



May 2023 Newsletter

Presidents Update

Hi to, All MG Members

I just do not know where the months are going; the trees are turning golden which means the change of season is on the way.

Our thanks must go Ngaire and Clive for organising the April run, which ended up at the Whistling Frog down in the Catlins, celebrating Cecil Kimber birthday, with a great turn out of Members from far and wide. Kate and Graeme Rice were the overall winners.

I must also thank Ngaire for the lovely birthday cake that she made for the occasion it was truly beautiful in appearance and taste thank you.

With winter just around the corner the committee has not got any runs finalized for May or June at this time of writing but have some things in the pipeline so over the next couple of weeks we will get you up to date.

While on this subject it would be very helpful if any members had any ideas for a Sunday run or for that matter any run, please let any committee member know.

The AUTOSPECTACULAR this year is going to be held at the Edgar Center in Dunedin on the 14th of October. We have booked a site to do a MG club display. So will be calling for helpers and cars, so get shining up your pride and Joy. I am not sure how much space we will have for vehicles, but our team will be looking for support to make this a great opportunity to advertise our club.

As I said in last Month's newsletter that I wanted to introduce a Technical Column, well what a better way to start but to start with the Modern MGF/ TF

Anyone that owns a MGF /TF could have this problem that is a slow to release / hard clutch pedal.

This is normally caused by the clutch shaft bushes in the bell housing seizing up due to lack of lubrication this can be quite easily remedied with an application of penetrating oil to the outside of the bush that is just below the slave cylinder, this can be quite difficult to access but with a little effort it be achieved and is a lot easier than the alternative of having to remove the gear box, that's one thing I can tell you.

So a little bit of preventive maintenance could save you a lot of heartbreaks and a lot of money.

Happy MG motoring

President Bill.

Getting old isn't so bad, except for a little forgetfulness.

New Members

One of the things the Newsletter has not done in the past is introduced our new members to the Club. We will try and address this in future issues. We therefore wish to welcome the following new members who have joined the Club in the past few months.

Susan & Allan Rowsell 1970 MGF

Dave Louden 1972 MGB GT Brendon Wilson 1947 MG TC

John Mathews

1997 MGB GT

Lawrence Montague

1999 MGF

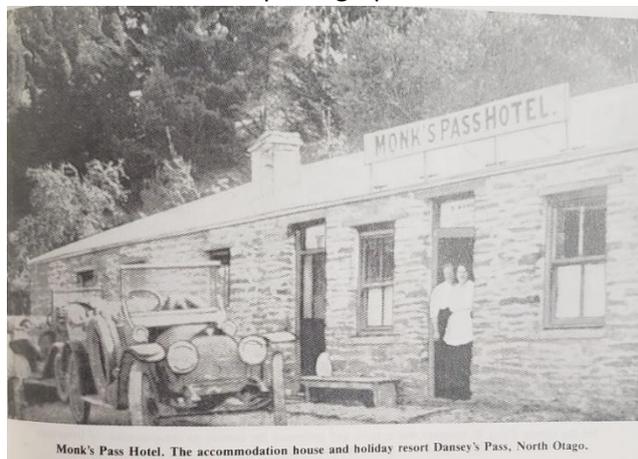
We hope you will be able to take part in Club activities over the coming months. Should you have any questions please contact one of the Committee listed below who will be pleased to assist.

Recent Activities

Further Afield Tour 2023

For those members who took part in the **Further Afield Tour** in March this photograph will be of interest.

The Danseys Hotel looks a little different at the far end with a large addition made in the late 1980s. The remainder of the Hotel still looks pretty much the same today with the road just as close to the buildings. Thanks, Ngaire for finding this little snippet of information.



