



Preston & District MG Enthusiasts Club

Established 1980

March 2013

NEWSLETTER



A

A picture of Andy (*the bandit*) Schultz in the foreground, with some of the other bowlers, after his winning performance at the Lakeside Bowling Alley, Preston on Tuesday 2th February.

Forthcoming Events

24th March (Sun) - Club run & lunch (meet at Ley Inn, Whittle Le Woods 10.00am)

26th March (Tue) - Club Night—Speaker Steve Williams talking about the Blackburn to Preston railway.

21st April (Sun) - Drive It Day—Club run, lunch & walking treasure hunt (starting place to be advised)

CHAIRMANS CHAT MARCH 2013

At last spring has arrived, or so they say for as I write this it is snowing heavily! So - following the “Cold Turkey” run it’s now time to remove the covers once again for the long and sunny summer that lies ahead. Our first venture for a Sunday run and lunch is all planned for the 24th March 2013 when we will meet at the Ley Inn – Clayton le Woods at 10:00am where coffee/tea will be provided (Club expense!) – route books will be issued then we will drive north to our old meeting point at Burlingtons, Broughton, then “tulip” through some super scenery and rural roads north and west until we arrive at the Shard Bridge Hotel now called Shard Riverside where we will take lunch.



We have visited the Shard in the past but on my visit last week it is now beautifully refurbished with a good selection of food and splendid views of the River Wyre estuary.

There is a routed mileage of some 50 miles, so tag on to this your to and from distances and this event should be a worthy trial for cherished partners and an enjoyable Club Meeting.

See you there.

I have the results of Brightwells Auction held on the 6th March 2013 re the disposal of the Mouldsworth Classic Car collection. Perhaps the sales figures will be of interest to those of you with similar models as a comparison and for current insurance value purpose.

Please consider that I have seen these vehicles and would describe their condition as at best “standard” with work to do.

1951 TD	£13800
1953 YB Saloon	£4800
1976 BGT V8	£5000
1981 Midget	£2300
1981 Roadster	£5200
1982 Roadster	£4100

Food for thought?

I also have the results of the Annual Bowling event held at the Lakeside Superbowl Preston on Tues 26th Feb 2013 and although Godfrey will enlighten you with full detail I was amazed to see “the hand of Schultz” descend upon the Stadium and all those present – we were all transfixed by the supernatural exhibition that we beheld.

SO congratulations Andy and hope that no serious damage occurred to the shoulder as I need a couple of oil changes within the next couple of weeks!

THINGS TO COME

Club Night Tuesday 26th March

We have booked Mr Steve Williams as Guest Speaker who will exhibit his knowledge and historical humour regarding the Victorian rail link from Preston to Blackburn via Bamber (level crossing) Bridge.

Venue – Welcome Inn - Time 8:00pm

Looking forward to seeing you there.

BILL

Secretary's Scribbles

Yes—Andy was hitting strikes with ease on the Bowling Night, finishing with a rather big score of 153. However there was a dark horse stalking close behind, chomping at the bit, called Burger Bamber who was doing the same, until he selected a rogue green bowl with some chewing gum stuck to it. That flunked his final bowl down the gutter, and he finished with a 144 for 2nd spot. Now I won't reveal everybody's scores, but let me say that Carole, Chris, David & Neil all hit 3 figure scores - a very fine achievement.

I had a good excuse, playing with a dicky knee, managing a score not quite into three figures, but I was content with that. Seventeen members, partners, wives turned up for the fun, and it was good to see some of the club's newer members joining in.

As Bill has already mentioned, we have the club's first run of the season on Sunday the 24th March, and we're hoping for a big turnout, supported by blue skies and sunshine. Well we can hope! Then next up is the Drive It Day on the 21st April. Mark & Karen, last year's winners, are sorting out the run, lunch venue and walking treasure hunt, but regrettably neither of them will be able to attend due to work commitments. I will let you know the starting place and time as soon as I know it.

