



LOG BOOK

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MR2DC

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From the Driving Seat

Steve Tudor, Chairman



Hello and welcome to this the latest edition of Logbook and Darren's first as Editor.

To start my "ramblings" can I, on behalf of the Directors and Club Officials, wish you all a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

As is customary at this time of year it's good to look back over the past 12 months.

So here we go.

The 2017 show season is now well and truly behind us and what a season it was.

The year started in March with the Practical Classics and Restoration Show at the NEC (a first for the club) then in June followed another successful National Day and Coast to Coast. The annual German trip was in July, the AGM in October and finally closing out the year in November was the Lancaster Classic at the NEC. That's 9 months of shows and events not only organised at a National but a Regional level as well. We actually attended over 90 events this year which is a fantastic effort by all involved.

Membership is on the up and with the reduction in membership fees going forward we hope to attract even more people without losing the current benefits. In fact the NEC this year was a record breaker with 28 new members and 1 renewal.

We have a great looking, up to date, website which you really need to check out if you haven't already. Along with a new format for eLogbook.

We're forging closer ties with Toyota and the other MR2 clubs so hopefully we will be able to attend even more varied shows in 2018 whilst maintaining our own club identity and hopefully attracting more members to boot.

We have kicked off the planning for next year's National Day and have already got over 40 cars registered, which is a great improvement on this time last year. We're also actively trying to get traders on board for the show along with hopefully a celeb or two. Darren's wife Fiona is in full "stalking mode" so celeb's beware!

Please register for the National Day at : nationalday@mr2dc.com

We're also planning on supporting the 10th Anniversary of the MR2 Championship next year so please watch this space.

In terms of other shows next year we are waiting to see if we have been given a stand at the Practical Classic in March. If we do get a stand then please check out eLogbook for ticket discount codes. Also the application for next year's Lancaster show will be winging its way shortly.

Hard at work over the next couple of months will be the Regional Coordinators organising the show calendars for 2018. If you know of any shows we don't attend currently then please let them know so they can look at them as well.

Whilst on the subject of regional coordinators we still have a few areas where we need volunteers to run those areas so if you think you can handle the challenge please contact the board.

So to close this the final logbook of 2017 I personally would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and New Year to you and all your family. I also look forward to catching up with some of you at next year's events.

Steve Tudor

Welcome to our new members

The Chairman, Directors and members of the MR2 Drivers' Club extend a warm welcome to the new members who have joined since the last issue. We sincerely hope that your association with the Club will be a long, safe and happy one. Hope to see you at some local events soon !

Anglia

Stuart Goodacre
Nicola Pearsall
Brian Goreham
Stephanie Barlow
Luke Hendry
Jonathan Hunt

Central South

Paul Murphy
Terri Tinworth
Stuart Black
Stewart Bowmanhood
Chris Calcroft
Richard Powell

North Midlands

John Fardell
Roger Denson
Steve James
Gary Richards
Donald Yates

North West

Lee Botham
Ashley Collinge

North

Sebastian Wakefield
Steve Lickley
John Thistlethwaite
Kate Nicholson
Martin Jones
Peter Welburn

South Wales

Rhys Penry

North Wales

Scott Lawson
Adam Beckett
Peter Griffiths

South Midlands

Ben Tudor
Christopher Cory
Karl Homer
John Bedford
Daniel Phillips

Scotland

Mark Kelly
Colin O'Neill

South East

Simon Finch
Jim Wright
David Watmore
Angelo Pozzuto
Marcus Dimbleby

South West

Peter Blakemore-Jones
Chris Carr



Our new members' Drives

Here are a collection of some of our newest members' motors Due to the tight timescale in getting logbook to the printers, some of the new members' photo's may have missed this edition, but they will be picked up next time around !

Looks like RED is very much in Fashion this season !!

Peter B Jones



John Fardell



Karl Homer



Lee Botham (*)



John Thistlethwaite



Angelo Pozzuto



(*) : Lee Botham's full story of gaining ownership of his MR2 and the adventures across Europe to bring it back home here in England will be featured in full in the next edition of Logbook.

Our new members' Drives

Stephanie Barlow



Stuart Bowman-Hood



Scott Lawson



Sebastian Wakefield



Stuart Goodacre



Martin (Egil) Jones



Chris Calcroft



Paul Murphy



Membership renewal

All memberships are due for renewal on 31 March 2018, unless you joined since 01 November 2017 in which case your membership is extended to 31 March 2019.

Membership fees

This year we have managed to find more savings available within the club's operating costs and are pleased to announce that we can pass that saving on to you by way of a further reduction in the annual membership fee to just £20.00 for the year !

New Direct Debits

If you have not previously set up a direct debit but would like to, then please remember to do so in advance of the renewal date. Direct debit forms can be downloaded from the Club website, or we can email one to you if you contact the Club Office. Unfortunately a bank requirement is that we do need a signed paper copy back by post please (not by email).

Existing direct debits

If you have already set up a direct debit, the payment will be taken in early April and your membership will renew automatically. If for any reason you do not wish to renew your membership, please remember to cancel your direct debit directly with your bank and let the Club Office know, as unfortunately we are unable to cancel the bank instruction on your behalf or reverse it once it has been paid.

Other ways to pay

Anyone not renewing by direct debit can renew :

- : on the website, or
- : by posting a cheque payable to "MR2 Drivers' Club Ltd" to the Club Office, or
- : by calling the Club Office on +44(0)161 303 0022 to pay by credit or debit card.

Why renew ?

Here's a quick reminder of the main benefits of club membership and the great value it represents at less than £2 per month

- : Monthly local meetings in your region, some car-related, some just food-related!
- : National events and meetings, including the 2018 National Day in June
- : Eligibility to enter all prize competitions at 2018 National Day
- : International trips, such as the annual trip to Germany
- : Club stands at car shows throughout the show season—all marques / all conditions welcome !
- : Glossy Club magazine, "Logbook"
- : Monthly email updates, "eLogbook"
- : Access to private members' area of our website www.mr2dc.com
- : Discounts on Club regalia
- : Directory of suppliers offering discounts to Club members.

NEC Lancaster Classic Car Show 2017 : 9-12/11/17

The Organisers provided us with a stand which was only big enough for 4 cars this year. Last year we were graced with a larger stand to help us celebrate our 25th anniversary, however, we were not able to stretch their generosity into this year !

On stand we had Simon McMurray's highly detailed red Roadster, my 10th Anniversary and the Mk1s of Michael Jackson from the NW and Les Fletcher from the SW regions.

As usual the format was set up the stand and the cars on Thursday with the show open to the public on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We arrived around 9.00am and began the set up. On arrival, we found to our surprise, that the stand had been carpeted. So after a couple of trips to the Organisers office they agreed it was their mistake and as we had been honest and informed them the mistake they let us have the carpet free of charge which was great.



Friday started with the now traditional full English. Followed by setting up the Regalia stand as there wasn't room in my MK2 to take everything with me on the Thursday.

On Friday Simon, Les and I were joined by Darren and Fiona Letts. Fiona was on a mission to secure our Celebrity for the ND which we still unfortunately have to chase as an agreement couldn't be reached.

Darren also brought along the laptop and display screen to show video and photos of what the club do.

We also had Practical Classics on the stand signing up Simons Roadster for a buying guide feature coming in the near future.

The stand was busy all day with an amazing amount of interest in the cars and the club. By show close at 6.30 we had signed up 5 new members which was a great start to the event.

We also had Practical Classics on the stand signing up Simons Roadster for a buying guide feature coming in the near future.



Saturday dawned and what a day it turned out to be. Simon, Les, Darren and I were joined by Michael and his partner "Admin Ann", Pete Annett and Mark Kenworthy from the South Mid's region. Graham and Catherine Milligan also joined us and helped out on the stand for a while.

We were so busy that we really didn't manage to get off the stand at all to have a look at the actual show!.

By 6.30 pm we were all very tired and losing our voices due to all the talking but we had had a great day with the membership tally rising to a total of 17.

Sunday arrived and we were expecting more of the same and we weren't disappointed. Also we were joined on stand by Simon's wife Carol.

As on the previous days the stand was full most of the time with a steady flow of people interested in the cars and the club.

By the end of the show at 5.30 we were all extremely tired but elated that we had managed to sign up a total of 28 new members and one renewal which we think is a new club record.

Plus we managed to find time to "hob nob" with most of the Car Show Celebrities including Mike Brewer / Ant Anstead from Wheeler Dealers and Fuzzy Townsend / Tim Shaw from Car SOS.

We managed to strip down the stand and exit the NEC by around 6.15pm

Finally I'd like to thank Simon, Les and Michael for bring their cars to the show and for their company over the four days. Admin Ann for her skills on the stand and I'd also like to thank all the members who visited us or helped out on the stand over the four days as it was great to catch up with you all.

