

# The Octagon

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The Official Journal of the M.G. Car Club (Queensland Centre)

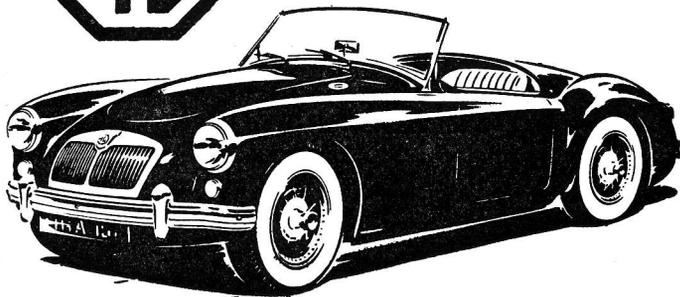
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APRIL, 1959.

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Committee: W. Thomas, R. Davis, I. Hamilton, R. Lovejoy, T. Connolly

Club Rooms:

620 Wickham Street,

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Box 1847 W

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Brisbane

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## FOREWORD

Now that the year has well and truly started, and with membership still climbing, your Committee is wondering if the events being organised and run are suitable. If you have any ideas about anything to do with the Club, let us know so that we can see if it is possible to be included.

Once again I appeal to you Members who have a literary flair, give your script to the Secretary and he will pass it on to the Editor. After all, it is your magazine circulated for your benefit, so give it the support it deserves.

### COMMITTEE NEWS:

We wish to advise that unfortunately Committee man Nigel Stevens finds it impossible to devote as much time as he would like to Committee work due to his obligations to Her Majesty's Services, and has therefore tendered his resignation.

We are sorry to lose the assistance of this staunch enthusiast, but Nigel has volunteered to assist whenever possible in the organising and running of Gymkhanas and other events when he has time at his disposal. Thank you, Nigel.

In accepting the aforementioned resignation, we have pleasure in welcoming Bill Thomas to the position, and already Bill has shown he certainly has what it takes with regard to hard work and diabolical schemes in the organising of Treasure Hunts, etc. We believe there are no less than five such events teed up in advance for use when the occasion arises, and we consider this a good show.

### CLUB ROOMS

The House Committee wishes to announce that work is progressing at the moment on new tables for the Club Rooms and we hear these are to have multi-coloured tops to tone in with the various colours of the chairs which we think you will agree will enhance the appearance of an already attractive meeting place.

There is also word of a magazine rack to hold the various books on the sport, in our possession, and keep same in better condition, and this will be constructed in the near future, as well as a servery which will be erected in the corner to the right of the bar which will help in no small way, the Ladies of the Club who kindly volunteer to brew the necessary cup of tea on Friday evenings.

It is certainly good to see the back room boys leaving no stone unturned to improve the Club rooms, and we know every member appreciates the efforts of this hard working team.

## WELCOME:

The Centre wishes to welcome the following new members: Ian Michels, Ivan Hutton, Vincent Appleby, John Borthwick and Keith Anderson.

Nice to meet you fellows. We look forward to a happy association.

## OVER ALL POINTS SCORE TO DATE:

With three events on the calendar for the year completed, the Leaders on points for the various trophies are as follows:

	<b>Trials</b>	<b>Navigators</b>	<b>Gymkhana</b>	<b>Best All-Round</b>
Bruce McMillan	6.0*			6.0*
Sam Pollard	4.0*		2.0	4.4*
Nev. Goy	3.3*		1.0	3.53
Adrian Nichols		6.0*		6.0*
Ross Gilles		4.0*		4.0*
Les Gisler		3.3		3.3
Ralph Davis			7.0*	1.4
George Buckley	0.6		6.0*	1.86
Nev. King	0.6		6.0*	1.86
Don Broadfoot	0.6		4.0*	1.46
Nigel Stevens	2.0		4.0*	2.80
Dave Stewart			4.0*	0.8
Phil Thew			4.0*	0.8

\* Denotes leaders.

To date, 46 members (sporting types one and all) have points awarded to them and are hard on the heels of the leaders, keep at them, the calendar of events for the year has just started and judging by the enthusiasm the winners of the trophies can be justly proud of their achievement.

## COMING EVENTS:

The following are the events on the calendar up till the end of June:

May 9: Sprint Meeting, Strathpine, which has already been covered in this issue.

May 25: As this is an organised Club night, it is proposed that members who are interested, visit the Australian Paper Mill, and we trust this will be confirmed in the near future.

The Club rooms will be open as usual on the Friday night and all those interested will progress in convoy to Petrie, where a most interesting evening will be in store for them.

