

FROM THE CLUB ARCHIVIST

ISSUE 7: JUNE 2022



Welcome to the June issue of the archivist's Newsletter.

Safety Fast! magazine

You will be aware that our club is affiliated to the UK parent club based in Abingdon on Thames. Our affiliation allows us to access the online version of the UK club's Safety Fast! magazine.

There's lots of interesting MG stories in the publication that I'm sure you will enjoy, particularly on a cold winter day when its too unpleasant to venture outside.

If you do want to have a look at the real thing, our club receives hard copies of the publication and these are usually held somewhere between Kevin and then I, as they are held in the club archives.

To view the magazine online, here are the access details:

Go to: <https://www.mgcc.co.uk>

Click on the green member's button in the top-right hand corner and insert our membership number: 109745, enter my email address russellwalker15@gmail.com and enter the password – Calvert1\$ (that's a capital C)

Go to the menu on the left-hand side of the screen and click on "Safety Fast! Magazine". Enjoy.

MG blog link

The MG car club UK issues a regular blog about all things MG. Here's the link to the latest issue. Why not sign up (free of cost) and get the up-to-date happenings right to your own screen.

MGB Newsletter link

For MGB owners or fans of these cars, subscribe to this Newsletter at: webmaster@mgb-register.org

A fabulous piece of MG history right here in Dunedin

(Thanks to John Noble for bringing this to my attention)

Many of you will have heard of the famous name of Goldie Gardner and know of his outstanding record of breaking many land-speed records driving MG cars.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Thomas Goldie Gardner OBE MC (31 May 1890 – 25 August 1958) was an English racing car driver who was awarded the British Racing Driver's Club Gold Star three times. In 1939 he was the first to exceed 200 mph in a light car. And went on to break many more records in MG EX135.

Gardner had a distinguished military career and was the youngest officer in the British Army to become a Major. He suffered severe injuries to his right hip and leg when his reconnaissance plane was shot down in August 1917. Despite receiving some twenty operations over a period of two years spent in hospital the leg did not return to full function. He was discharged from the army in 1921 as medically unfit for further service. And yet he went on to have a distinguished career in motor racing. In 1952 he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and was forced to retire from motor sport and died in 1958 aged just 68.

Well, MG EX135 has actually been to Dunedin, back in 1958. I was somewhat surprised to learn this when John brought it to my attention.



Here's another image of the car with Goldie in the driver seat.



And here's another shot of Gardner (he's the very tall one) with the car and all the famous MG people of the day, including the man himself, Cecil Kimber (on the left) and his boss, Lord Nuffield!



Not all of his racing went well as this image shows all too well. Gardner looks ok despite the wild ride which destroyed his MG J4, he crashed on lap 3 of the 1932 Tourist Trophy at Ards-Belfast. By the looks of the amazed spectators it was a 'big one', Gardner thrown out on one of three rollovers!



And MG EX135 today at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon in the UK, alongside other racing MG cars.



An historically important model of the famous MG record-breaker EX135 – the first car with an 1100cc engine to break 200mph – has been acquired by the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon and is on display beside the full-sized car.

The silver model was originally presented to **daredevil driver Goldie Gardner** by William Morris (Lord Nuffield) after the slightly lesser feat of 186mph was achieved in Germany in 1939.

Gardner received the gift during a celebration lunch at the Trocadero Restaurant in London. Among the guests were fellow record-breaking drivers Malcolm Campbell, George Eyston and John Cobb, three of the fastest men on earth at the time.



Although a very old video, here's the car (the full sized one) in action in a short clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oZrKRdNWjg>

Regards
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Club archivist