Lots of photo's were taken but here is a brief montage which shows the stand and the new celebrity "friends of the Club" !



2018 Fund Raising Campaign

In past years, the club has raised funds at the National Day event and donated to good causes. This is something that we want to further develop and establish a year long campaign rather than restricting it to a single weekend event.

To that end, we are setting up a "JUST GIVING" page where we would encourage people to donate what they can towards a nominated charity. This is currently being arranged and will be available shortly.

JustGiving™

There are a huge number of charities that we could support and we have chosen to support :-

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Everyone of us has a connection back to the legion in one way or another. The work they do to support our service personnel is vital for our on-going freedom and the way of life we able to enjoy.

Whilst in attendance at the NEC Classic Show in November, the absolute respect shown by every single person in every hall of the NEC during the 2 minutes silence was a quite humbling experience and the catalyst for this campaign.



So, we are urging all of our members to get behind this campaign and help us to show our appreciation for the Legion and the sacrifices made by others.

The intention is for each region to arrange their own small fund raising event(s) and then to pour any amounts raised into the JUST GIVING account - this will be collected all year with the kitty being presented to THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION as part of their 2018 Poppy Appeal.

The Legion will help with idea's and collection tins : Again, further details will be available shortly and will be announced further.

If anyone is wishing to arrange something in particular or has any idea's they would like to share, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact : darren.letts@mr2dc.com with any suggestions & questions

When further information becomes available, this will be published on all the usual formats :

(log book, elogbook and facebook)



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Marty @ Goodwood

Here at MR2 Drivers' Club, we love to hear your stories about the adventures you and your motors have been getting up to. Here we get to hear about Matt & Jo Geerings Goodwood experience, along with "Marty", their rather fabulous MK1 and star of the photo shoot !

My Wife Jo & I celebrated our 5th Wedding Anniversary in September 2017. A traditional gift for a 5th anniversary is wood. We attended Goodwood Festival of Speed in the summer and discovered that the iconic house is open to the public on a few select days of the year. We felt that keeping with the theme for our anniversary and as wood is in the title, we will visit Goodwood House and take Marty, our Mk1 MR2.

Goodwood House is near Chichester in West Sussex. We booked in advance for a tour of the iconic house and afternoon tea. It was a really enjoyable experience and at only £25 per person, I would highly recommend.

On arrival, we drove through the gates at the bottom of the world famous hill climb and made our way up the hill. It was hard to avoid temptation to do a standing start on the start line. The start line is a permanent one, made out of bricks, supplied from the famous brickyard at the Indianapolis Circuit in the USA.

I couldn't resist a standing start and accelerated hard from 0mph through the gears up to 3rd gear. I then settled the revs as other vehicles were nearby and I wanted to be safe. Now we knew how it felt to pull away at the Goodwood F.O.S start line!!

Once I had driven past the house, I was able to park in the car park. To our surprise this is usually the paddock at F.O.S. No exotic cars in the paddock today though. The MR2 is by far the best car in the paddock.

A few weeks before our visit, I had decided to enquire if it would be possible to get a picture of Marty in front of the House. I have been attending Goodwood F.O.S since 1994 and this was a paradise for me. After several E-mails to a PR Executive for the Goodwood Estate, it was agreed that we could take some pictures of Marty (My Mk1) outside the famous house.

Once parked up, I was greeted and escorted to the front of the house by my contact. At this point, I was already aware from the E-mails that Goodwood have a strict photography policy and certain rules had to be obeyed. As soon as Marty was parked in position, Jo began taking many photos.



When we had finished, we were directed back to the car park and then invited inside the house. Immediately we began our tour. The tour was very informative and the tour guide was very knowledgeable. She was able to answer any of the questions the group had asked. We learned a lot about all of the Dukes of Richmond. The 1st Duke had a connection to King Charles I. The 10th Duke had sadly just passed away days before our visit.

There were some really fine pieces of art on display throughout the tour. Our tour lasted for 90 minutes and then we were escorted to the ballroom for our afternoon tea. The afternoon tea was delicious and being able to sit in the ballroom, was such a lovely setting.

I found it very interesting to see the Goodwood Estate in its natural surroundings and without all of the festival equipment. I now appreciate how much work is put into the festival every year.

For me this was a dream come true and one I will never forget. I would like to credit my Wife, Jo for the amazing photographs she has taken. I'm sure everyone will agree on the fantastic job she has done capturing Marty and the house.

I would also like to thank the Goodwood Estate for which without all their help, none of this would have been possible.



Well done Matt & Jo : congratulations on your 5th anniversary. Some stunning photos taken in a fantastic setting (and well done for getting the "April" slot on the MR2DC 2018 calendar ! Thank you for sharing your experience with us. Next year (6th anniversary) is "IRON" so better get thinking how to tie this in for your next feature !

If you have a feature you would like to share, send in to : logbook@mr2dc.com

EURO 2018 Trip : Verviers, Belgium

Plans are underway for next years Euro trip. Further details will follow, but those who have joined previous years adventures will know that this is always a great trip with some excellent drives and great sights to see.

This year, we will be staying at :-

HOTEL—Van Der Valk Verviers



The all important, early information for you to know at this stage is as follows :-

Date : Friday 29/06/18 to Monday 02/07/18

Double Room Rate : € 182 per NIGHT

Single Room Rate : € 128 per NIGHT

All prices include breakfast & three course evening meal

To book your place or for further information, contact the club at

euro@mr2dc.com

MR2



MR2 National Day 2018



Biggest Annual MR2 Gathering in UK

Sunday 3rd June

Hatton Country World nr Warwick

www.mr2dc.com
For further information email:
nationalday@mr2dc.com.

In Association with:



Autumn break & AGM weekend

This years AGM was held at Wyboston Lakes Resort in Bedfordshire.

The AGM itself was held on the Saturday afternoon in the excellent conference room provided by Wyboston Lakes.

This was followed by a 3 course meal where the emphasis was put on quality rather than quantity : Whilst it was a fantastic meal, no-one was forced to "loosen their belts" afterwards. But, that said, it was probably a good thing in the long run as so many people could get up on the dance floor and boogie along with the Party Popperz all night long !



Special mention should go to Simon McMurray for suggesting the Party Popperz. His daughter Laura "Barracuda" is in the band and we had heard of their act being a good part piece. So, with a bit on in trepidation, we took the plunge and booked them up.

At first their might have been a bit of confusion as to what we were watching happen in front of our eyes, but once the penny dropped and the party started to flow, the dance floor filled up and stayed that way until the very last song.

In fact, the Party Popperz were such a hit, we had trouble keeping a neighbouring conference parties guests from gate crashing our party !

So, special thanks to Chris Fielding (aka : George Michael, Andy Bell, Phil Oakey, Jarvis Cocker, Freddie Mercury, Prince, Gary Numan & Suggs to name just a few) along with the rest of the Party Popperz band for making the night such a blast.



We have had many requests to bring the Popperz back for next years AGM so watch this space for further details !

Following the party from the night before, we tucked into a buffet style breakfast, checked out and then got ourselves set for the convoy down to Duxford Imperial War Museum.



Keeping the 30+ car convoy tail unbroken proved a bit of a challenge but we did a pretty good job of it and arrived at Duxford in good order and managed to fill our designated parking area and put on a superb display of MR2's with each marque well represented :



The day at Duxford was simply brilliant. So much to see and learn : one day for a first time visitor is just not enough to take it all in. Some of the exhibits on show really are breath-taking and will be hard to see anywhere else Parts of an Iraqi Supergun, a B52 Bomber, Concorde Prototype, salvaged sections of the 911 Twin Towers' steelwork it goes on !

Plus a host of static planes to get aboard on look inside and for those REALLY wanting to take things further, pleasure flights were operating (deep pockets required for the Spitfire though) !



Sadly, the day had to end eventually And so it was the end of the AGM Weekend 2018. The positive reports we have received from a lot of people confirms that a good time was had by all and we look forward to seeing what next years event has in store !



We are required to publish a transcript of the AGM proceedings for those members who were not able to attend in person.

Opening Address : Steve Tudor (Chairman)

Hello ladies and gentlemen and welcome to this, the 26th AGM. Firstly, can I point out some house keeping rules :

- Please ensure that all mobile phones are off or on silent
- In the unlikely event that there is a fire, the emergency exit is by the door we entered the room and back through the foyer into the carpark which is the Fire Assembly point. Fire marshal will then meet all guests.



