

OverDrive



August / September 2003

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-----CONTACTS-----

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Don't forget the Information you need may be on our website at www.mgcars.org.uk/staffordmgclub/

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COVER PICTURE

*The Chairman's "C" at
RAF Cosford*

FOREMOST
FOREMOST

What a busy couple of months this has been, with MG events and recruitment work, I've been run off my feet. Who said that semi- retirement was easy!! Recent events have all gone off very well and have been well supported. Our area at **Cars in**

the Park was crowded to overflowing and our parade in the arena was excellent. The **Whittington Barracks** weekend was exceptionally hot, and there have been comments that some cars received slight damage from people climbing over them. We will think very seriously before we include this event next year. The **Regional event at RAF Cosford** was very enjoyable. In all there were over 160 cars on display. The weather deserted us at the **Transtar at Doveley Manor**, organised by Keith and Julie Knapper. Steve Brannan spent the whole day leathering the Midget only to be told that 'cars for sale' were not eligible for judging! That didn't go down well with me for one, especially as we had more cars on display than all the other MGOC clubs put together!!

The first club meeting at Weston Hall in August was astonishing! The car park was absolutely full of MG's. 44 people sat down to dinner, which not only amazed the committee, but also stretched the staff who performed magnificently. I have told Brian Craddock to expect at least 30 dinners at future meetings and the tables will be laid adjacent to the bar of the Westminster suite so that we can all be 'together' in future. The combination of an excellent venue, good food at a reasonable price and a warm welcome has more than justified the move from the Woolpack.

Update on Trade Tyre Services; the 'C' now has lovely sticky Yokohamas at each corner at a very reasonable cost. The difference with new tyres is dramatic and I urge all members to check their tyres carefully. Jamie Wadlow's number at TTS is 01543 482048 and fitting, **with balance weights on the inside of the wheel** is done at your home.

See you all at Weston Hall.

Peter Wallis. Chairman Tel 01543 305987
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Vice Chair

Hi all

We've had a very busy schedule with some excellent events and runs throughout the summer season. The weather has been a great bonus which I'm sure contributes to high numbers attending. This makes all the effort put into organising an event worthwhile!

Following the Bank Holiday vineyard run the final 'Laying Up' run will be on Sunday 28th September starting at 11.30 lunchtime and departing from Friarsgate Car Park, Lichfield.

The route will take us through scenic countryside stopping near Market Bosworth for a coffee stop and a possible tour, time permitting. On our return journey we make our way back to Handsacre finishing at Seedy Mill Golf club for a late afternoon Sunday Lunch. The lunch must be booked in advance and therefore I would appreciate it if you could complete the booking form with the newsletter and let me have your deposit ASAP.

Mike is repeating last years members survey questionnaire included with this newsletter. It would be helpful if you could complete and return it before or at the next club meeting in October.

The committee will be meeting later in October to discuss plans for next year. We welcome and will try to use comments and suggestions you make in the questionnaire and any offer of help from you the club members would be appreciated. A big THANKYOU to those who contributed to this years events.

Chris

Vice-Chair

Here's a helpful hint for all you MGF owners. Does your hood tend to attract thistle seeds and such like, which are very difficult to wash off? Then don't try to wash them off. When dry, they come off quite easily with a vacuum cleaner. (Don't try this with Mum's old upright Hoover though)

Doveley Manor Transtar Event **Sunday 9th August**



This is where the gazebo came into its own as we spent most of the day under it sheltering from the rain. Lots of heavy showers with threats of brightening up which rarely materialised. Shame, as it was a lovely setting. Anyway we managed to look

round the cars, autojumble and garden centre without getting too wet.

All in all, it was quite a relaxing day



The Vineyard Run

Sunday 24th August



After a slightly damp drive to the rendezvous in Stourport, the day brightened up and we had a lovely drive round the Herefordshire countryside. First stop was Frome Valley Vineyard, delightful farm buildings set round a courtyard, where we were made very welcome with delicious homemade cake and coffee as well as

tasting the wine. Onto Broadfield Vineyard, another lovely farm building dating back to 1085 when it was a monastery. We had a guided tour round the vines and rose garden followed by a very informative tasting. Did you know that the reason that there is little wine making in this country is nothing to do with our climate but because Henry VIII destroyed our vineyards along with the monasteries? We had a very

relaxing picnic on the lawn and only just managed to get to Hartlebury Castle, Shropshire's County Museum in time to get a quick cuppa and peek at their gipsy caravans before they closed. Thanks to Peter for organising a wonderful day.