May 31: Treasure Hunt. This will be a beauty.

June 21: Gymkhana, Aspley.

Another of these popular events will be held on the usual property and we can assure you a good programme will be devised in the interim. Club Captain, Sam Pollard, states he may be indisposed at that time, but we know his expert team will be only too happy to create some curly ones for all participants in this event.

June 29: Film Evening, and the celluloid is to be provided by Castrol. We hear whispers of new continental films being available covering various events on all European circuits, so this should really be a night to look forward to.

## THE LITTLE MONTE CARLO:

It appears that "picking up the gauntlet" has become a most laudable habit in the M.G. Car Club. Fifteen members (sporting enthusiasts one and all) accepted our challenge for the Night Navigation Fun on April 3rd. By the number of competitors who finished, an alternative could have been "How to lose competitors, in one easy lesson." Did we overdo the traps, or are you becoming over-confident.

Only one entrant woke up to our successful (if low) ruse of a double course. He was that wily old fox, Mr. Pres. Altogether six types finished the course, even though a V.W. drove sixty miles round a twenty three mile course.

Did you lose the bubble out of your sextant or do you have an optimistic Detroit speedo, George?

The other cars arrived back at the Club Rooms at various times throughout the evening — mostly late — some almost missed their "tea and natter." Next time, the event may not finish at the Club Rooms and you will be out on the proverbial limb — won't you? This may or may not be a clue so you had better read between the lines.

One of the most distorted, er, we mean tortuous pieces of deduction was related to us, after the event, by a well known team. It was as follows, and we quote verbatim:— "The clue was 'Ladies fingers are, too', ladies wear rings on their fingers, rings have stone in them."

"Therefore Stones Corner is the answer." Q.E.D. What was wrong with Cavendish Road?

Don't laugh, he wasn't the only one at Stones Corner looking for reservoirs. One gentleman even found a perfectly good bank at Woolloongabba but couldn't see a reservoir on top of it. Talking about reservoirs, two members seemed to be so overjoyed at finding the confounded thing that they chased themselves around in circles like a dog after its tail.

It may be fitting here to ask the OWNERS of an Austin Healey and a TR2 if they think they are in a speed trap EVERY time someone flashes a torch at them. Those parked cars and flashing torches that you burnt past (and how) were a control. The above brings to mind two points—were you practising for the Sprints on May 9th, and do Healys get two miles to the gallon at that speed?

Finally, all that remains, is to give you the official results and our congratulations to the successful competitors, the results are:—

1st—Miles Egbert (Fox) Hunter; Navigator, Yummy Allen.

2nd—Nev. Goy; Navigator, Les Gistler.

3rd—Keith Turner; Navigator, Basher Baker.

Special congratulations to Nev. and Les who pulled off 2nd place in their second event of this type. You experts had better pull up your sox because, remember, all these events count towards the Trials, Navigators and All-round Trophies.

### **SPRINT MEETING:**

A Closed Sprint Meeting will be held on May 9th, at the Strathpine air strip, subject to confirmation, as at the time of writing, it is not known whether the circuit will be available due to negotiations regarding the sale of same.

This will be our first speed event for the year of 1959 and we are looking forward to a cracker day all round.

The following are supplementary regulations pertaining to this event:

Sports Cars must carry normal road equipment which need not, however, be of standard type. The following items of equipment are essential and must be carried throughout the event in which the car is entered.

(a) Mudguards.

(b) Self-starter in working order.

(c) Dynamo in working order.

(d) Lighting set, which must include head, side and tail lamps complying with legal requirements.

(e) Horn.

(f) Accumulator of correct size.

(g) Spare wheel of correct size and type carried in the proper mountings.

(h) Windscreen (see Special Provisions).

(i) Driving mirrors must be so positioned to give a clear view of cars overtaking. NOT applicable to Speed Trials.

(j) Suitable shock absorbers must be fitted.

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## Special Provisions

1. Windscreens:
  - (a) Aero type screens will be allowed in addition to, or in place of a full screen.
  - (b) Windscreens may be fully removed.
  - (c) Windscreens of non-laminated glass, if not removed, must be folded flat, on open sports cars and securely fixed in this position.
2. Brakes: All cars must be fitted with an efficient braking system operating on all four road wheels. There must be means, alternative to the foot pedal, of applying the brakes to at least two of the road wheels.
3. Fire Extinguishers: All cars must carry a fire extinguisher of an approved type of not less than one quart capacity mounted in an accessible position.  
N.C. RULE 135A.
4. Wheels:
  - (a) Twin rear wheels are not permitted.
  - (b) Wheel and tyre sizes may be varied from standard.
5. Tyres:
  - (a) Badly worn tyres will not be permitted.
  - (b) Retreaded or processed tyres will be permitted for Sprints.
6. Doors: Sports cars without provision for doors will be allowed provided that they comply with all other requirements.
7. Exhaust Systems: "Straight through" exhaust pipes will be permitted provided that such pipe extends beyond the body of the car.