To make best use of time and allow time for vote counting, the Meeting will as usual be in 3 parts:-

- **FORMAL PART :**
Consisting of the AGM reports from the directors
- **COFFEE BREAK – TO ALLOW TIME FOR :**
Final votes to be cast
Vote counting
Coffee
- **INFORMAL PART :**
Vote Results
Any other business
Open Forum

So, to explain the procedures involved in this AGM :

- Only fully paid up members may participate and vote
- Anyone wishing to address the meeting - please indicate by raising your hand. If called – stand and announce your name and region
- Only one chance to speak on any one subject – in the interests of time and to give all an equal chance

Each Director will take questions at the end of their report - only on matters in their report. All other questions must wait until the open forum.

Hopefully that explains the format of the meeting and I will now hand over to Nik Milford to begin the directors reports.

Finance Report

We finally sorted access to the bank accounts and that's been running smoothly for a few months now. I spent some time going through last year's entries to produce the accounts and this year's are being done day to day, so it's much easier now things are back up to date. We have broadly broken even over the year, with our historic cash balance of around £20k remaining in place.

After sorting the accounts as first priority, I then went through to try to understand where our key costs are and what we can cut in order to survive with a smaller membership and reduce membership fees as much as we can. The key areas of savings we've identified and acted on this year are:



The website.

The previous provider charged a £250 annual fee plus £70 a month, so about £1,100. The new provider charged a one-off set-up cost of £650, then £20 a month ongoing, so an annual saving of £850, which is about 10% of our membership fees.

The storage unit.

For many years the Club has had a central storage unit for items such as the carpet tiles and flags etc used at the NEC. Whilst it's been very useful, fundamentally it was storing items for use at one or two shows a year for one Region and not practically available for anyone else. Historically the cost was around £250, which wasn't unreasonable, but this has increased substantially over the last few years to £650 last year and a proposal of over £1,200 for this year! This was totally out of the question, so we have emptied the unit and cancelled the contract, giving us another significant annual saving.

Directors.

Definitely not an intentional financial planning technique, but one of the upsides of not having enough Directors is that we've had fewer expenses, as there has been much less travelling to meetings. The last meeting took place by Skype, which was a first for us, and we hope to repeat that going forward to enable us to meet sort of face-to-face more often but without incurring more expenses. This will also cut out my 7 hour round trip drive to meetings, which will free up even more time to do more crappy admin.

As of last year, we cut the AGM to Saturday night only, with the group activity on Sunday rather than Saturday morning. This makes it half the cost to attend and easier for those who have work commitments on Friday to attend without missing out, whilst fitting just as much into the weekend as we always did.

Log Book.

Another unintentional saving, but obviously with fewer issues we've had some reduced costs, albeit that the issues we have produced have been twice as thick! Going forward these should return to quarterly but we're looking at alternative printing quotes to cut some costs and lead times there too.

As well as ensuring things aren't costing more than necessary, we also need to ensure that we're not doing anything we don't need to: for example, not buying large stocks of Regalia which we then carry around for the next 10 years! These days everything moves more quickly and many companies accept single item orders which are produced and delivered very quickly, so we're moving more to items which are made individually to order rather than spending money on stock that we might be left with. Similarly we're trying to make sure we don't lose money on events such as the AGM, for example by negotiating lower room numbers and better pricing. We have managed to keep the AGM prices roughly the same for 3 years now, despite significant rises in hotel costs.

Once we've exhausted all the cost-cutting we can, we'll focus on where we can get more income. Although we have some new Regalia lines that are proving popular, we're really not aiming to make much profit out of Regalia - it's more to provide a service to Members and advertise the Club. So to increase income, our focus will be looking at increased advertising - in Log Book, possibly sponsorship of the National Day, maybe website advertisers etc - and of course increasing member numbers.

Given all of the above, we're very happy to announce a further reduction in the membership fee to £20. That's reduced from £35 in 2015, to £25 in 2016, to £20 in 2017 - a drop of more than 42% in 3 years. Anyone joining from today will get membership to 31 March 2019, so 17 months for £20 - bargain! Those of us renewing at 31 March will renew at £20.

So in summary, we've made some great progress in cutting costs. There are a couple of items still to work on, but the focus will move to increasing revenues from advertising and new memberships. I'd like to thank Mike Gooding, our previous Finance Director, for all his help well beyond the cut-off date he wanted to finish!

Membership

As of this morning we have 371 registered members, compared to 350 this time last year and 301 the year before, so again good progress being made but plenty of scope to do more.

We need to work harder at retaining new members, as a large proportion of those who don't renew are people who have joined in the last 2 years. Improvements in eLogBook and Log Book frequency, and quicker communication of new members to the relevant Regional Coordinators, will hopefully help that.

If we could ask you all to help too by making events open and welcome to new members, which generally means holding them in public places rather than at individuals' houses please, as home meetings are much more likely to be too intimidating for anyone new to sign up for.

Personnel

Steve will talk in more detail about personnel.

We're doing a bit better for volunteers, partly by getting more organised & efficient with tasks, which is a key focus for us now that the website is sorted.

We have Website Brian, Admin Ann & hopefully the two new Directors.

We still need Regional Coordinators for Scotland, the Borders and Wales and maybe some help for poor Mags in the North who has to dart back & forth from her home in the North West!

We could also do with a younger member to focus on trying to attract some younger owners to join, but again more on that later.

Regalia

We've got a few new lines this year, which are proving popular.

Steve came up with the new red jackets & these have been very popular – they really help to identify our members and stand at events and make us look professional.

Travel mugs are also a new addition and have been very welcome at some of the colder, rainier shows for warming hands!

We've recently started offering car mats, which are available in a range of carpet and trim colours, for Mk1, Mk2 & Mk3. We've got samples here today, so you can have a look and we have the website available so can help place orders for anyone who wants to.

We've also arranged a discount on Heritage car covers. There are a few key items in our web site shop, but there is a much wider range on the Heritage website so if you see anything else on there that you like the look of, just give us a shout and we should be able to get it for you at a discounted price.

Log Book

Not much to say on this - I find myself apologising again for being behind with them, but there are only so many hours in the day and as you can see from the number of reports with my name against them, I've had my hands full!

Darren is taking over from now on, so hopefully they will be back on track to quarterly soon.

eLogBook

Richard Davies wanted to step down from doing this and we'd had a lot of feedback that the format wasn't very user-friendly and the cc list was very out of date, so we decided to take a break, re-think the format and re-launch it with the new website.

I drafted up a new format which everyone was happy with and Admin Ann has now kindly taken over responsibility for drafting it each month and getting it sent out.

If you want anything to appear in it other than your usual events that we're already aware of, please drop an email to directors@mr2dc.com so that we can include it in the next circulation. If you're not receiving it, could you let us know please as we have numerous delivery failures and need to work through why!

Website

Finally! This has been a long time coming – the old site was problematic, didn't work well on modern devices and as already mentioned was costing us an arm and a leg.

At last year's indoor show in Manchester I was approached by someone - now well known to us as Website Brian - who specialises in websites for classic car clubs. He had a brief presentation with him which he showed me on the day. Given that we'd been talking about this for as long as I can remember, I took this to the rest of the Board and invited him to our next Board meeting, where he won everyone over with his helpfulness, technical expertise and of course most importantly he was cheap! With invaluable help from Chris, Brian got the site ready and trained up Admin Ann and I to be able to populate much of it ourselves without adult supervision. Steve & Darren will also be able to add things directly once they get a chance to arrange a training session from Brian.

Our next focus will be populating the member discounts page and setting up a member gallery. Many thanks to Chris, who like Mike has continued to help us long after he wanted to step back. Chris was an invaluable middle-man between Website Brian and the rest of us luddites when designing and populating the new site - hopefully he is now enjoying a little peace from us at last!

Facebook

We've got 2,276 members on our page. I think activity on the page has been much better in recent months, so hopefully this will help encourage some of the online members to join the Club.

I know many of you in this room may dislike or be wary of Facebook, but it really is unbeatable in terms of interacting with a large number of people very quickly. Without pestering the various other MR2 Facebook groups, we wouldn't have half the attendees at the National Day and other events like the recent Epsom Eastbourne run, where the local Coordinator asked me to post the event on Facebook and attendance jumped from 10 to 30 within three days.

Well I think that's me finally done, so I'll hand over to Darren.

Promotions Report

Hi and welcome to my section where I talk about the promotional side of what's been going on behind the scenes.

Firstly, apologies for my absence from last years AGM slight case of a work emergency that just had to be dealt with so hopefully, all is forgiven.



So, from a promotional side, you will almost certainly all be aware of the new website that has been developed and that went live during the summer. I'm sure you will all agree that this is a vast improvement on what went before in terms of ease of navigation, up to date information and generally being a fresher looking site.

We have received a lot of good comments about the new look which is always great to hear, however, there may still be tweaks along the way as things get found during continued usage. So, if anyone does spot a flaw, please do feel free to let us know so we can amend where needs be we have tried to cover all bases but your feedback is always welcome to help us make the site even better.