Giulio Gambarini, our country member from Bergamo in Italy, was in the Alps a week or two back, and sent me two photos of his recently acquired MGC GT. The pictures are shown below, and you might just see the P&DMGEC logo sticker on the wind-screen. His car looks a real beauty. Giulio & his wife are joining our group of 4 cars in France for a day or two in July, when we stay at Aime, near Annecy, and for the record it looks like he's an Inter Milan supporter, with a small affection for Manchester United!



I don't know if any members remember Dave Ormandy, who I believe was a founder member and left in the 90s. Well, Dave has been in touch recently, and has sent me a lengthy e-mail of his comings and goings, and I've extracted some bits which might be of interest to you.

Hi Godfrey, I hope you don't mind me contacting you. I was having a mooch about the 'net to alleviate an otherwise boring evening and a thought occurred to me that I should type into Google and see if the MGEC is still going, and lo and behold there you were! To explain: I was very involved with the club through the 80s having held positions on the committee, then as secretary and finally as Chairman (more by default than any particular skills it must be said) so it's lovely to see you're still going strong. Sadly, after moving onto pastures new and re-discovering motorcycles I lost touch with most members of the club, although my wife kept in touch with Eric's (Smith) wife, Margaret for a while. Eric moved away after leaving Margaret - sadly they later divorced and we lost touch completely. During my time at the club I owned two MGBs, a '72 BGT and a white 71 B Roadster which I rebuilt from a virtual wreck. I finally parted company with the club around 1991 but kept in touch with a couple of other committee members for a few years: Chris Phillips, and John Fawcett. As my kids were growing up I decided to move away from MGs and bought a Karmann Beetle which I owned for a short while before eventually returning to motorcycling. The Beetle never really "floated my boat" and was sold on within 12 months.

Like I say, I hope you don't mind me getting in touch but I was genuinely delighted to find the club is still going strong. I may even pop over to one of your monthly meetings one summer evening to spy up some MGs - they still hold a special place in my heart - if you don't object to a rather bright red MX5 parked amongst the MGs that is? I could always come on the bike I suppose, but that's a BMW which is probably even worse!

When I joined the club in the very early '80s they were meeting at the Ley Inn which was usually packed out with members on our regular meeting nights, we always had pretty good attendance such was the rapport between most of us and we tried not to let any "Cliques" form as happens with a lot of car clubs, everyone was made genuinely welcome there. I think the club initially met somewhere else for a short while before I found it but I can't recall where it was. We sometimes met at the Ley to start any club runs and I remember they had a nearby goat which on a couple of occasions formed a dislike to random passing people for no apparent reason. It would take great delight in butting them, usually in their nether regions - unsurprisingly everyone used to give it a wide berth!

We had some great club nights, with films or a guest speaker - usually some local dignitary or other with an interest in cars. We also had talks from people in the MG world, performance parts trade or even a racing driver. We had Rivers Fletcher visit us on a couple of occasions, he liked coming up to Preston. He was a real character, he'd be in his late 70s back then and still drove himself all the way up here in his blue MGBGT, I think he lived in Gloucestershire or somewhere down that way if I recall correctly. My wife and me even entertained two Canadian MG enthusiasts, a father and son, for an evening. They'd looked us up at the club prior to a visit over to the UK and got in touch so they were duly invited for dinner - rude not to really. Two really nice blokes with lots of stories to tell. We ate a lot, drank a lot and laughed a lot - it's very important to laugh a lot - and they went away happy.

We used to run a few treasure hunts too - they usually ended up in total chaos but were great fun. On one particular event that myself and another committee member had organised, one of the things the entrants had to bring back was a bag of sand. The thinking behind that being the route took us around Southport and Ainsdale. However, some people jumped the gun and started to raid a sand pile not far from the start, it was outside a house where some poor person was having an extension built. The first couple of cars got away with it but the subsequent treasure hunters were met with a rather large man wielding an even larger piece of wood and issuing not very pleasant threats! On another hunt, entrants had to note the name of a boat that was on someone's front garden. It was a really old wooden thing with the name just nailed, not very securely, onto the side of it. One of the first drivers to reach it thought it would be a great idea (and give them more chance of winning) if they pinched the name, which they did - and then turned up at prize giving where his wife gave the game away. We disqualified him after finding it in the boot of his car and made him take it back. We did have some great characters back then though.

