**MGCCSE AGM 2023 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

2022 was my first full year as Chairman and also the first year where we could resume our normal activities post-Covid. It was great to be able to get out and about again with the club and we organised quite a few events to enable you to join in. Of course that spectre still overhangs but at present it seems highly unlikely that we will return to those days again. So, we have another full year to look forward to with many events including some new to the Centre – an Auto Solo on the Go Kart track at Filching Manor is one that springs to mind and a wine tasting and Vineyard tour at Kingscote Vineyard which will also incorporate our awards for 2022.

2023 will be unusual in having two awards events and this is the first. We can thank Covid again for that as it delayed the presentation so that we were giving out 2021 awards at the tail end of 2022. This way we will hold another awards lunch at the end of October this year and from then on annually so the awards will be presented in the same year they are won, and members won’t forget what they won them for! Consequently Jon & Gwen Davies will be working twice as hard this year to get them all engraved in double time.

We took steps to improve the Centre’s communications and internet presence in 2022 which now gives us nine methods of keeping in touch with members. The introduction of a YouTube channel in May has been particularly successful with 100 subscribers now and over 11,000 views – we’ll continue making more films for that this year but could always do with some help – so, if you have some MG related video or might ant to feature in one with your MG then let us know and we might be able to find a place for it. It’s a great way to advertise the Centre and we are reaching not just current members but potential new members too.

Will Opie and Ray Ruffels are continuing to provide some excellent content for our monthly Safety Fast newsletter and the quarterly South East only email newsletter. It’s a great read when it drops into your inbox – just click through to see the actual newsletter.

Whilst Membership has taken a small dip in 2022, along with most other car clubs, we hope that the benefits of belonging to an enthusiastic and dedicated club will become apparent the more non members see us on our social media. Diana Calvert is keeping tabs on the numbers and keeps us updated.

Another new area in 2022 is our online shop run by Ace Embroidery Ltd and I hope that you will take the opportunity to update your MGCCSE wardrobe for 2023 by buying branded regalia items from here. Again, if people see you wearing an MGCCSE fleece or beanie hat you are making people aware of the club and they might be more inclined to join. Alex Lemon took on a new role in organising the online shop as well as selling off the old stock of regalia.

In late Spring the MGCCSE began to support a charity for the whole of the Centre. In 2022 we raised some £500 for the Brain Tumour Charity and in 2023 we will continue to support them and with a full year ahead we hope to raise that amount by a good deal. There is a Just Giving charity page set up in the Centre’s name should you wish to make a donation. A book sale and calendar sale added some funds to it in 2022 along with some local raffles and we hope to see some similar initiatives this year in support of the charity.

The club, thanks to John Morgan, has also been working with local motor clubs and taking part in hillclimbs and trials. There is a small number of competitors doing so at present but there will be more opportunities to take part this year. The South East, historically, has organised many competitive events but in recent years this has lessened. We are now hoping to bring back more competitions and the autosolo at Filching is a good example of that alongside our more traditional Naviscats and Pride of Ownership challenges.

We’ll be continuing with our range of touring events & visits and Andrew Mitchell and the events team have already been working hard to put a full programme in place for this year. We’ll also be marking the MG Centenary with a 100th anniversary event at the Bluebell Railway in July and centenary lunch in October and we are already planning for a large final centenary event in May 2024 to take place at Brooklands.

Whilst the committee organise main events and steer the Centre it is the Natter and Wanderer groups who provide its lifeblood. We currently have fourteen groups and two Register meets spread across the three counties who all organise their own pub meets and local runs in addition to supporting the main Centre events. A big thank you goes to all those group leaders who do a great job in running their natters and to all the members who go along to the Centre’s local meets. I am sure they would welcome you if you haven’t been before. Ian Russell, in another new role created last year, oversees them on behalf of the committee.

We made a couple of improvements to our show offerings in 2022 – a new Coleman shelter for taking to shows made its debut at Belmont House. It is more convenient, lighter in weight and packs into a much smaller space than the traditional pop-up gazebos. To go along with that we needed more prominent branding so some new brightly coloured giant sail flags have arrived to go with the shelter – you shouldn’t be able to miss us at shows this year! We also bought some smaller table flags to put in the pub for the group meetings so new members can more easily identify the MGCCSE bunch.

Thanks to our treasurer, Ron Kemp, who made sure we didn’t buy too many of them, and to our long-suffering and ever-vigilant club secretary Austin Banner who keeps us all on our toes and tirelessly spends most days doing some form of committee work! John Morgan, too, is invaluable in keeping us within the rules and he is also our vital link to local motor clubs and national motorsport bodies, and to recognise that work, in another new role, he became the Centre’s Vice-Chairman last year.

I look forward to seeing many of you out and about at events and hope you have a safe and enjoyable MG year with the MGCCSE

Tim Morris

Chair, MGCCSE