What also helps keeping the site looking current and fresh is your updates. So, the likes of the photos and reports from events attended, the more of this we receive, the more we can get uploaded and it helps us to demonstrate that we are active in numerous areas around the country and very often during the season.

The other huge benefit from getting this website up and running is that we have now been able to take control of the site ourselves rather than being reliant on a third party who were, to be frank, not very reliable, but also quite expensive. So as a double whammy, it is going to prove cheaper and easier for us to self maintain which can only be a good thing.

Something we would like to add to the website is a short video giving an insight to the clubs activities. We have a template to use which effectively collates many 5 second clips into a seamless montage of about 90 seconds in length but we do need the "5 second clips" content so if anyone has any dashcam footage that we may be able to use, please let us know and we will get to work on putting this together. The clips could be shots taken whilst traveling in convoy to an event (ie : tomorrow if anyone wants to take up the challenge), clips from static shows, social events, racing clips anything that is club related. With your help, we can put a good presentation together and have this available to view via website and social media. Plus, it would also be a great thing to have running on the screen when we are at the big indoor shows like the NEC, just to add a touch of finesse.

So, if you would like to help contribute content, or even assist with the production, find me later and let me know.

As a final comment regarding the website, a lot of emphasis has gone into keeping a matching "brand" running through the site. When we say "brand", we are referring to the current club logo, font types, imagery, colouring etc. This is something we are trying to make sure is kept consistent through all variants of club appearance. You will already notice that the elogbook that comes out carries this theme through along with any club documents that you will see. The purpose of this is to try and make the club instantly recognisable to all.

To that end, we really do need any of the old style literature / banners / flags etc to be handed in, amnesty style !! you won't lose what you have, we will simply replace anything out of date with a like for like but sporting the current club imagery. Your help with this will be much appreciated.

OK, enough about website so moving on

Logbook for my sins, I will be taking over the role of logbook editor from now. We had a chat and agreed that it probably makes sense for me to pick this up as it goes hand in hand with trying to raise some revenues from advertisers and is also another publicity tool.

I'm sure you will agree that Nik has done a great job with this over the last few years and I only hope I can keep it up to the standards set.

I know it is not an easy task to put this together so it would be a good time for me to ask you all for some content Anything you feel might be interesting for other club members to read or know about. Or if anyone has any suggestions or features you would like us to consider, just let us know.

In the last edition, it was great to see some new contributors. Niccola's coverage of the German trip was a really good article.

Have to say though that my own personal favourite was the 90's article produced by David Blackburn. That really was something quite different to what has been done in the past and was a great read. I think that this format does work well to remind us what the world was like "back in the day" and what has going on when these cars were current models.

So whilst we can put the work into creating some of the content, quite often the best ideas come from outside the box. You might well have seen something done in other magazines or by other clubs that we could Erm Borrow ?

Im all ears so if you have anything in mind, find me later and through it at me and I will see what can be made to work.

In terms of national exposure. we have made some good associations with members of the motoring press this year. Off the back of that, we have managed to get a full page spread in the Modern Classics magazine who covered our National Day for us – and a couple of the stars from that coverage are with us tonight – you know who you are so feel free to take a bow. Auto-graphs later !

We have also had a few club members who have taken part in other magazine photo shoots where marque specific features have been done with multi page articles in various publications.

We do get approached by certain magazines to nominate someone with a particular example from time to time. When that happens, we put the word out to those suitable but naturally, only those who are paid up members. If you get the call, it would be great if you could make sure the club gets a mention when they put their words to the pictures. Again, it's all good press.

And coupled with these associations, we have managed to keep the club stand at the NEC Classic next month and awaiting confirmation of a place at the restoration show in March. Anyone who has been to these will know what good events they are and that they always generate a lot of interest. And being there puts us amongst some pretty well known people.

Now, one thing that we are trying to arrange for the National Day next year is a celebrity appearance from someone very well known in the motoring world. I'm going to leave it dangling there for the time being as it is a long shot but we do potentially have a meeting lined up with said celebrity at the NEC next month so hopefully that would be some news that we can announce around Xmas / early next year. I'm sure you will agree that this would be quite a scoop for the club and would help to fill the field at Hatton with MR2's from far and wide.

OK : new recruits We have nominated 2 new directors to the club which you are being asked to vote on. Both guys have been approached to help us develop the club further with a real purpose.

David and his knowledge within Toyota and the media circles is something we are looking to abuse. His previous input from outside the club has been invaluable for the last 3 years. David has managed to get us plenty of freebies and goodies courtesy of Toyota although I think a GT86 could well be off limits next year some of us will know the reason why !

Scott's input would be quite different to David's, however, it will be a good opportunity to expand the club presence out to a wider audience. Whilst this might not float everyone's boat, we do have to accept that expanding the club does mean appealing to a different demographic.

On that note, we did have an interesting suggestion from Les Fletcher who had noted how another club was introducing youth into their ranks by way of a junior membership : whilst the logistics of bringing the same thinking across to ourselves may prove a stretch with our current resources, certainly the thinking is right in that we could and should have an offering that appeals to the younger generation. To that end, we would be interested to hear from anyone who moves in these circles who might be interested in helping us to make the club more appealing to the younger crowd.

With this being said, we are not saying that the club will change from what you already know and enjoy. That will remain intact as the core of the club, but it does mean adding a new dimension that can help us to attract new members. So those who enjoy the country and classic shows will still have these available as the backbone of the annual calendar. That won't change.

What will change is that we will be looking to link up with IMOC with Scott's help and start attending the "festival" type events such as Japfest, JAE and Japshow. I'm sure you know what type of events these are and whether they appeal or not will come down to personal preference. Like I said, it won't appeal to everyone but, crucially, it is an addition to the calendar rather than a replacement so if it's not for you, there is nothing lost in terms of other shows to attend which do appeal to you.

The reason for getting these on the 2018 calendar is to get in front of the much wider MR2 community and to try and encourage more unity across the various MR2 clubs.

We have seen from the National Days that there are a LOT of MR2 drivers who are not members. Bringing more of these over to the club helps us to keep the membership costs falling : more of which Nik will explain.

So for those of you who are not keen on these events, you have nothing to worry about other than your membership fee possibly falling.

Well, that's pretty much all from me. As I mentioned earlier, please feel free to give me your idea's / thoughts on what you would like to see in future log books or any other comments you wish to share.

I'll be the one propping up the bar later so you might be best to catch me early this evening, or best leave it till the morning !!

Enjoy the rest of the evening - I will now hand you back over to Steve

Shows Report

With Bryan stepping down at last years AGM we had some big shoes to fill.....not literally of course.

We decided at board level to take a fresh look at how we present the club at major shows, how the stands are laid out etc.

Firstly we decided that as the NEC has decent flooring (unlike other arenas) we would move the usual "show tiles" up to the NW region for them to use.

There were two driving forces behind this. Firstly it allowed the club to get rid of the costly storage unit, as Dave Hall and Graham Milligan kindly agreed to store the tiles with the ones they already have with the rest of the show equipment either being scrapped as it was dated or damaged or shared between Darren, Graham and Dave and myself.



Secondly when looking around the stands at the NEC the majority of clubs including major ones like the RSOC don't put anything down anyway so again this helped with the decision.

In fact we trialled the "no carpet" approach before taking the final decision at the Practical Classics in March and none of the clubs members attending actually noticed until it was pointed out.

All of this went along way to reducing the clubs overheads, especially considering the storage company wanted to increase their fees by £50/month and as previously stated by Nik this has helped us to potentially bring the membership fees down to hopefully an even more attractive price to try and encourage more members to join without losing benefits.

We have also over the last show season developed a list of circa 10 -15 cars which we can hopefully draw on to show the Club in its best light at the major indoor shows such as the NEC.

These range from the heavily modified to the usual concours / standard cars to try and reflect that the club isn't just for the standard cars and that we openly embrace modified or mildly modified cars and include some of the cars we have used at shows in the past.

Again the idea is to keep the stand as fresh as possible. Plus the modified cars draw in people anyway.

All owners have been approached and made aware of the commitment required especially for shows like the NEC.

We also trialled a display screen (kindly loaned by Darren) at the Practical Classics on which we display photos from club events.

This also seemed to work and draw people to the stand pop up (another change) where we could talk to them about the benefits of joining us.

Going forward we're also thinking of trying to get a promotional video made to again show the club in its best light for use at all major shows and also on the new website.

So if anyone can help with this or knows someone who could then please let the board know. Also if anyone has any video in car or otherwise from club events that we could use and you are willing to let us use again please let us know.

So onto the 2017 National Events

As I eluded to earlier in this report we entered the Practical Classics and Restoration Show for the first time in the clubs history at NEC at the end of March the beginning of April

We had 4 cars on the club stand. Leon Howell's Mk2 Turbo, Darren Letts Mk2 Rev 5, Simon McMurray's Roadster and I displayed this year.