I recall one run to the Lakes, it must have been one of our most well attended runs with around 20 cars. At one point I was leading, with my young nephew (who used to come with me on many club outings) in the passenger seat on map reading duties. He told me to turn left along a very narrow road - which to my eternal shame I did, and found myself being followed by at least 10 MGs that had blindly followed us as we all headed towards a very small and muddy farmyard, with nowhere to turn around and a bemused farmer wondering what the hell had invaded his yard. Utter chaos yet again!

There were some memorable weekends in Edinburgh where we stayed in a hotel near South Queensferry which was run by a friend of one of our committee members, Richard Hodson. The second time we stayed there we discovered we were sharing the place with the entrants of a dog show taking place at the nearby Scottish Showground. They had obtained permission to keep their dogs in the rooms for the night and the noise was dreadful, barks and howls all night long kept us all awake, it could only happen to us! Breakfast was a pretty glum affair, not much conversation took place and we all had bags under our eyes through lack of sleep. Those who had slept had only done so because they'd drunk so much & were all nursing hangovers. Richard was at that time manager of the Ladbroke Hotel near the M6 J28 in Leyland, (not sure what it's called now) we eventually ended up having our club meetings there after holding them at several different venues over the years.

We did yearly trips to Le Mans for the 24 hour race for a while, although I'd been before we must have gone as a club for about 4 years or so on the trot and they were always well attended. I made my last trip there in 1991, I felt the place was never quite the same after they knocked down the old historic pits with the spectator area above them to be replaced with a modern hideous grandstand thing, although I did continue to go for a year or two after the new stand was built it was never the same. Progress I suppose. Then there was the story of Andy Birtles and his smelly socks, but that can wait for another time.

About 2-3 years ago I received a letter from a chap who was an MGOC member and had traced me via them. He owned my last MG - the white 'B' Roadster that I'd rebuilt back in about 1987. It was so nice to see it still going strong and exactly as I remember, apart from it wearing a set of chrome wire wheels.

I sold it to a young lad who saw it at Silverstone, he spotted the for sale sign in the window so him and his father waited for me to return and made me an offer I couldn't refuse. They were obviously "quite well to do" and daddy was buying it for the boy because he'd just written off the first one he was bought. They paid me a deposit (such trusting days!) and a week later saw me driving it up to Cleveland to deliver it. I was so sure it was going to go the same way as the boy's first one, but happily it didn't.

Finally - I love my little Mazda, it's a real hoot to drive - the handling is truly sublime but there's no denying that they do have a bit of a rep as a girly car, usually by people who have never driven one. They're the kind of car (unlike MGs) that nobody really takes any notice of and if you tell most people what you drive they usually chuckle or look the other way, you have to grow a pretty thick skin to be an MX5 owner! This was brought well and truly home to me last week when the plumber first arrived here. We're storing a lot of the things like shower room bits and pieces in my garage, in-between the bike and the MX5. The conversation went something like:

Him : "Have you got your new toilet pan handy?"

Me: "Yes it's in the garage, hang on and I'll open it up for you" ...As we toddle off in the direction of the "Man Cave" (wife's name for it) open it up and switch on the lights

Him: "Wow! ...I love Honda S2000s"

Me: "So do I - I may buy one someday" He gives me a curious look like I've grown two heads!

Him: "I think it's gorgeous"

Me: "Not keen on the fact it's not an S2000 either"

Him: "Pardon!"

Me: "It's not an S2000"

Him "Really? What is it then?"

Me: "It's a Ferrari!"

Him "You're kidding?"

Me: "Yes"

Him: "Yes what?"

Me: "Yes, I'm kidding - it's not a Ferrari either"

Him: "What is it, really?"