Coming so

Membership Update

Well we have had a few good outings since the last Overdrive giving us a chance to make some new acquaintances and at the same time to renew some old ones. In this newsletter we offer a warm SMGEC welcome to three new members, Ben & Sarah Gardner-Hall (MG ZR105), Bernard & Diana Pearson (MGB GT) and Syd & Doreen Tattersall (MG Montego, MGB GT & MGB Roadster).

Membership renewals are now well underway with over half of members from last year already having renewed. Thanks to all of those members that have paid their subscriptions and to those that have not yet paid it would be very much appreciated if you would do so as soon as possible so as to save the extra effort involved with issuing reminders. **Please note that this edition of Overdrive will be the last one sent out to members that have not paid their subscription.**

For those members on email please try to check your mailboxes before club events as we will always try to notify any alterations to arrangements via this method.

Lastly, a plea to you all for help. If members have any ideas for events, trips or club night talks for inclusion in the winter programme would you please let the committee know as they are fast running out of fresh ideas.

Spinners on the Web

The recent club outings have provided a source for some more pictures of members' cars that have now made their way onto the 'Members and their Cars' section on the site. The collection is looking an extensive catalogue of the MG Marque. Perhaps some knowledgeable member will tell us the models that we are missing?

The next enhancement to the website is to incorporate an electronic discussion forum into the 'Members Only' area. Thanks are due to Rob Watton for developing this facility but his efforts will only be worthwhile if as many of us as possible use the Forum. Go on keep a look out for it appearing and then give it a go!! At the same time a revised login procedure will be introduced. The existing ID's (Usernames) and passwords will continue to work until November 2003 but each member will get new ones on request.

Mike Abel

Membership Secretary & Webmaster.

Woodvale International Rally

Julie and I could not get to the treasure hunt and Chairman's barbecue at the beginning of August because we were away for the weekend in Southport. While there we went to Woodvale International Rally. **What a show!** There is something for everybody, car booters, a large Sunday market, auto jumble, model engineering exhibitions, aircraft flying displays, model car racing, kite flying and fun fair (if that's your thing).

The main event was the model aircraft flying displays. So many different types from small aerobatic to WW2 planes to delta jet planes, some hard to detect from full size planes being up to 12ft wingspan. The finale really is worth waiting for with up to 20 planes flying all at the same time. Planes were called in leaving just the bombers flying. Then to simulate an attack, the bomb doors opened and they launched an assault on the runway with fireworks going off from the ground. The bombs were dropped and oil drums ignited to produce plumes of black smoke the whole length of the runway. What an ending!

Oh and I nearly forgot, there were over 1000 classic cars ranging from the humble Mini to the Bentley/Rolls enthusiasts' stand. Other items on show were stationary engines, military vehicles and trick motorbike riding pulling wheelies and stoppies (opposite to wheelies on the front wheel only). All this to see and do in just one day. Beware, it's heavy on the legs and the pocket.

Keith Knapper

And finally, a few words from that eminent social commentator,

Maurice Garbage

Are Roadsters soft up top?

Did you know? Murray Walker has never passed his driving test, yet drove a tank during the second world war.

I once thought I was wrong to think women are bad drivers, but I think I may have been mistaken



**The thoroughbred MGA
all-weather Sports Coupé**

Events Calendar

Thursday 4 th September	Club Night at Weston Hall, Weston nr Stafford
Sunday 7 th September	The Third Shropshire Run Start at 2.30 pm from Renaissance MG
Sunday 28 th September	Laying Up Run Start at 11.30 am from Friarsgate Carpark
Thursday 2 nd October	Club Night at Weston Hall with a Talk by Abingdon MG
Thursday 6 th November	Club night at Weston Hall
Thursday 4 th December	Club night at Weston Hall