We had 4 cars on the club stand. Leon Howell's Mk2 Turbo, Darren Letts Mk2 Rev 5, Simon McMurray's Roadster and I displayed this year.

Leons car was featured in a recent logbook and is heavily modified. It had in fact only been fully resprayed a couple of days before the show and quite a few people commented they could actually smell the fresh paint.

This show has only been around for a couple of years and appears to be a great show with everything from Traction Engines to Barn Find Auctions and clubs are actively encouraged to work on cars at the show.

We also had a stand visit by Fuzz Townsend of Car SOS fame. Much to the annoyance of the MX5 OC who were trying to get him on their stand. Fuzz obviously has good taste in coming to see us first.

We also had a lot of public interest in the cars to the point where they were queueing 2 or 3 deep to talk to us on the Saturday.

The show is also a great fit in the clubs show calendar as with the Lancaster Classic in November it book ends the show season

The Next National Event on the calendar was the actual National Day itself

Held again at Hatton Country World around 160 cars attended with all marques being well represented.

This year following feedback from people last year we tried to attract some trade stands. Eventually we managed to get Rogue Motorsport and MR2 Ben signed up.

AutoGlym and Toyota again supported us with AutoGlym supplying the prizes for the different show n shine type class winners and Toyota by providing a GT86 for us to use in the Gymkhana along with Toyota Gazoo Racing goodies for the raffle.

Combined both these events raised £249 for the NSPCC.

Unfortunately unlike the Birthday Bash the weather wasn't as kind to us this year with the prize giving and the shows breakdown being done with the rain coming down at 45 degrees.

The Coast to Coast in Yorkshire followed a couple of weeks later with the usual Annual German Trip in July with a couple of new faces joining the usual crowd.

So to bring the year to an end we will again be supporting the NEC Lancaster Classic between the 10th and 12th of November.

We're in Hall 5 Stand 5-428 which is not far from Hall 5's main entrance. We will be exhibiting 4 cars. These will be Mike Jackson and Les Fletchers Mk1's, my 10th Anniversary and Simon McMurray's roadster.

Your more than welcome to come and join us and say hello.

At this point I'd like to say a big thank you to all the Clubs Regional Coordinators for their efforts over the past 12 months. Over the course of the year the clubs regions have organised a total of over 90 events between them excluding National ones which I'm sure you'll agree is a fantastic effort.

So that was 2017 and I guess you'll want to know what's being planned on a National level in 2018.

We have already applied to have a stand again at the Practical Classics show in March, dates for the diary are 23-25 of March. We should know if our application has been successful by the end of the year.

We have also been approached by Patrick Mortell of Rogue Motorsport who is also the MR2 Championship Organiser to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 750MC MR2 Championship..

I'm sure whatever is planned will involve a days racing watching that is not participating.

Details of this are still in the planning stage so please watch this space

Another couple of shows we feel the Club should have a presence at are JAPFEST and JAE.

JAPFEST is usually in April at Silverstone and Donnington in July with JAE at the end of August/beginning of September. IMOC, MR2OC and Two Brutal attend these events so hence the reasoning behind feeling we should have a presence to.

So if you would be interested in supporting the club at any of these 3 shows then please let me know.

We are also planning another National Day.

Again it will be at Hatton as this really ticks all the boxes in terms of location, facilities and hire cost. It will be the same weekend as the past 2 years so the 3rd of June is the date to put in your diaries.

One idea we have had going forward is to combine the National Day with the club AGM but this will be something for the future if it goes ahead. This is in the early stages of planning feasibility at the moment.

To make this happen we would need more support in terms of organising the National as currently we do the show set up on the Saturday which would clash with the actual AGM meeting. Also we have some breathing space between the National and the AGM as it stands hence the need for additional resource to bring the events together.

We would need to coordinate two venues, along with dates. With June being prime "wedding time" this may well be a couple of years away yet.

It also has the advantage of potentially saving members the cost of two hotel stays if the events are combined.

I know other clubs take this approach but as I say its in its infancy at the moment.

So that concludes the 2017 shows report so if there are any questions on this subject please feel free to ask them now

Editors Note : A word for word account of the questions raised at this stage was not recorded, however, the main query centred on the prospect of combined AGM and National Day in the future. The general opinion was that this proposal would not be favourable with the club members. In order to see a visual representation of peoples views, a snap vote was called with a show of hands "for" and "against" the proposal. The outcome was a unanimous vote AGAINST the proposal so the existing format will remain unchanged with the National Day and the AGM weekend being held as separate events, at different times to each other.

Update on changes throughout the year

We left the last AGM asking for volunteers and can I firstly say a big thank you to everyone who did step up to the plate. Some unfortunately didn't have the skills we were looking for and as such we didn't take you up on your kind offers of help.

One person we did get to join us was Ann Campbell or as she is now known by many as Admin Ann. Ann has been helping throughout the year set up the new website and has been instrumental in getting eLogbook up and running again. So a big thank you to Ann for all her hard work to date.

Also Richard Pells stepped up to become a Director. As many of you know Richard had done a fantastic job with the SE Region and was a good fit to the board. Unfortunately Richard stepped down after one board meeting for personal reasons and has now moved to the SW selling his MR2 and leaving the club in the process. To that end Alan Cayzer stepped into the breach and took over the running of the SE and has taken on the batten from Richard.

We have also had a change in the North Mids region with Ann and Steve Loffmann taking over from Lynn and Tony Gardner who also stepped down shortly after the last AGM.

With Richard stepping down we were still in need of more directors and it is with great pleasure that I welcome David Crouch and Scott Barton to the board.

David as many of you know works for Toyota GB and is joining the board as a Non Executive Director. For those of you that don't know Scott is also a director of IMOC and is the guy who always wins the Modified class at the National Day with his black MK2 Turbo.

We have also had a bit of a reshuffle with the roles between the current board members. Nik is stepping down as editor of logbook to focus on the financial side of things. Darren will take on logbook editing as well as expanding his current role to try and get the club more exposure in the Classic magazines. I will be taking on the Shows Role vacated by Bryan last year.

David will in his Non exec role be supporting us as a club and will be providing an objective voice in the way we plan to move things forward and Scott will be bringing new ideas into the melting pot with his experience of other MR2 clubs and events.

As many of you will also now be aware we relaunched the club website earlier this summer. Hopefully the new site will bring us bang up to date in terms of layout and be much easier for us to control and change as and when we need to.

If you haven't had a look at it please do as I hope you'll be pleasantly surprised. There are still some areas we need to work on especially in the member only section but as a gateway to the club and what we are all about then I think it works well.

As usual if you feel you can bring something to the club then please let one of the board know. We are always looking for volunteers to help lighten the load on the rest of us. So please help out. It can be very frustrating at times but it can also be very rewarding as well.

Closing Address

So to close this portion of the AGM can I just remind you that you are voting to

- Re-appointment of Accountants and receive Accounts
- Amend the Articles of Association
- Vote for appointment of New Directors and re election of myself

Also If you use a spare form then I'm afraid you cannot vote in secret

This just leaves me to invite you to enjoy Tea and Coffee and we will resume part 2 of the AGM at 3.30

Part two – Informal Part

Can I thank Mags Turner, Joy Cowland & Eileen Male for helping count the votes and here are the results :

To receive Directors Reports and Accounts for year ending 31 March 2017

FOR = 69, AGAINST = 0, ABSTENTIONS = 5

MOTION CARRIED

To re-appoint Accountants Nick Westbury & Co. of Banbury OX15 4NB

FOR = 70, AGAINST = 0, ABSTENTIONS = 4

MOTION CARRIED

To appoint David Crouch as Director

FOR = 71, AGAINST = 1, ABSTENTIONS = 2

MOTION CARRIED

To appoint Scott Barton as Director

FOR = 71, AGAINST = 1, ABSTENTIONS = 2

MOTION CARRIED

To re-appoint Steve Tudor as Director

FOR = 47, AGAINST = 25, ABSTENTIONS = 2

MOTION CARRIED

To replace existing articles of association with proposed new articles of association

FOR = 64, AGAINST = 2, ABSTENTIONS = 8

MOTION CARRIED

So again thank you all for voting.

I would now like to open up the meeting and for us all to take questions from the floor.

Editors Note : A fully word for word account of the questions and answers was not recorded, however, the following represents a generalisation of the queries raised and the responses.

“Proposed Membership Discount for Younger Members”

The idea was suggested that the club could consider a discounted membership for younger members.