## Closed Cars

1. "Closed Cars" must be fitted with a Saloon or Coupe top and, where applicable, must conform with the regulations relative to Sports Cars.
2. Closed Cars, where eligible, must be fitted with "safety glass" windscreens if not the windscreen must be removed.
3. Seats may be modified but the standard number must be carried in the proper positions. "Seat" means the seat proper and the back.
  - (a) At least two runs will be allowed for each Competitor in both the Flying and Standing Quarter Mile.
  - (b) Closing date of entries will be **Friday, 30th April, 1959**. Entry Fee 15/-.
  - (c) Points will be awarded in each class for both Flying and Standing toward perpetual trophies and a trophy will be awarded to the winner of each section on handicap. Medallions will be awarded for breaking established club records.
  - (d) Starting time, 1.00 p.m.
  - (e) Standing Quarter Mile and Flying Quarter Mile.
  - (f) Scrutineering will take place between 10 a.m. — 12 noon.
  - (g) Sports and Sedan Cars as per Club Rules.
  - (h) Safety belts are optional.
  - (i) Any fuel may be used.
  - (j) The course will be a measured quarter mile on the western side of the Strip, cars to run from North to South.
  - (k) No handicapping will be made.
  - (l) A briefing meeting may be held just prior to 1.00 p.m. if required.

**We trust the circuit will be available for this eagerly awaited event**



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## OVERSEAS NEWSLETTER:

Word has filtered through that Messrs. Muller, Newton, Richards and Mullen have acquired via Mr. Muller, one 1953 Velox in which they intend to spend 8 weeks on the Continent.

Unfortunately nobody seems to know what the International Calendar is during this time but there is little doubt in our minds that the Itinerary will include at least Monaco Grande Prix, and any other major events they can embody.

The grapevine also says Georgie Stratigos is heading the same way intending to cover 11 Meetings if possible. What George? No M'sells, Senioritas, Frauliens, etc.

**Goodwood:** Under 1100 cc. class, saw the absolute defeat of the works Lotus and Elva cars by the new Marque Lôle Climax which came home 1, 2, 3.

Under 1500 cc. Class gave Jack Brabham a narrow win from Roy Salvadori, Moss having demolished his Cooper Borgward in practice.

Sports Car Race provided a real battle between Beub, Bekeart, in Lister Jags (Costin prepared) and Graham Whitehead, Aston Martin, DBR 1, with them finishing in that order.

Almost half the cars that finished had dents due to either leaving the track or shunting on the corners.

The main event gave Moss a win from Brabham, both 2.5 Litre, Cooper Climax with Schiell and Bonnier in B.R.M.'s, 3rd and 4th respectively.

To us it would be wishful thinking but an estimated 200,000 people saw the day's racing.

## BAR-B-QUE

By Char Cole

A perfect night — time 6.00 p.m. — place Club Rooms — seven cars assembled here and received Ian Hamilton's obscure directions on how to get to the scene of the barbecue.

Those who participated went by devious routes and finally arrived at Mullers, Bardon. Mike Thatcher and Lynn Moffatt won the event. Soon after more and more cars came along, and finally we had thirty-six members present.

New member, Bob Winter, and friends, really had troubles inasmuch as they went to Grange terminus instead of Bardon. Believe they can quote ad lib any street in Grange area.

Our chef, Graeme Muller, did a mighty job providing succulent steaks with the aid of his two pronged batons.

What a cosy circle around the fire, Yummy Allan, Dave Stewart, Club Captain, Sam Pollard and Graham Perkins, and guess what they were talking about — automobiles.

Adrian Nick (no relation to Old Nick — don't know though?) was his usual happy self, holding a large handkerchief under Barb's mouth as she was having trouble getting pineapple out of the bottom of a glass. Stated it was stuck to the bottom (of the glass) and would not come out. Demonstrated this by flinging same about with wild abandon to illustrate the point, much to the chagrin of cravated Charlie who was within firing range. Good shot, Barbara.

Noticed Mrs. Pres sporting the very latest perfume after helping prepare the salad. Could be a new sensation — eh? ONIO No. 5 — wow!