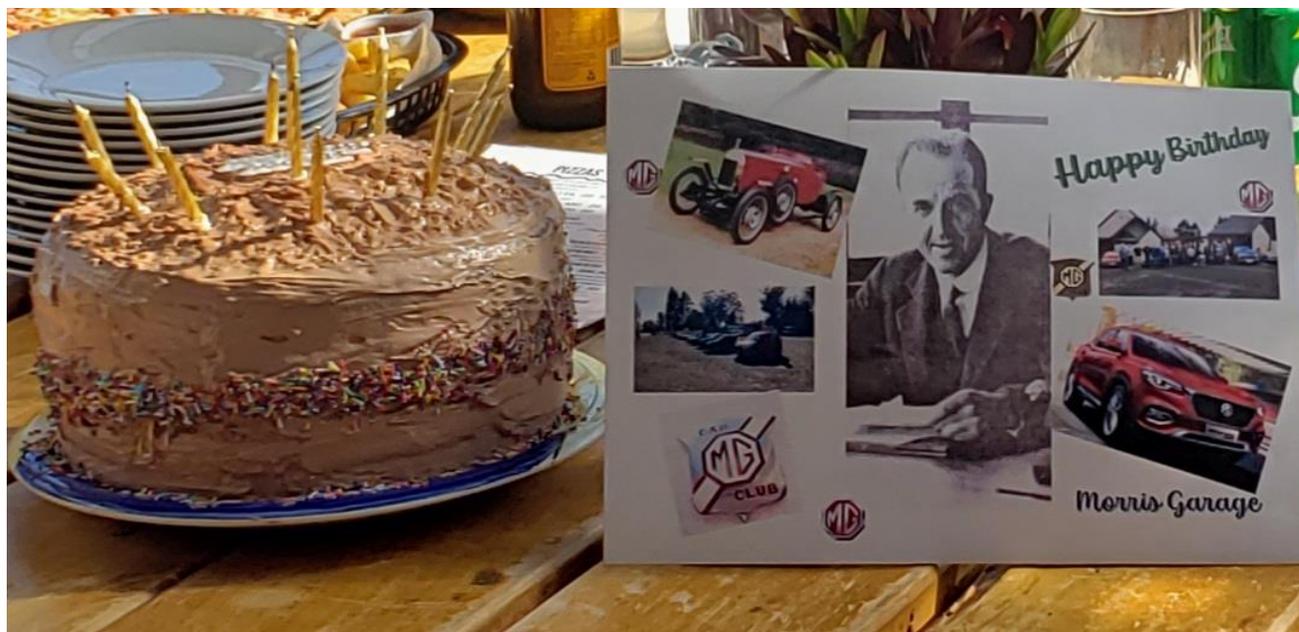
Monk's Pass Hotel. The accommodation house and holiday resort Dansey's Pass, North Otago.

Cecil Kimber Birthday Run 16 April 2023

With the Further Afield Tour over, thoughts turned to the Cecil Kimber Birthday Run. Who would organise it? I had heard a whisper that our Archivist was not organising it this year. So, not to tread on toes, I phoned Russell Walker, he assured me that he was not organising it because he was going to England in May and didn't have enough time to organise the Cecil Kimber Run, our conversation turned to where would be suitable to go and Russell suggested The Whistling Frog Café, where is that I asked, in the Catlin's said Russell – So the idea was born!

I talked to Clive about it and he said mmmmm, not really interested. It would be a great place for a run, I said, we could include the Southland members, nearer home for them, a bit of a run for Central and North Otago members though, but it would be out of town for a change for Dunedinites I will think about it he said!

Saturday the 8th April saw us taking a route planning test run to the Whistling Frog Café, it was a lovely Autumn Day and we hoped it would be the same for the day of the run. We were very lucky because we did indeed have a lovely Autumn Day on the day of 16th. Twenty-three members had registered to take part, unfortunately one couple had to pull out on Friday and one couple took a detour (tiki tour) around Inch Clutha (visiting old memories) and ran out of time to join the other nineteen of us for a lovely lunch, enjoyed in very enjoyable company, to celebrate Cecil Kimber's Birthday with a Birthday Cake to finish.





Coming Events

May & June

Please refer to our Presidents comments above. At this stage there are no Club events planned for either May or June. Please give some thought to putting your hand up to sort something on behalf of the members. It does not have to be long or really involved. Let one of the Committee below know of your suggestion or willingness to do something and they will be sure to help.

From The Club Archivist – Russell Walker

Thankyou Russell who in the busy time preparing to leave for a holiday in the UK has taken the time to supply a couple of interesting items from the past and also a reference to perhaps exciting times for the future.

Enjoy your holiday and trip to The British Motor Museum and we look forward to hearing your stories on your return.

- **Is this not one of the best apologies ever for not attending an MG Car Club committee meeting?**

Although this item doesn't relate to our club, it does at least come from the UK club's archives. It's dated 15 July 1936 and it's John Thornley writing to the then Club Secretary, Mit Harris.

John, you will recall was probably the second most influential person in the history and success of the MG Car Company, after Cecil Kimber of course.