The club had been approached about this previously (and Les Fletcher was acknowledged during the reports section for putting the idea forward). Any scheme that encourages new members to join is a good thing, however, having given this prior consideration, the logistics of policing this scheme with our current resources would prove very difficult to administer. Our current thinking is to get the membership fees down for all. The benefits new members gain is the extended period of “annual” membership fee in their first year which can be anything up to 5 months of free membership. This is a straight forward scheme to administer and would be the clubs preferred introductory scheme until such time that extra resources are available to review again.

“Membership Cards”

The point was raised as to whether the membership cards are necessary and could they be omitted to help reduce costs further.

The club will look into the savings that could be made by omitting the membership card but would suspect that the saving offered would be minimal and it may prove that members would rather retain the card and the cost to keep the card as personal collectors items. Further information will be gathered and options proposed in the near future.

“Non MR2 Owners being Club members”

A point was raised about a non MR2 owner being a Club member. The current club rules appear to exclude such individuals from being Club members.

The board were unaware that such a ruling was still in existence, however, with the decline in MR2 numbers on the road and the preference for increasing membership numbers, such a ruling would have no benefit in being upheld. As such, with the agreement of the members, we will amend the club rules and omit any such outdated clauses which place restrictions in the way of allowing new members to join the Club.

“Tyre availability to suit standard OEM 15” wheels”

The query was raised where to find tyres to suit the standard 15” wheels as numerous retailers were unable to help saying that the sizes were now obsolete.

Various responses were offered in reply : essentially, they are still available albeit, not readily so at your local tyre centre. A good way to find these for future reference would be :

www.mytyres.co.uk

“Club Image to embrace all MR2”

The point was made that some people are reluctant to participate in certain events or contribute to articles as they don't believe their car is of high enough quality to be considered.

A good point, well made. It is natural that this scene will always attract people who like to show their very best and “dress to impress”, however, the Club should be more than just a showcase of the prime examples. ALL MR2's are welcomed into the club and more often than not, those that are carrying the most miles and scars have the best stories to tell ! We would love to hear from anyone who's car has a tale to tell : show us what it's like, tell us how it got to where it is now, what it means to you to own it and to drive it. There are a couple of MR2's in the club that are notorious and always garner a lot of attention and by their owners admission, they won't ever be winning “best in show” but that's not what it's all about !

“Talking to People at Shows”

Not so much a question to answer but more of a general statement. Barry Cowland made the point that people shouldn't be afraid to talk to people who look at your car when showing at events. Having been at events where Barry & Joy have displayed their fantastic mk1, it is always refreshing to hear the enthusiasm in Barry's patter when he is talking to people about his car and the marque in general. The point Barry makes is that the person looking has a similar interest, get talking to them and enjoy the experience.

“Non Executive Director Role ?”

The question was asked as to how a Non Executive Director differs from a Director.

The differences were explained that a Non Executive Director (NED) is someone who is invited into Board meetings (where key decisions are made) to act in an advisory role only. A NED does not have any authority to enforce an action but is there to provide an impartial and informed opinion to the Board members.

Under the club rules, only paid up members of the Club are eligible to be Board members.

With the individual in question, as a direct employee of Toyota, club membership could be seen as a conflict of interest so joining the club would not be an option. In this situation, a NED role would allow us to benefit from David's experience and his association within Toyota without compromising his position, whilst still allowing attendance at the Board meetings.

“What are the Articles of Association”

With one of the items to be voted on being the amendment to the Articles of Association, clarification was asked as to what this relates to.

Essentially, this is a repeat of the item which had been voted in favour of at the previous AGM but had missed the allocation at Companies House in the required time frame. This vote was a formality to allow us to log at Companies House.

The articles are the rules which we must follow to ensure that we are acting in the interests of the Club at all times. As it happens, one of the changes in the articles is to allow us to change rules where the Club can benefit without the need for majority membership voting. A good example has already been seen of this “Only MR2 owners can be members” rule being changed.

“Data Protection Ruling”

The query was raised regarding the imminent changes to the Data Protection Rules and was the club aware of the changes required.

Good news : this is something Admin Ann is already on top of and is making sure that the Club has the correct procedures in place to remain inside the revised rules.

END OF QUESTION & ANSWERS SECTION

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Gifts were awarded to certain members in recognition of their continued and valued support in helping the organisation and running of the club. Gifts were awarded to :-

Mags Turner	: For acting as Regional Coordinator (N) for > 3 years
Frank Mayes & Dave Davies	: For acting as Regional Coordinator (SW) for > 3 years
Chris Backhouse & Mike Gooding	: For continued assistance, long past resignation !!

So to close this years AGM can I thank you all for attending and for your participation in this years event

Can I thank Darren and Nik for organising this years AGM and all the other Club Officers for their work in promoting the club over the past 12 months.

Without these people giving their time then we wouldn't have a club.

I would also like to thank the Wyboston Lakes Resort for their help and for accommodating us this year.

The evening festivities begin with pre drinks at 6:30 in the bar area outside the dining room.

With the meal being served at 7:00 in the Conlan Restaurant

And for those going to Duxford, we need to meet at 10 AM in the car park.

Unfortunately I can't join you tonight or tomorrow but I hope you all have a great evening and day out at Duxford tomorrow.



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MR2DC 2018 - Calendar

Off the back of a request at the AGM and also via facebook, we produced our own calendar for 2018 which is still available for sale via the club website shop. Priced at just £13.50, hurry and get yours while stocks last.

We had a fantastic response for your best photos : too many to name check everyone, but thanks to everyone who participated and to those who have purchased their copies already.



2018 Calendar

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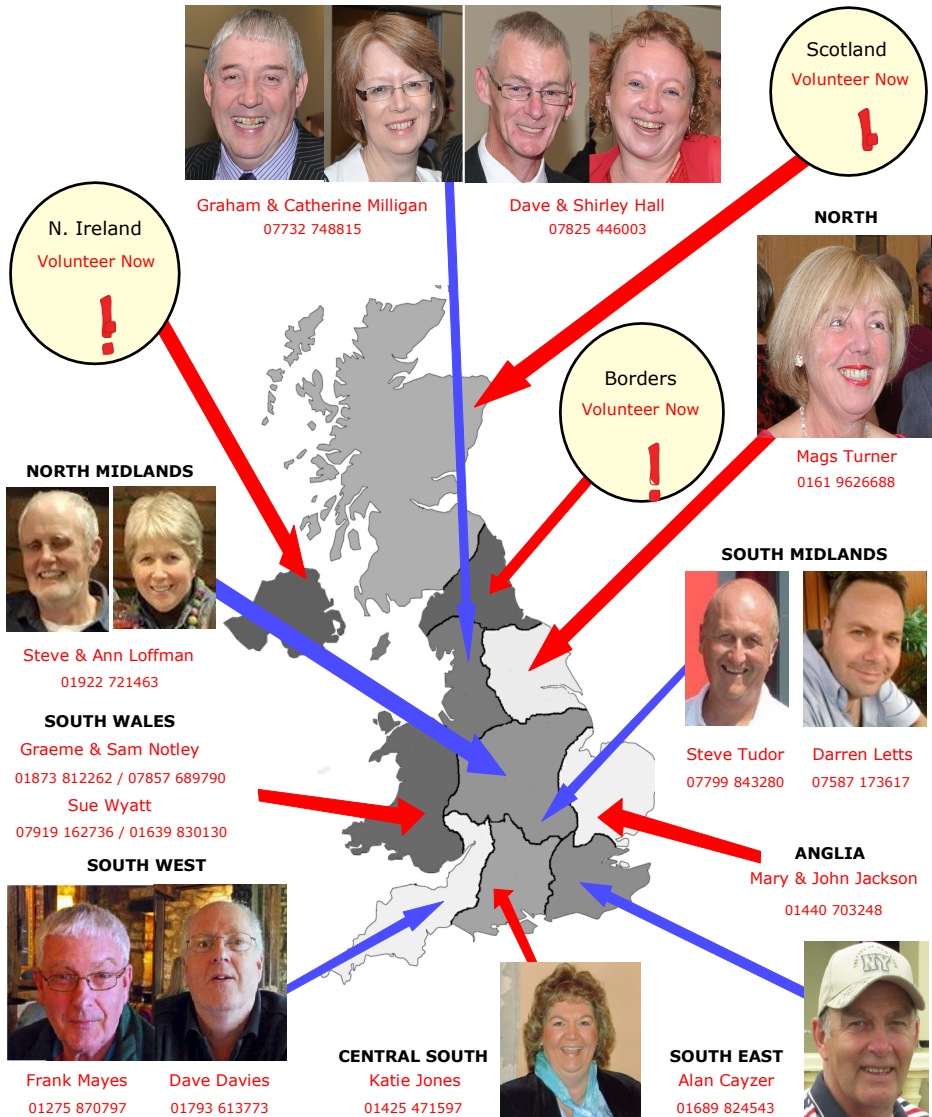
Regions

No monthly meeting in your Region ?

