**MGCC South- East Centre**

**AGM February 2025**

**Secretarial and Membership Report for 2024**

Introduction

The highlight of 2024 for the Centre was our joint meeting with our friends in the surrounding owner’s clubs and other MG enthusiasts. MG 100 SE was a great success held over three days 17-19 May culminating in the show day at Brooklands.

MGCC’s cavalcade with Cecil on board joined us in Kent on Friday 17th, celebrated with us at the Fairmile on the 18th and at Brooklands on the 19th and went on his way on Monday 20th.

For me as secretary of the planning group this involved a flurry of 5 planning meetings form the start of the year and a “wash up” in June. The Club was kind enough to allow me time to have a hip replacement after the event but before the wash up!

The centre ran a full and successful programme which is detailed in the other reports.

I moved the secretarial challenge to a paper-based exercise this year in attempt to circumvent the vagaries of the English weather. The result was that we found that some of our members used their MGs, classic or modern considerably during 2024 and four worthy winners were presented with wooden “MG Nuts” turned and produced by your faithfully. These were something of a prototype and may need to undergo development in the future.

Sad Losses

It was with great sadness that we reported the death of two stalwarts of the Centre this year.

David Griffiths ran the very successful Sussex Wanderers with the increasing support of Ursula his wife as he became less well. Allan Scott had also dealt with total blindness for some years yet attended many meetings with Sue his wife. Both these members are greatly missed, and obituaries have been published. We extend our continued condolences to their families

Committee Member Activities

The committee members have again worked extremely hard and cheerfully for the Centre.

Detail is available in each of the officer and committee members’ reports.

Once more they have made my life as secretary straightforward and even fun – sometimes.

**Ron Kemp** our treasurer has brought us through 2024 in sound financial health. He added running the finances of MG 100 SE to the joy of the Centre’s funds and again brought us through with a surplus, some of which could be donated to our charities.

**John Morgan** our vice chairman, competitions secretaryand North Surrey natter leaderhas continued to look after regalia and merchandise. He continues to drive the renaissance of competition in the Centre. He is very active with MS UK and main club ensuring that our activities are run legally, properly and within the rules. His rate of work has not abated, and I struggle to keep up.

**Andrew Mitchell** our events secretary, is the only committee member still working full time.

2024 saw another excellent programme crafted by Andrew as evidenced in his detailed report.

**William Opie** (with Ray Ruffels). The quarterly newsletter and “Safety Fast” notes continue to record and disseminate the activities of the Centre and its members. William is usually to be seen at our events, often behind the camera pointing at you.

William is also a natter leader.

**Philip Roussel-Smith**

Philip has been a huge asset in his first year on committee. We now know he has all the skills required to hire, drive, load, unload a large van with equipment and successfully negotiate the cost with the hiring company.

The van in question was made by SAIC. Does that make it an MG?

Philip also took on much of the organisational load of the annual lunch and awards ceremony.

**Diana Calvert** continues to keep a close eye on changes in our membership, contacts all our new members and puts them in contact with the appropriate members in their area. She has been somewhat restricted in some of her activities this year due to increasing responsibilities at home.

**John and Gwen Davies** look after all the trophies and awards, ensure everyone gets their award and / or trophy properly engraved and presented at the appropriate time. They are uncovering new items of historical interest to the Centre.

**Ian Russell** continues to run a Natter and a Wanderer group and chairs the Natter and Wanderer meetings and is the primary liaison between thew Natters and the committee.

**Tim Morris** drives the Centre with skill and enthusiasm. His IT work is the prime reason that the Centre stays relevant in the first quarter of the 21st Century.

Among many of his abilities is his ability to dig me out of my frequent and ongoing issues with tech.

**Lis Woolley**

Lis has joined the committee as an observer for the last two meetings and has been persuaded (not difficult) to put herself forwards for election as our newest member at the 2025 AGM.

Assuming she is successful we are very much looking forward to working with her in the future.

The annual lunch with trophy presentation

We returned to Hartsfield Manor with a new format. The awards were made in the morning over coffee and cake. Those that wished to could then move to our more formal lunch when Richard Wheatland aviation and motor artist talked us through and showed us his incredible work.

Relations with Main Club

We are delighted to welcome Michael Murkin as the director responsible for our Centre.

2024 figures

During 2024 the Centre put on 7 major events plus 3 Alternative Pride of Ownership competitions.

The Centre had a presence at “Cars at the Castle” at Hever Castle.

We held 10 Committee meetings, 5 Natter and Wanderer Leaders’ meetings and 5 Centenary sub-committee meetings all via Zoom. There were 3 other ad hoc working parties and the chairman and secretary attended two face to face council meetings plus the chairman attended further council meetings via Zoom.

Austin J Banner

Secretary MGCC SE Centre

February 2025