Poor Phillip Thew came limping in on an injured foot, but nevertheless our reporter tells us he had fun.

The fellow with the pewter was having a fine time until a most considerate member drained the mug surreptitiously and refilled it with dry ginger ale. Ugh! Graham Perkins said he knew nothing about it. Hmm!!

Two of the fellows were accompanied by charming school marms — learn anything boys?

Later in the evening we adjourned to the lounge and were entertained by a quartette led by Peter Stokes, and what hidden talent we found. Ian Hamilton with flowers between clenched teeth gave us an exhibition of Swan Lake with perfect grace and rhythm. He careered round and round the lounge. "Ah! Hail to thee blythe spirit, bird thou never wert!" — and how true.

Edna Stewart was looking very worried at one stage. Someone reported Dave was smoking a cigar and as he is a non-smoker, I don't wonder Edna wore a frown, she was thinking of the morrow.

Heard "Little Jim" Davis entertaining a circle — strains of Hi Sherrif and Ow Yer Goin Mate — Arright, floated my way.

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Still trying to puzzle out why Bill Makeham sat in a corner by himself for so long — maybe he's a Fair Lady Fan?

Toward midnight quite a bucks party was in progress outside. Aroma of cigars came floating through, so I guess Mr. Pres was somewhere close by.

Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Muller and Graeme whose generous hospitality and kind assistance with the catering and cooking were greatly appreciated. Also thanks to Ian Hamilton for his "Gimmick" and his part in the collecting of food stuffs. The efforts of these good people enabled thirty-six merry makers to have a pleasant and enjoyable evening, one which will live in our memories for many a day.

### **BATHURST IN BRIEF**

Newlyweds, Jeff and Lou Billings, spent a few pleasant days of their honeymoon viewing the Easter meeting at Bathurst. Weather was not kind until the Monday when all and sundry got sunburned.

They were most impressed with the circuit pit area general facilities and in particular the glass enclosed timing tower which catered for all the whims and fancies of the officials. Lap scoring "A La King" eh girls.

Apparently the locals take great pride in their T.C.'s in the Waratah State as Jeff reports not one dozen but literally dozens of immaculate examples, the majority of which have 16 in. wheels on the back, sprint screens and four spoke steering wheels. Yes they also have BEAM AXLES.

Quite a number of cars with Queensland registration plates in the offing.

Only other comment from Jeff was that they returned in 15 hours which may not be a record, but it's not bad for a sedan car and certainly very good from the point of view of the passenger.

Who was driving by the way, Mr. or Mrs.?

### **CENTENARY QUEEN QUEST PARADE**

This was sponsored by the R.S.L. at the Speedway, Saturday, 4th April, and attracted thirteen sports cars from the Club. "Little Jim" Davis led the procession for two laps around the Exhibition Oval. Each car carried two entrants apiece. Fred Coull struck trouble with clutch and had to retire, but nevertheless took it all in good part. Mr. Pres and John Finnimore assembled the cars outside the pits and what's more, enjoyed every moment of it, allotting the entrants to the various cars. During the organising, Lynn Finnimore and Nan Hunter were twice mistaken for entrants and were their faces red! The spot lights shining down on the moving cars made a spectacular sight indeed.

Thank you one and all for your help and co-operation. It was for a deserving cause and you were great.

### **STORK CLUB**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ian Shaw — a Son, Gary. No hesitation in saying Junior will be a future "G" enthusiast.

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## LOWOOD — 12th APRIL

A vote of thanks to the timing team who unselfishly devoted their time on Sunday, April 12th, in the rain and the cold.

The fellow with the red sun hat looked rather sharp running around with plenty of repartee as usual.

At one time loud snores were heard coming from one of the charming young ladies and her colleagues were wondering if she actually did go to bed the night before or not.

The proceedings started with no microphones and Nigel Stevens and his offsider had to shout over the roar of the motors for the first three races and both stated this was particularly harsh on the larynx, but fortunately Nan Hunter was on hand with a prodigious supply of lovely green lolls which she fed generously to these Charlies, relieving a lot of the pain. The gesture was much appreciated.

Des Fegan resplendent in yellow overalls at Lowood Meet. Cannot make up my mind whether that yellow suits you or not.

Doug Mason does not mind if it pours when he has his two-in-one with him — his umbrella hat. Very versatile, Doug.

Another hat fashion. Our Hon. Secretary's pork pie. Bruce has a head piece for all occasions — hail, shine, hot or cold.

M.G. Club ladies trying to outdo phone box types by packing into Finnimore Standard, more bodies than I thought possible to squeeze in.

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