Me: "A Mazda"

Him: "A MAZDA!!!"

Me: "Yes"

Him: "Like, Mazda... that make the MX5?"

Me: "Yes Mazda that make the MX5 - just like this one" (give the lad his due my car has no MX5 badges on the outside and it is a lowered SE)

Him: "THAT'S an MX5?"

Me (proudly) "Yes"

Him: "Where's the toilet pan?"

Dave Ormandy hopefully will turn up at one of the club nights—I've asked him to come along for the SYCO night, when he would get a chance to see plenty of MGs on display—so lets hope he does.

There are no items for sale this month, but please don't forget to let me have any details of sale items by say the 10th of the month, and also let Mike Newton know, as he will place an advert on the club website for you.

You will have seen the broadcast e-mail I recently sent regarding the EVENT CITY classic car show taking place near the Trafford Centre, Manchester on the 6th & 7th April. The exact address is Phoenix Way, Off Barton Dock Road, Urmston, Manchester M41 7TB (Junction 9/10 off the M60) and parking is free. I can get tickets for half price (£6) because we are a club, so please let me know well beforehand if you want any. This is an indoor event, with over 500 vehicles and 80 car clubs involved.

All for now

GODFREY

MAD MIKE'S CARTOON



Proposed Calendar of Events for 2013

Date	Club Event	Time	Start / Meet
Tue 26 Feb	Tenpin Bowling	20.00	Lakeside Superbowl 8pm
Sun 24 Mar	Sunday Run & Lunch	10.00	Ley Inn, Whittle Le Woods
Tue 26 Mar	Club Night (Speaker)	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sat/Sun 6/7 Apr	Event City Classic Car Show	TBA	Event City (nr. Trafford Centre)
Sun 21 Apr	Drive IT Day—inc. Treasure Hunt	TBA	TBA
Tue 30 Apr	Club Night	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sun 5 May	Ripon Spring Classic Car Show	TBA	Ripon Racecourse
Sun 12 May	Vale Royal Show—Arley Hall, Cheshire	TBA	Charnock Richard Services M6
Tue 28 May	Club Night—evening run	19.00	TBA
7/10th Jun	NTBHWE—Much Wenlock	TBA	TBA
Sun 9 Jun	Garstang Classic Car Show	10.00	Burlingtons car park, A6
Sun 23 Jun	Hoghton Tower Classic Car Show	TBA	Hoghton Tower
Tue 25 Jun	Club Night—SYCO	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sat 29 Jun	Lostock Hall Carnival	TBA	
Sun—Jul	Classic Car Show—Burnley	TBA	B&Q—Bamber Bridge
Sun 21 Jul	Fleetwood Tram Day	TBA	Ribble Pilot car park
Tue 30 Jul	Club Night—Autotest	19.30	Schultz Estate
Sun 4 Aug	TBA	TBA	
Sun 4 Aug	<i>Alternative—Northern National</i>	09.00	TBA
Sun 18 Aug	Sunday Run & Lunch	10.30	Ribble Pilot car park
Tue 27 Aug	Club Night evening run	19.00	TBA
Sat 7 Sep	Oulton Park MG Race Meeting	09.00	Charnock Richard Services M6
Sep (TBA)	Fairhaven Classic Car Show & lunch	TBA	Ribble Pilot car park
Sun 15 Sep	Lancashire Lanes Run	TBA	Barton Grange car park A6
Tue 24 Sep	Club Night—Guest Speaker	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sun 13 Oct	Sunday Run & Lunch	TBA	TBA
Tue 29 Oct	Club Night—Annual Quiz	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sat 2 Nov	Bonfire Night inc. hotpot	19.00	Schultz Estate
Tue 26 Nov	Club Night—Natter & Noggin	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sat 7 Dec	Annual Dinner & Awards	19.30	TBA
Sun 29 Dec	Cold Turkey Run	11.00	TBA

Details may be changed during year

Committee, Contacts and Useful Information



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