Here's John writing to Mit in London. (Presumably, the MG committee meetings were held in London at this time. Ed)

Dear Mit,

I'm sorry I haven't previously written to you to apologise for my absence from the Committee Meeting on Monday last and for not giving you any notice.

In actual fact I left Abingdon with the full intention of coming, got as far as Maidenhead and then **passed out in the bottom of the motor car.**

Presumably the next meeting will be somewhere around the tenth of August.

Yours sincerely
John Thornley

It appears that John took this episode comfortably in his stride. Here's a couple of photographs of John Thornley. The last one in his M Type Midget.



- One of a kind - Is this the rarest MG ever?



When the MG Car Company in Abingdon prepared itself in readiness for helping with the war effort in 1939, the decision was made to clear the factory ready for whatever Government contracts might come their way.

Being a relatively small factory, the MG facility had little spare capacity to store the hundreds of tons of valuable car parts. This was overcome by the acquisition of a dilapidated one-time clothing factory in the heart of Abingdon town centre. At that time East St Helens Street where the premises were located was extremely narrow and not suitable for large lorries.

The problem was solved when the MG team constructed a one-off “tractor” unit using whatever old MG car parts they could find lying around. Known as “Bitsy” it soon became a familiar sight winding its way through the narrow streets with its several trailers filled with everything from chassis frames and engines to the dismantled paint shop plant that had had pride of place in the middle of the assembly building.

As far as is known, “Bitsy” is long gone. Such a shame because it was a unique “MG” vehicle.

Final words (for a while) from the Club Archivist

Apart from catching up with our daughter, attending the opening event of the MG100 Centenary on 27 May 2023 at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon will be the highlight of “my” trip. Look out for my report on the event in due course. I won’t promise a date as there will be too much else going on over the two months we’re away.

Regards Russell

MG CYBERSTER DEBUTS AT AUTO SHANGHAI



- **Dramatic new all-electric MG sports car officially announced**
- **Cyberster poised to open a compelling new chapter in the MG story, expected on sale in the UK and Europe in the summer of 2024**
- **Revolutionary design combines iconic roadster heritage with modern brand design language**



London, UK - Shanghai, China

An exciting new chapter in the MG story has just been announced at Auto Shanghai 2023 with the company officially confirming production plans of its unique high-performance EV sports car – Cyberster.

The two-seat roadster marks a much-anticipated return to sportscar production by the celebrated MG marque, with Cyberster poised to bring the story right up to date with its powerful all-electric powertrain and contemporary cabin featuring cutting-edge driver technology.



Carl Gotham, Advanced Design Director of the company’s Marylebone design studio in London, comments: “Our intention was to create a completely new roadster ready for a new generation of sportscar drivers and which opens a bold and compelling new chapter for MG.”

“The focus for Cyberster was to create a design that was respectful of the brand’s illustrious past and to bring back that sporting bloodline, while also being absolutely clear that it should be modern and forward-facing like the MG of today, completely in-tune with the rapid transition to electric vehicles.”

Cyberster’s evocative styling pays homage to much-admired roadsters from MG’s rich heritage, with its distinctive long bonnet, low nose and curvaceous surfaces, while also introducing striking new features such as its distinctive scissor doors and Kammback rear design.



Guy Pigounakis, MG Motor UK’s Commercial Director, comments:
 “This is the perfect time to introduce an MG that completely reconnects with our performance DNA and is designed to enthral the driver on every level. MG is all set for an electric, sporting future and it is the perfect way to start celebrating our 100th anniversary.”

Cyberster is expected to arrive for sale in the UK and Europe in the summer of 2024.

Have a look at this YouTube video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTYnWJaNhEY>

This story was taken from the MG Owners Club UK website.

Club Committee

2022 / 2023 Year	Name	Location	Contact Number
President	Bill Botting	Dunedin	021 435 181
Vice President	Russell Hawkes	Invercargill	021 970 997
Secretary	Ngaire Donaldson	Dunedin	022 049 7821
Treasurer	Ross Middlemass	Wanaka	027 236 4306
Club Captain	Alistair Falconer	Kakanui	022 049 7821
Committee	Don Carter	Invercargill	027 345 8985
	Clive Donaldson	Dunedin	022 678 4500
	Kevin Carter	Dunedin	021 181 6126
	Doreen Carter	Dunedin	
	Tom Price	Palmerston	021 899 510
	Graeme Rice	Dunedin	021 549 850

