

# Winchester MG Owners Club



Are  
**new** parts  
causing you  
**problems?**  
Suppliers  
Reviewed

Romsey  
Boxing-Day  
meet

NEC Classic

Events for  
2015

Jan 2015 [www.winchestermgoc.co.uk](http://www.winchestermgoc.co.uk)

# Winchester MGOc

www.winchestermgoc.co.uk



## Your Committee

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Winchester MGOc meet on the last Tuesday of the month at:  
The King Charles, Lovedon Lane, King's Worthy, SO23 7NU

(NB. We are an active group and may sometimes meet at some far off pub, so please check with the Secretary and join us. . . somewhere.)

## Chat

Happy New Year to all our members, I hope you all had a good time over the Christmas holidays.

Following a show of hands at the November AGM our regular committee is back at the helm again for 2015. The meeting was well attended and our forthcoming events calendar is in pretty good shape with volunteers to plan monthly runs and some other outings. On the admin side it was agreed to seek a further signatory for our bank account and to investigate acquiring a decent pop up gazebo for use at events.

It was good to see so many at our 'Christmas' dinner in early January where it was my pleasure to present our Members Cup to Clyde and Janet Cunningham. This annual award is presented by the Secretary to those who have made a significant contribution to the club. I am sure you will agree that as Treasurer, Clyde's work is essential to the smooth running of the club. Most of his work is unseen but he is always there in the background banking your subs, ensuring bills get paid and keeping an eye on our finances. Janet has been our competitive champion over the last year and upheld WMGOc honour with fantastic top score performances in both Skittles and Shove MG - our secret weapon to be wheeled out against challenges from Basingstoke and Newbury. Our thanks go to both of them.

Newbury MGOc advised of a £100 surplus funds remaining from our participation in this year's Radio 2 Carfest. After further consulting with Basingstoke MGOc it was agreed that rather than to divide and the sum and re-distribute to all 21 cars that attended, it would be more appropriate that the money should instead be donated to 'BBC Children in Need'. This was completed via 'Just Giving' and an acknowledgement has been received.

So now it is time to gear up for the Cobweb Spin and get the year started. We will be canvassing the usual classic motoring press for advertising and we also have our own Cobweb Spin event page on Facebook. Whatever next?

*Steve*

It has been said that there are only two 'certainties' in life and they are death and taxes. Experience suggests that this is close but not quite accurate. Death, taxes and spending money on your car might be closer to real life. As a group I think we are missing a trick in not sharing our experiences of suppliers and garages so here goes, with the good, the bad and don't go there. Let's start with the obvious.

**MGOC:** One of my rolling tasks is to smarten up the interior of my B. Some years ago I bought replacement seats from the MGOC. The driver's seat has been fine but the little used passenger seat collapsed under the weight of my dear wife, a woman who could never be called 'hefty'. MGOC sent a spare part and I had to rebuild the seat myself. I was not impressed. Looking back, the MGOC have supplied me with too many cheap and sub-standard parts.

**Mirror Trim:** I've now refurbished the back seats of the B with foam and covers from Mirror Trim of Toddington, Beds. I ordered on the 26th of November and the finished seats were back in the car on the 4th December. Now that cannot be bad.

**Moss:** I don't want to go on about my carburation problems... I needed a new vacuum pipe for the distributor advance/retard. I ordered a replacement from Moss and three bags arrived. A pipe and two ends. Now, this pipe needs to transmit a vacuum but sadly the ends fitted the pipe like a sausage fits in a top-hat. No amount of mastic was going to retrieve the situation. Parts went in the bin.

I ordered the same item from **Rat Sport**, a firm that have provided very good service over the years. The parts arrived the following day and are a perfect fit.

**Demon Tweaks** (Motorsport) is another useful and good supplier of those odd things we sometimes need, or just want, including silicone hoses, fuel pipes (suitable for modern fuels) and more toys than you could shake a stick at.

**MG Hive:** The service is good, the price is good and I've never had a duff part.

**SC Parts:** My experience has always been good with this supplier. They are not the cheapest but the quality has been there. The down side is delivery time, which can be protracted.

**Rimmer Brothers:** Like I said, I'll not bore you with my carburation issues, but Rimmer came up with parts that **Burlen Engineering** (SU Carburettors) told me were out of stock. Rimmer's service is excellent, with parts usually arriving the next day.

**Brown & Gammons** are another good source of parts for both old and new MGs and like Rimmer Brothers parts, are promptly dispatched.

