eades and Paul Batho tried to teach us in cricket, after we handmade a racket from a plank. I assume nobody understood the rules (not sure whether the teacher did). But it was great fun.

On sunday morning the garage was decorated for breakfast which lasted until midday, before the engines roared and all went off.

We still remember that it was a lot of work and stress for us, but when all had left, it was a very sad moment with all the calmness around.

Although the response of the German owners was beyond my expectations we had a wonderful weekend. Everybody agreed to do a second edition and luckily a volunteer was found.



## 2. Z-Magnette Day 1998

in Osterode/Harz, organised by Claus-Peter Holzigel.

Participants: Ray Cain & wife, John & Lou Shorten, Paul & Sarah Batho, Peter & Lorna Bon-throne, C.P. Holzigel & family, Graskamps family, Malcolm & Liz Eades, Hugo Koberg & wife, Dieter & Susanne Otten with Sarah, Mayk & Andreas Mühle, Markus Ormanin with his girls, Jörn Rasmussen with „period of life- partner“

For any reason the second edition of the German Z-Magnette Day ran out of the rudder. A short notice in *Safety Fast!* caused a British invasion into the Harz mountains. But organizer Claus Peter Holzigel mastered this and converted his parents garden and house to campsite, bar and playground.

On Saturday all but Malcolm Eades and me enjoyed a rally to Göttingen with some tourist highlights. Malcolm instead had to show his car to the photographer of the German oldtimer magazine „Motor Klassik“, as they made a report of the Magnette and the event.

But Malcolm and I arrived early enough (after several hundred pictures) to play again cricket and to establish our skills.

It's also the first time a trophy can be won. Ray Cain made a wonderful trophy which should be presented to the best car at each event. (As Ray Cain passed away a few months later, the Register gave his name to the trophy).

The first winner to take this trophy home is Jörn Rasmussen from Denmark with his Varitone.



### 3. Z-Magnette Day 1999

in Siegen, organised by Graskamps.

Participants: Guido & Barbara Reinking, Elin & Kjeld Haugaard, Mayk & Andreas Mühle, Alan Knell with Nigel, Malcolm & Liz Eades and the Graskamps family.

After last years succes it was quite clear that this could not be topped. Perhaps this was the reason there was no volunteer? But as it would be the end of the event if we stopped the yearly cycle, I again decided to do the party at my home.

Unfortunalety some owners canceled their coming, so in the end only six Magnettes stood around. But again other cars and faces turned up and again we had friends from Denmark and England.

The program was like two years ago with plenty of time to relax and talk. And the last went to bed or tent at three o'clock in the morning when it started raining.

Nevertheless after a good breakfast we were fit again to have a tour around the scenerie of Siegen. But after a few kilometers it was quite clear that Danish drivers are not used to hills and serpentines.☺

The Ray Cain trophy was presented by Malcolm Eades to Alan Knell, who just had finished the restoration on his ZA.



## 4. Z-Magnette Day 2000

in Knittel /Mosel, organised by J.M. Gillen and Armand Joseph.

Participants: Guido & Barbara Reinking, Peter Herbst & Horst Strahl, Ton & Fredi Mathhuis, Armand Joseph and the Graskamps family.

The Z-Magnette Day was in a critical stadium: when and where to organise the event. The interest from German owners wasn't that big. Luckily I heard of an event in Luxembourg and made contact to the organisers Jean Marie Gillen (YB) and Armand Joseph (ZBV). They invited for a Y & Z Magnette-Tour, which was originally thought as a tour for British owners of these fine saloons.

So the second September weekend (first time we left our traditional date) saw several Y-types and Z-Magnettes at the German/Luxembourg border in the picturesque landscape of the Moselle-valley. With cars from Belgium, England, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany it was really an international meeting. With 5 Ys and 5 Zs there was a good balance.

Incorporated was the 4th German Z-Magnette-Day. Because of unfinished restorations or breakdown, several owners arrived without their Magnette. So in the end only three German Magnettes (which is still 10% of all known cars) stood beside all existing Magnettes from Luxembourg (they have two!).

But the limited number of cars and people allowed to talk to everybody and enjoy a relaxed weekend. The event itself was marked with a beautiful scenic drive and a five course menu on the saturday evening, before a firework over the Moselle showed us how fast time passed.

The overall winner of the scenic drive was Guido Reinking (Varitone), who drove 600 km from Hamburg to take part. The "Ray-Cain-Trophy" for best car went to Armand Joseph from Luxembourg and his ivory/maroon Varitone which was originally delivered to Luxembourg in 1958.



