



# Synchro!



## The Newsletter of South Staffs and North Birmingham MG Owners Club

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### SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLINGS

So that was 2010. After the lengthy build-up to the Christmas and New year period, it is suddenly all over. As I look back over the past year, my general impression is of a highly successful and enjoyable year for the club. Without going into a lengthy list of the events, I think that the overall programme was just about as interesting and varied as it was possible to be. The main events went very well, MGs in the Trees was excellent, (apart from the rather rapid end to the proceedings, brought on by the sudden torrential rain). My own two continental expeditions, to Laon and to Fest Jazz, in Brittany, were both absolutely brilliant, and I have every intention of repeating both in 2011.

To balance these rather more exotic events, the day trips and static rallies were also both well-supported and also most satisfying. Personally, I always look forward to a decent trip that I can really get my teeth into, but I realise that that is not everyone's cup of tea. I think that the key to keeping all of the membership happy is to have a balance of the more lengthy (and hence more expensive) events with the much more relaxed day runs. So, rather than looking back over 2010, as the New year appears, it is great to start to consider what may be in store for 2011. We intend to start January and February with quite an assortment of events, so look carefully at the events list, and please make the most of what there is to offer.

So, may I wish all of our members a very happy, hopefully prosperous, definitely healthy, and most definitely ACTIVE MG year ahead.

### MEMBERSHIP

As of the start of the New Year, your membership renewals are due. The fees remain the same as last year, £20 for a couple, and £12 for single membership. Our Membership

Secretary, Stuart Lay has pre-printed copies of the membership forms. You do not have to even fill them in if you are already a member, they are already complete. All that we ask is that you carefully check the details to make sure that they are still current. In particular:

Is your email address correct? (as you know, even a dot out of place and the mail will not be delivered)

Have you changed your mobile phone number?

If you are unable to attend a club meeting in the immediate future, please contact Stuart Lay, either by email, [S.Lay@vikingelectronics.co.uk](mailto:S.Lay@vikingelectronics.co.uk), or by phone 01785 614889.

Send in your cheque, made payable to SSMGOC, and he will do the rest. Please renew promptly; it helps keep the club financially solvent, and more to the point ensures that you are kept abreast of events etc.

### THE CLUB AGM

#### SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

As usual, the AGM will take place at the Parish Room, Hatherton, As a club I think that we are usually blessed with great support for the AGM, and I would ask that everyone who possibly can attends the meeting. I used to be a member of a club where wild horses would not drag members to the AGM, with the result that on the day, the number of committee members outnumbered the ordinary membership. The result of this used to be a rather sterile meeting. Without many contributions 'from the floor' it ended up as a mutual appreciation society for the committee, with little of interest.

This has never been the case with our club.

There has always been a notable absence of “The Tennis Club Syndrome”, where members are scared to attend for fear of being lumbered with a job. If you are really interested in participating as a committee member, and influencing the running of the club on a permanent basis, you will be more than welcome. On the other hand, if other commitments prevent you from taking a very active role in organising the club, still come along to put any idea or suggestion forward. The more the merrier.

The only thing that we ask is that any nominations for the committee should be made before the AGM, and with the agreement of the person nominated.

## **Skittles and Stew Night, 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

Or is it Stew and Skittles night? Definitely one or the other. This will be held at the Hatherton Parish Room, just off the A5 near to the Four Crosses pub, starting at 7.30p.m. on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. January. Those who took part will remember the Tramps Supper last January. This event should be equally enjoyable. We have the use of a portable skittle alley for the evening. The food will be similar to last year’s event, which was enjoyed by all.

If you wish to come, please just call 0121-353 9916. We just need to have a reasonable idea of numbers for the catering. This is rather short notice, but we hope that as many as possible will come along.

If you have not been to Hatherton before and need directions, again, just call the above number.

## **Quiz night, 26<sup>th</sup>. January**

Some months ago, Tony and Julie Haughton very kindly volunteered to put on a quiz evening. We thought that this might be better

held over until the ‘dead’ period immediately after Christmas and New Year. So here it is. The quiz promises to be a very well-organised an interesting one, and so we need as many as possible to take part. The idea is for teams of about four to six to take part, and Tony has asked that we should be ready for kick-off by 8.30 p.m. in order to get through all of the rounds, and not end up too late. Arranging a quiz is a time-consuming thing, so *please* turn up to support this event.

## **The Valentines Run, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>. February**

This run is also the Alan Jones Memorial Run. It is our traditional first run of the season, and is run in memory of the contribution made to the club by our late secretary Alan Jones.

Someone asked me at the last club meeting “What is this Valentines Run all about?”, to which I rather flippantly replied “give me a kiss and I’ll tell you!”

The format is simple. We will start from the Ascot Tavern at 10.00a.m., and there will be a run, (probably through some of the muddiest lanes in the civilised world), ending at a suitable venue for Sunday lunch. It has kindly been arranged, or probably more correctly at the time of writing, *will be arranged*, by Graham and Cynth.

As this run is so early in the year, obviously some of the cars will still be in deep sleep mode, languishing in SORN, wrapped up lovingly in cotton wool in their air-conditioned heated garages (if only!), so in that case please just come in your modern tinware, skateboard or private jet.

If you wish to participate and can’t make it to the next club evening to sign on, please ring 0121-353- 9916. Again, we need to have an idea of numbers for lunch.

## **The International MG Show, Stoneleigh, 20<sup>th</sup>. February.**

For anyone who has not tasted the delights of Stoneleigh, the show is very largely for traders to sell their wares, with displays from the various local MG clubs. It is literally possible to buy anything from a bulb or switch to a complete car. It is a chance to renew your enthusiasm with an eye on the coming season.

The entry for a SSMGOC club stand went in many weeks ago, but at the time of writing the size or shape of the stand is still not known. This does create a problem in that there is very little time to locate suitable cars for the stand (and which are taxed and insured a that time of year). We have tried to rotate the display cars so that we do not end up with the same assortment each year.

Probably what happens is that the organisers wait until there is absolutely no chance of any more traders entering (the people who pay!), and then they allocate the remainder of the space to the club stands. So we are confident that there will be a club stand, with just a few free tickets for those manning the stand.

## **MGs in the Trees 2011**

For those who have not been in touch over the Christmas period, the date for the annual South Staffs extravaganza, our major event of the year, has been set for June the 12th 2011. We have tried to avoid other major events by carefully choosing this date (and believe me this is not easy).

In order to breathe a bit of fresh air into the event we are changing the venue this year to Chasewater Park. The event will take its usual format, with road runs and the usual stands (and bacon butties), but this year will have the added attraction of the Chasewater Steam Railway.

Please keep the date free. Your Country needs you!

### ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

Saturday 22nd. January	Stew and Skittles Evening	Hatherton Parish Room
Wednesday 26th. January, 8.300 sharp	Quiz Evening	The Ascot Tavern
Sunday 6th February, 3 p.m.	The Club AGM	Hatherton Parish Room
Sunday 13th February	The Valentines' Run	The Ascot Tavern (start)
Sunday 20th. February	MG Show Stoneleigh	

For further details of any of these events, please contact either Alan Heeley, on 0121-353-9916, or Steve Gwilt, on 01922 415680.