Interested in becoming a Regional Coordinator ?

Contact Chairman : steve.tudor@mr2dc.com

We meet on the first Sunday of every month, usually at lunch time. To find out about your next regional meeting, please check the events page at www.mr2dc.com or contact your regional coordinators on the numbers below :



Anglia

To book your place on any Anglia event, please contact :

Mary & John Jackson - 01440 703 248

Upcoming Events

To be announced in New Year

Recent Events

No event reports for this edition



Central South

To book your place on any Central South event, please contact :

Katie Jones - 01425 477 636

Upcoming Events

To be announced in New Year

Recent Events

No event reports for this edition



South West

To book your place on any South West event, please contact :

Frank Mayes - 01275 870 797 or Dave Davis - 01793 613 773

Upcoming Events

To be announced in New Year

Recent Events

This months meeting was attended by 12 members for a meal at The Boathouse in Bath. After lunch I gave Dave his Award for services to the Club as he was unable to attend the AGM to accept it. Then every body set about the task of their Christmas menu choice for our Christmas lunch on December 10th at the Hunters Hall.



Midlands North

To book your place on any Midlands North event, please contact :

Steve & Ann Loffman - 01922 721 463

Upcoming Events

To be announced in New Year

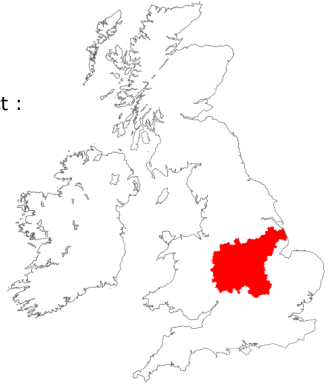
Recent Events

British Motor Museum, Gaydon - 05 November

20 of us braved the rain in the morning to travel to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon in Warwickshire on 5th November.

Thankfully, though, the rain was short lived and we had a really lovely day for our last meeting for the year. It was an informal day, allowing people to have a wander around at their leisure and learn about some of the British cars on display including Lady Penelope's very pink 6 wheeler Rolls Royce from Thunderbirds. Definitely worth a visit, although, not an MR in sight, unless you count the ones parked out side.

It was great to welcome some new members: Clare & Jonathon, Nabeel & son and Robert & friend.



Midlands South

To book your place on any Midlands South event, please contact :

Steve Tudor - 07799 843 280

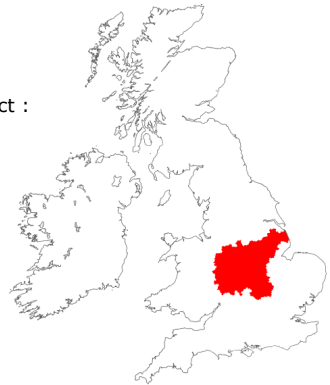
Darren Letts - 07587 173617

Upcoming Events

To be announced in New Year

Recent Events

[Blenheim Festival of Transport - 27 August](#)



As many will remember the last time the club visited this show was in 2015 when the heavens opened all day on our inaugural new National Day.

This year couldn't have been more different with temperatures in the high 20's.

10 cars arrived at Blenheim to display with again new faces joining us for the first time. Chris Wood impressed by arriving with a Regency style Dining chair strapped to the engine cover and rear spoiler of his MR2 which was duly centre stage in the club event shelter.

We also welcomed some new faces in the form of Richard and Grace Weaving, Nick Statham and Stephen Dewhurst.

Within the show in general there were cars ranging from a 1904 Aston to brand new unregistered Tesla's so the full spectrum of Automotive history was covered along with 3 Peterbuilt American Trucks which were shining in the bright sunlight.

All in all this is a great show to visit with the fantastic backdrop of Blenheim Palace as well and top off a great day with all that attended the club also won Best Club Display and Steve Tudor won runner up in the 1990's car class in his Tenth Anniversary to a nut and bolt restored TVR Chimera.





Peterborough Classic Car Show—03 September

We did have 6 cars registered for this event but 3 dropped out the week before so unfortunately only 3 cars in the end attended the show. Joy & Barry Cowland, Darren Letts and Steve Tudor.

Due to the clash with JAE (also in Peterborough the same weekend) the show as a whole also seemed to have shrunk from last year so all in all not as a successful show as Blenheim. That said we did have a lot of interest in the 3 extremely well presented cars with a few people taking away club flyers and taking a lot of interest in the cars.

I would like to thank all members who attended the South Mids shows this year and hope you'll be joining us again next year when we have finalised the regions 2018 shows calendar.

North

To book your place on any North event, please contact :

Mags Turner - 0161 962 6688

Upcoming Events

To be announced in New Year

Recent Events

No event reports for this edition



North West

To book your place on any North West event, please contact :

Graham & Catherine Milligan - 01457 836 063

Dave & Shirley Hall - 0161 303 9239

Upcoming Events

To be announced in New Year

Recent Events

Sunday Lunch @ "The Hartshead" - Sunday 03 November

As we had enjoyed our previous visit to The Hartshead Inn in 2015 we arranged for the private area for our lunch as 25 places were booked for Sunday Lunch. As it was a fine and bright day and being in an elevated position there are fantastic views across Manchester.

The atmosphere was warm and friendly as are the staff and the food was excellent.

Danos and Rachel joined us for lunch for the first time and they chatted about his recent purchase of a red MK1 which has not run for some time and he is recommissioning over the winters months with a view to having it running for next season.

Mike drove Ann's new Roadster to the meeting and as we came back to the car park we spent some time looking at the improvements which Mike has made.

Several of our MR2's are now on SORN for the winter time to preserve their bodywork against the salt so a variety of daily use cars were driven to the restaurant.

Looking forward to next month's Festive Lunch at Dantes Halfway House, Chorley.



South East

To book your place on any South East event, please contact :

Alan Cayzer - 01689 824 543

Upcoming Events

To be announced in New Year

Recent Events

Bromley Pageant of Motoring - 18 June

The Bromley Pageant is held every year in Norman Park on the A21 just south of Bromley town centre. This is reputedly the largest one day show in the world. Maybe it used to be but we doubt it still is today. However it is always popular with our south east members and the public always seem delighted to see us there. It was the hottest day of day of the year over 30°C. All 8 mr2's sweltered in the heat but we all kept going with high spirits all day long and was looking forward to a cold beer or chilled glass of wine when we got



Classic Music and Motors Quex Park—17 June

The second of the Classic Music and Motors shows was held at Quex park in Birchington near Margate on the east Kent coast. This is a two day show but we could only manage the Saturday as we were booked to go to the Bromley Pageant the next day. 5 MR2s met at the motorway Services on the M2 near Gravesend early in the morning. We were soon on our way heading east along the M2 motorway and then onto the Thanet way heading for Birchington, about a 40 minute journey. Everyone was following Alan until a mile from our destination when Bob Howard suddenly turned off into a residential road and all those behind Bob followed him leaving Alan alone. Alan turned around but failed to find out where they had gone. Because Bob led everyone down this road he obviously forgot they were others following him and consequently he lost everyone leaving everyone confused. Needless to say there was a bit of mayhem but eventually everyone made it to the show. However Bob was in the dog house all day! Bob claimed he was just following his Sat Nav and forget about those behind him. Once in the show it was quite quiet being the Saturday not being the most popular day but it meant there was plenty of space for everyone. Highlight of the day apart from Bob's antics was the large military presence and the re-enacted battles they put together throughout the day that kept everyone entertained.



Classic Music and Motors-Deal - 27 May

The classic music and motor shows is a touring show with four events along the Kent coast over the summer months. It is what it says. There is classic music and classic cars. The music is mainly from the 80's with live performances throughout the day by various artists. They're pretty good as well! There is a static classic car show. The show at Deal is held on the sea front at Walmer on grassed land between Walmer Castle and the Lifeboat station which is just along the coast from Deal. It was a bright sunny start to the day except for a short but heavy shower which no one expected and soaked a lot of people including us. Fortunately that was the only wet part of the day.



Edenbridge Motor show—10 September

The motor show at Edenbridge was a new event for the Drivers Club. We are always looking for somewhere new to show our cars. It is located at Gabriels showground comprising a few good quality fields which are flat and even. We meet up as usual at the Grasshopper inn, a pub we know well and only a 15 minute drive from Edenbridge. We had to queue to get in upon our arrival and it was busy and well organized. It was packed with lots of classic cars and some varied and interesting display. There was also live music, a beer tent, trade stalls and amazing helicopter rides. This brought the crowds out. This were 6 mr2 on our display and they looked really good on our corner plot so we had plenty of attention. It was an excellent show and one we would be happy to repeat again next year.