## 5. Z-Magnette Day 2001

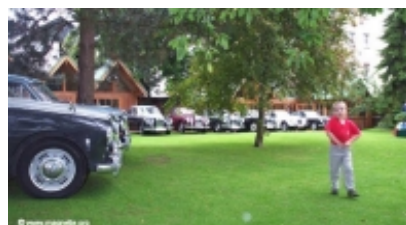
in Minden, organised by Guido Reinking.

Participants: Mayk & Susanne Mühle, Paul Batho & Andy Brock, Malcolm & Liz Eades, Colin & Lis Pratt, Armand Joseph, Elin & Kjeld Haugaard, Carsten Wivel & wife, Jörn Rasmussen, Guido & Barbara Reinking, C.-P Holzigel , and the Graskamps family.

This year's Magnette-Day in Germany had a good turnout with 11 Z-Magnettes but only one Y-type. We had three cars from Denmark, three from England, two from Luxembourg and four from Germany.

All participants enjoyed the relaxed time even if a thunderstorm on Saturday afternoon was "a bit uncomfortable" for playing golf.

In the evening we had a nice BBQ with some beer and the last people went to bed very late. On Sunday the sun was back and after a boat cruise on the Weser we enjoyed a really relaxed time at a historic windmill before the Magnettes scattered in all directions. The "Ray-Cain-Trophy" for best car this time went over from Armand Joseph(Luxembourg) to Elin & Kjeld Haugaard from Denmark.



## 6. Z-Magnette Day 2002

in Limburg/Netherlands, organised by Henk Kroese.

Participants:

The last weekend in June saw a number of Z-Magnettes coming from all directions of Europe again. No less than 16 Magnettes from six different countries (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, UK) followed Henk Kroese's invitation to the southernmost point of the Netherlands, where the borders of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands meet. The beautiful landscape offered small hilly roads as drivers and cars like 'em! Armed with Henk's roadbook the 16 Magnettes, 3 Y-types and a few MGA's & MGB's made a nice relaxing tour on Saturday which was interrupted only by lunch (with typical Dutch food) and tea. Back at our guesthouse the children had to choose the Magnette with the best horn and most badges. There were nice prizes for the best and even the last ("no horn, no badges").

In the evening we had a BBQ before we were entertained by the singing cook, who's voice sounded like Elvis. It seemed to be very late until the last went to bed, because Sunday morning saw some tired crews. But after a good breakfast with a lot of coffee we were ready for the pricegiving:

As every year the best car of the event received the "Ray Cain Trophy". The decision had to be made between three or four good looking cars. It was not easy, but in the end it went again to Kjeld & Elin Haugaard from Denmark.

It was a superb weekend until an accident shocked everybody. A trike drove up Colin Pratt's boot and landed with it's front wheel on the roof! Luckily nobody was injured and we all hope to see the all maroon Varitone and youngest Magnette (too young to die!) back on the road soon!



## 7. Z-Magnette Day 2003

in Roselaere/Belgium, organised by Eddy Lepez

Participants: **B:** Eddy & Petra Lepez(B), Gunter & Antje Graskamp (D), Kjeld & Greve Haugaard (DK), Armand Joseph & wife (L), Jos van Tienen, Henk Kroese, John Kuster, Hans Lubberding, Radbout Meijerink (all NL), Goran Jonson & wife (S), John and Lou Shorton, Gordon Henderson & wife, Paul Batho/Andy Brock & Jo, Malcolm & Liz Eades with Edward, Roger Webb & wife, Colin & Lis Pratt, Chris Logue (all UK)

It was only 24 hours after last years Magnette Day when I received an email from Eddy Lepez saying he has some plans and already checked some pubs!

At the beginning of May he got a bit nervous because he nearly had no entries, but this changed soon during the following weeks. 22 Magnettes were entered of which 17 from seven different countries arrived in the end (first time a car from Sweden!).

On Friday evening we drove to the town of Roselaere, where the local brewery spent 10,000 litres beer! As it was a warm summernight ( as it was always on this event during the last years!) we spent the night sitting outside, drinking beer and talking to old friends.

For Saturday Eddy had organised a scenic drive around Bruge with a visit to a planetarium and a model helicopter show in between. Before we could enjoy the evening meal we had to find out our skills in drawing, when we were asked to complete a painting of a Magnette in Bruge.

On sunny Sunday we drove our Magnettes to Bruge, where we had a boat trip and a walk around.

The Ray Cain Trophy went to the Netherlands. John Kusters received it for his „just in time“ finished Varitone. It was his first outing with this car after a 2,5 years restoration.

