



Newsletter December 2016

Introduction

The Roger Skinner Trophy

I am very pleased to report that the plinth for the Roger Skinner Trophy is now completely finished – Jack Martin has arranged with our engraver to have a silver band fitted to it, on which to record the recipients each year.



I think you will agree that it looks really smart. The trophy will be awarded at the Annual Dinner in February, but I should be in a position to announce this year's trophy winner in the January Newsletter. In January I will also publish a full explanation of how points can be earned towards this trophy in 2017, the first full year for earning points.

Other Matters

By now, a lot of our cars will be tucked up in their winter storage, but this does not mean that Club activities grind to a halt. In fact, we are entering quite a busy time, with three important events coming up in the next few months.

Firstly, in the December Natter we will be having the annual quiz, our quizmaster and glamorous assistant being Pete and Lesley Thomas (you have to guess which is which). A lot of work goes into compiling a quiz, and they are always good fun - Pete was dropping a few hints about what he has in store during the last natter, which leads me to believe this year will be no exception! So let's have a good turnout for this.

Secondly the January Natter is taken up with our Annual General Meeting. This is a particularly important event, since not only do you have a chance to vote in the committee for the next



twelve months (and stand for election to one or other of the posts yourself if you wish to), but you can have your say on the way that the club is run, as well as coming up with suggestions for future activities that we can all enjoy. So please give some thought to this, and make a note in your diary to make a point of coming along in January.

And last but by no means least, the Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 3rd February at The Five Arrows, our normal haunt. As mentioned last month, the food is always excellent and the staff at the Arrows look after us well. A great social occasion, and a nice one to get dressed up for! Clive is organising this, so let him or myself know that you will be coming if you haven't already done so, as Hollie Barr at the Arrows will need to know numbers fairly soon. I have attached a copy of the menu to this newsletter again this month, to let you see the delights on offer, but I won't need to know menu choices until next year. A night not to be missed!

Changes to Road Tax

I mentioned last time that there will be some Vehicle Excise Duty changes next year, as well as a consultation exercise about other changes that will affect road users.

Essentially, the changes mean that future VED rates will be on a new three-tier system from 1 April 2017. The new scheme will be based on the vehicle's emissions and list price:

- Zero emissions cars won't pay any VED.
- A standard rate of £140 will apply for all other cars, regardless of how high their emissions are. However, the First Year Rate (FYR) will be a sliding scale depending on how polluting a car is. The rate starts at £10 for the first year, rising to a whopping £2,000 for the worst offenders.
- There will also be a premium of £310 levied on all cars with a list price in excess of £40,000 for the first five years. This will include electric and other zero emission cars.

As I understand it, these changes will not be retrospective, but will apply to all cars registered from 1st April 2017.

MGCC Car Of The Month

Malcolm Bailey, the Abingdon Works Centre of the MG Car Club's WebMaster, is still looking for your car to feature on the website's Car Of The Month. If you are an MGCC member and you haven't yet submitted your car to be the AWC's Car Of The Month, he would very much like you to do so. Look at the website to see the format, take some pics of your car and prepare a snappy write-up about it, and send it off to him.

MGB GT – Roof Lining

John Brewer is looking for information on replacing the roof lining on his MGB GT, and would very much like to hear from anyone who has done this rather difficult task. I pointed him in the direction of the MG Enthusiasts' Bulletin Boards, because I know that there is a number of posts on this subject on the BB archive. So, if you are knowledgeable on this subject, please contact him either direct, or through me.

Incidentally, for anyone not familiar with the MG Enthusiasts website, it is a mine of useful information on just about every topic for our cars, so go to <http://www2.mg-cars.org.uk/cgi-bin/gen5?runprog=mgbbs> for the current BBs – you will have to subscribe to the website (it's free) to gain access to the archive, but it's well worth it if you have a problem with your car – someone is bound to have had the same issue before you! I have found the posts very useful.



Upcoming Events

Monday 5th December – Natter Quiz.

This is our annual quiz, at the Five Arrows at 20.00 mentioned above - Pete and Lesley Thomas will be officiating. A quiz takes a lot of work to organise, so let's have a good turnout for this!

Tuesday 27 December - Classic Cars on the Market Place, Brackley on from 10.00 to 2.00pm. This is a free event – no need to book.

Sunday 1st January 2017 - Vintage Stony.

Stony Stratford town centre, from 10.30 to 2.00pm. Never been, but it looks really good.

Sunday 8th January 2017 - Bicester Heritage Sunday Scramble

This is a good opportunity to get some fresh air after the excesses of Christmas and the New Year, once the hangovers have abated Clive has registered our club with the organisers of this, so that we will have a reserved area for our vehicles. When you visit the website to purchase tickets and arrive at the booking page, you select the 'Buy Club Member Vehicle tickets' option. This not only enables you to purchase advance discounted tickets but allows BH to see how many club vehicles to expect when planning the space for our club parking display area. See you there!

Monday 9th January 2017.

January Natter at The Five Arrows – the Club's Annual General Meeting, mentioned above, during which the Committee members are elected and policy discussed. It is important for members to attend and give their views on the way the club is run. Starts at 20.00.

Friday 3rd February – Annual Dinner and Prizegiving.

See above. Put this in your diary!!! Nuff Said.

Sunday 19th February – MG Spares Day at the NAC.

The annual pilgrimage to purchase those hard-to-find greasy and oily bits for your MG.

And Lastly: Your intrepid Roving Reporter has been out and about, and has spotted:



MGB in St Moritz, Switzerland (Photo: AB)



MG TC in Udaipur, India (Photo: Bill & Lyn McMeekin)



MG TF in Mennagio, N Italy (Photo: AB)

If you see an unusual MG in a normal place, or a normal MG in an unusual spot, send me a photo to include in this section!!

Happy Xmas To You All!

And a Happy New Year!

Adrian Bennett

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Club Secretary



THE FIVE ARROWS
Waddesdon

MG Club Dinner

£30.50 per person

Balsamic roasted tomato soup, homemade ricotta, pesto

Confit rabbit and hazelnut terrine, foie gras butter, quail eggs & pickled red cabbage

Pan seared scallops, sweet potato & papaya puree, crisp pancetta, cumin oil



Grilled Hake, mustard & herb butter, salt baked celeriac, pomme anna

Slow cooked blade of beef & roasted sirloin, smoked mash, pearl onions, bacon lardons, savoy cabbage & thyme jus

Beetroot risotto, oxford blue cheese, roasted hazelnuts, wild rocket



Honey iced parfait, cinnamon granola, salted caramel popcorn ice cream

Chocolate delice, banana ice cream, glazed banana, griottine cherries soaked in kirsch

Selection of British Cheeses, Five Arrows chutney, oat biscuits



Tea and coffee



All prices include VAT. A 10% Discretionary Service Charge will be added to your bill