**Halfords:** I needed a spanner – Halfords £13, plus petrol and an hour out of my day.  
**L&S Engineers** £4.21, with P&P £8.50 delivered to my door. Say no more!

Old cars need not be troublesome but I fear the current poor quality replacement parts do us no favours. The last order I placed with the MGOC was for points, condenser and rotor arm, with all these new parts fitted prior to a drive around France. The car's performance got steadily worse on day one and just about made it to the hotel at Arnage. Day one of the holiday started with me in the car park, dwell meter in hand, checking the ignition. All seemed fine. It wasn't. Day two and day three started the same way. The car ran like a dog until I replaced the old components that I fortunately still had in the car. Bingo - the car ran as sweet as you like.

The sad thing is that some may be attracted to our hobby and then struggle with an unreliable car and give up. Classic car ownership should be enjoyable but in truth we suffer from cheap and unreliable service parts. This really should NOT be the case.

In the next edition I will be looking at garages so if you have a tale to tell we want to hear it.



Image: Steve Favell

# Boxing Day meet at Romsey

I heeded my own advice on Boxing Day and dragged myself out before sunrise to bag myself a spot at Romsey. Arriving just after 8 o'clock I was spoilt for choice and wondered if I had been over keen. However I was not the first of our club to arrive as I was greeted by Richard & Gillian Harcourt-Brown whose B Roadster was already in the line-up. A steady stream of arrivals confirmed we had made the right choice and by 9 o'clock the main car park was full and the others filling up fast. The turn-out seemed to be as good as last year which was estimated to be around the 600 mark attending throughout the day.

As always there was a great variety on show from the traditional vintage right through to the eccentric custom in all shapes and sizes. As the car parks filled, the pavement and verge parking began. It seemed sacrilege that Healeys and XK Jaguars had to constantly circle the one-way system waiting for a space, but there is only so much room and once it is filled, what else do you do. (They could always try getting up earlier!) If you want to see a very classy traffic jam, then Romsey on Boxing Day is a good place to be.

I ran into half a dozen of our members during the morning and spotted another couple of club cars whose owners must have been around somewhere amongst the crowds. The morning was dry but very chilly and a mid-point cup of tea from one of the catering vans was used to bring life back to my hands as much as anything else. The meet is a really good family event and it is nice to see so many youngsters attend with their parents.



An overheard conversation did make me smile. A young girl of about 10 years old was obviously taken with the sight and sound of scooters arriving en-masse with their myriad of mirrors, union jack crash helmets and flashy paintwork. She didn't want to leave. Her mother was reminding her that it was her who actually didn't want to go out to this 'silly car thing' in the first place.

Cars featured on this page are:

*Chris Budden's MGTD MkII*

*Stuart Hughes' TF*

*Steve & Jan Wills' newly acquired MGB Roadster*

*The editor planned to be there but was laid low with a rotten cold (still suffering) although he never complains.*

The organiser, Steve Biddlecombe, makes a charity collection on the day and this year he collected over £3,000 in support of research into Prostate Cancer.

# NEC Classic Car Show



The NEC Classic Car show in November was as big, if not bigger than ever. I managed to run into / meet up with a range of people including some that I have worked with over the years. One was manning the National Hot Rod Association stand and another who I had not seen for over 20 years was seeking parts for his Healey 3000 restoration. Yet another, the proprietor of Favell's Garage in Leicester, runs a Standard 10 and a Vauxhall Magnum. Quite a variety of interests? One guy who looked familiar was a regular nodding acquaintance from Winchester who I then subsequently met again at Romsey on Boxing Day, where he was displaying a Morris Minor Pick-up. A small world this Classic Car lark. I got to see Quentin Wilson, Ed China and Mike Brewer as well, but for some unknown reason they didn't recognise me! The MGOC had a large stand as usual and I had a quick chat with Holly to thank her for her help in placing our Cobweb Spin ads. With 11 halls of the NEC in use and 1,700 cars to see I was kept busy. In my 8 hours of solid walking I only managed to get around it twice before wearily heading for home with a rucksack full of magazines with loads of adverts to drool over.

## Events for 2015



### January

27th, WMGOC Club night

### February

15th, *Crotch Cooler* meet - Bayside Cabin, Stokes Bay 10:00

24th WMGOC Club night

### March

1st Cobweb Spin

31st WMGOC Club night

### April

12th Brooklands MG Era

12th Classic Cars on the Prom 1st meet of 2015

19th Arundel Castle gathering, Chichester MGOC

26th National "Drive it" Day

28th WMGOC Club night run