20th August-Classic Music and Motors- Herne Bay

The fourth and last of the Classic and Music Motor shows, this time the road along the sea front is closed-off to traffic and the closed-off area forms part of the show where the classic cars are parked. The format was the same as other shows and just as busy because it's free for members of the public. We had a bit of difficulty finding enough space for the 8 MR2's that had registered and turned up and after a bit of a moan to the organisers they found us another space to park-in. This caused someone else to moan saying we had taken their space but we stuck to our guns and were permitted to stay where we were so it all got sorted amicably and we enjoyed the day. In fact we have enjoyed very much all of the Classic Music and Motor shows this year so will definitely be going to them again next year.



17th September – MR2 Epsom to Eastbourne run

It was one of those days that seemed to appeal to a lot of people. A gathering of MR2's starting with some hospitality from Toyota GB at their HQ in Epsom then a run through to Eastbourne driving across the borders of Surrey, Kent and Sussex.

We've been doing this run on an annual basis for approx 5 years and it has always been popular, but this year it was very popular with 28 MR2's gathering at the start.

Seeing all these MR2's in the car park of Toyota's HQ we couldn't resist the opportunity to line them all up for a photo shoot. It was truly a spectacular sight.

Once all the photos were taken we set off on the first leg of the run. A short dash to the M25, along two junctions to pick up the A25 and headed towards Westerham with a short stop at the Grasshopper Inn so everyone could catch up. This is where another five members from the MR2 OC had arranged to meet us. 15 minutes later and we were off again, this time a 30 minute gentle cruise through Westerham High Street then turning off onto the B2026 all the way through the country roads to Hartfield on the borders of Sussex where we stopped for a lunch break at the Perryhill Farm shop and Tea rooms.

It was another great sight, although this place has a large car park there wasn't a space vacant while we were there. Next leg was a 15 minute drive to the Ashdown Forest for another photo shoot. We found a relatively empty car park and of course filled it up!

Some of the MR2's said farewell at this point but the remaining cars (approx 25) continued onwards. The next leg was the longest of the day, a 90 minute drive to Beachy Head, passing through to the end of the Ashdown Forest, onto the A22 heading towards Eastbourne but diverting onto the A26 so we could pass under the tunnel at Lewes.

Ah yes, the tunnel, we had a great time going through the tunnel slowing down at the entrance, dropping down a gear, or two then revving the engine high so the exhaust note reverberated in our ears, you could hear us for miles! It was great fun. After the tunnel experience we picked up the A27 and headed east. I must confess, as I was leading in front I took a wrong turn at a roundabout, I realised my mistake but what could I do? There were 20 odd cars following me! I had no alternative but to continue along the country roads. I didn't panic too much as we were heading in the right sort of direction, I'd turned off too early that's all and as we went along we eventually came to the same place as we would have done.

As we approached Beachy Head we found a parking area by the side of the road so we stopped for the final time and of course took some more photos. After 30 or so minutes it was time to depart. We had to split up into smaller groups to get something to eat, no restaurant would welcome 40 odd hungry guests turning up at the same time on a Sunday afternoon. Some went to the pub, others including myself went to McDonalds in Eastbourne and others went home without eating. I have to say it was a very memorable day, and I would like to thank everyone who came to make this a very special day. We will be arranging another repeat of this day next September.





Magnificent Motors, Eastbourne - 29/30 April

The Magnificent Motors show is held on the sea front in Eastbourne on the East Sussex coast and it's the place a few of us like to stay for the whole weekend and enjoy some fresh air and have some fun. We stay at a Travelodge and we arranged for everybody to meet at the car park on Saturday and Sunday so we can all drive to the sea front together. The sun was out and the temperature was warm for April. Upon arrival at the show it was the usual squeeze but we managed to get everyone in and put the gazebo up. It was good to see some new faces and as well as our regular members. We met for the first time. Matt and John who came along with us and have now joined. We all took the opportunity to walk along the promenade where we visited the pier and the French market.

The author of this report had to leave Saturday evening but I hear the Sunday was even better than the Saturday show.



Riverview Café Car meeting - 14 May

We had heard about a monthly car meet at Forest Row near East Grinstead the previous year. Alan and his son Mark went along in October to see what it was like and liked it. It is held on a small commercial estate and anyone can come and go between 10.00 and 1.00pm. It can get quite busy and there is a café on site where you can buy refreshments. It is a nice relaxed and friendly atmosphere and thought it would be a good place to meet for a while then go for a drive to a pub.

We arranged to meet at 10.30am sharp so we could park together. We stayed for nearly 2 hours then went for a drive to a pub called the Bolney Stage in the village of Bolney. The drive was further than anticipated but nevertheless a very enjoyable hour's ride. The pub itself was lovely. We sat outside with our drinks chatting for a while. Then it was time to head home. A really good day and one we shall be repeating.



Motorsport at the palace - 27 August

Motorsport at the Palace is held in Crystal Palace Park where there used to be a motor racing circuit. The circuit no longer exists but as you will see from the photos there remains wide pathways where parts of the circuit once was. In fact this place is steeped in motor racing history and is where the first closed circuit race was ever held, even before Brooklands. When I get the opportunity I will do a write up about it. It is also the graveyard of the Crystal Palace exhibition centre, the glass building hence the name "Crystal Palace" which famously burnt to the ground in 1936. The foundations and some of the external landscaping still exist. There is an area for classic cars but the main attraction is the sprinting where spectators can get close to the action. The Drivers Club had a stand with 10 cars which incorporated all three Mk's of the MR2 which is pretty rare these days. We don't see many Mk2's around so was really pleased to see all Mk's represented.

We met at the Rose and Crown pub in Green St Green in the morning as getting to Crystal Palace is not very easy unless you know the area, fortunately I live locally and led a convoy of Mr2's to the show. The event is held over 2 days but we went on the Sunday only. There wasn't many car clubs attending that day as there were many requirements to be met and a lot of local clubs did not have the appropriate public liability insurances so were unable to attend. The sprinting was exciting, as well as being in close proximity to the cars you can wonder around the paddock and look up close to the cars. There was a Mk1 MR2 taking part in the sprint. Although he was a member of the SDMC and a regular racer he told us anyone and any car can take part in the sprint as long as you register beforehand so maybe next year we might have someone to cheer on.



Classic Music and Motors : Whitstable - 16 July

The third of our classic music and motors shows, this time on the hill top at Tankerton, just outside Whitstable overlooking the Thames estuary. Another beautiful day (We have been very lucky with the weather in the south east this year) and once again extremely busy. Lots of music and many more motors we love coming to these shows.



South East region co-ordinators comment:

It's been a busy year here in the south east especially after the surprise departure of our popular leader Richard Pells who has "emigrated" to the south west and we all wish him well. We have missed him but have managed to carry out the planned events and even managed to do a few more.

Our visits to the Forest Row car meets and the show at Edenbridge were almost spontaneously arranged. The highlights of the year were the four Music and Motor shows along the south coast which we loved and were always well attended plus the Epsom to Eastbourne run which was awesome, so many cars came to join us and everyone thought it was a great day so a big thanks to all those who came that day.

Of course we can't forget to mention our regular south east members who continue to support our local events. "You are much appreciated". We have our Christmas lunch coming up mid December which Marina has organised for us and after that we will be planning our events for next year.

We'll have a rest during January so will start the year with a pub meet in February. Keep a look out for a list of next years' events on the web site and we hope to see you sometime next year.

Alan Cayzer.

MR2DC : Board Comments

A big "well done" to you Alan for picking up the gauntlet and running with the South East region. Richard had got this region into a very active group and left quite a challenge for you to take up, and you have proved more than equal to the challenge.

The events you guys have attended looked great and varied with some excellent reports being provided which we're sure the rest of the club will enjoy reading about.

We look forward to seeing what you and the gang get up to in the new season keep those event reports coming in !!

Christmas Quiz

Well, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a cheesy quiz of some sort thrown in for you to have a ponder over during your festive holidays.

So, here it is : just for fun and quite simple - Just name the brand that goes with the logo !


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New Event for your 2018 Diaries 06 May 2018



SUNDAY 6TH MAY
SILVERSTONE CIRCUIT
TICKET BOOKING
COMING SOON!





MR2DC are teaming up with IMOC, MR2OC & TwoBrutal to attend this years Japfest 2018 for what promises to be one hell of a show !

3,500 cars will be on display or on the circuit, representing the UK's major Japanese car clubs along with the largest trade and exhibition area of its type.

There will be a series of all-day track action, including the much anticipated return of the Drift Kings epic winner takes all showdown.

Interested in Attending ?

To register your interest in attending, please drop an email with your name & car details to :-

events@mr2dc.com

And put "Japfest 2018" in the subject line. We will get you on the list and keep you up to date with further information as and when it becomes available.

Just to whet the appetite, here is a flavour of previous years events



