



# WESSEX MG CAR CLUB

## THE SPENCER SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB



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#### **NEXT CLUB NIGHT**

26th March Start Time  
8:00pm

<http://www.wessexmgclub.org.uk>

### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Hi, everyone,

Our events in the month have included a Sunday lunch and a visit to the Bombay Gin Distillery at Laverstock, an excellent event for which I would like to thank Roger and Lynne for organising. Also thanks to Sue & Terry for organising the Valentines meal which I am told was a really good evening.

Luckily the severe winter weather held off until after our quiz night in which the winners were decided by a fraction of a point.

Let's hope that as the clocks change we will have a good spring and summer to enable us to get the maximum enjoyment from our cars.

Our next club night will feature a talk and presentation from the Severn Freewheelers Blood Bike team, they are volunteers and perform a vital service this should be an interesting evening.

Coming up we have not one but two skittles matches!!, the first on Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> is our own in house match, which should prepare us for the challenge match with the Gloucester MG Club on Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup>, if you have not yet put your name on the list please do so soon.

Also on events we have a visit in April to the Morgan Factory, which should be an interesting day seeing how they build their cars, and then we have the club spring break to Rutland

For those who have put their names on the list for the Bowood Classic Car Show on Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> I now have the passes, if you have not yet put your name down and would like to attend please let me know and I should be able to get you a pass.

Hope to see you on the 26<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm for the Severn Freewheelers Talk.



**Martyn**



You may remember this pic from the November 2017 edition of the newsletter. It's one of our membership - Malcolm Barrington - with his Fraser Nash TT Replica taken by Peter Hine at Castle Combe last year.

Well, Malcolm is racing his historically very interesting Fraser Nash again, this time at the VSCC meeting at Silverstone on April 21st. Malcolm will be pleased to see you, if you're able to get to the meeting. I've included below a little background to the Fraser Nash make and in particular the TT Replica. I'm forever conscience that this is a MG centric newsletter so there is a MG sting in the tail to this story - read on.

The Frazer Nash was the direct descendant of the GN cycle car, a twin-cylinder, chain driven vehicle produced until 1922 by the partnership of Captain Archie Frazer-Nash and H R Godfrey. Archie Frazer-Nash then formed a new company and in 1924 the first Frazer Nash appeared. In 1928 Captain Frazer-Nash left the company, which then came under the control of H J and W H Aldington. Between 1924 and 1954, when production effectively ceased, approximately 450 Frazer Nash cars were produced, of which 350 were pre-war 'chain gang' models. Of these, 85 had the most popular TT Replica style of bodywork, which was offered between March 1932 and 1939. The TT Replica was based on the cars that contested the 1931 RAC Tourist Trophy Race, though none of the three cars entered actually finished the event. In 1932 the cars fared better, one finishing 2nd in class.

A number of different engines were used by the factory, the TT Replica was fitted with 1½-litre, four-cylinder, overhead-valve Meadows engine, the 1,660cc six-cylinder, twin-overhead-camshaft Blackburne engine, and the 1½-litre, four-cylinder, single-overhead-camshaft Gough engine. The factory undertook the manufacture of individual



overhead-camshaft Gough engine. The factory undertook the manufacture of individual cars to order and various combinations of engine and chassis were produced.

The TT race in 1931 was over a distance of 410 miles, comprising thirty laps of the 13 2/3rds miles Ards circuit near Belfast. The winner was Norman Black, driving an M.G. Midget, at an average speed of 67.9 m.p.h.-the cars running under handicap. Second place was taken by Borzacchini on an Alfa-Romeo, with a speed of 79.05 m.p.h.-the fastest average ever set up in this race. The Italian driver also broke the lap record with 81.28 m.p.h. A.S. Crabtree was third on another M.G. Midget finishing five seconds behind Borzacchini, with an average of 67.62 m.p.h.



SEPTEMBER, 1931

MOTOR SPORT

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## 'The Hat Trick'

# Midget wins Ulster T.T.

Reproduced by courtesy of "The Motor"

Mr. Norman Black driving The Earl of Marche's M.G. Midget won the race at 67.9 m.p.h. B. Borzacchini, Alfa-Romeo, finished second, and S. A. Crabtree, M.G. Midget Third.

Never before in the whole history of motor racing have the three premier racing events of the season been won by the same make of car.

<b>The Double Twelve</b>	-	<b>M.G. Midget</b>
<b>The Irish Grand Prix</b>	-	<b>M.G. Midget</b>
<b>The Ulster T.T.</b>	-	<b>M.G. Midget</b>

(Subject to official confirmation.)

The M.G. Midget was the first 750 c.c. car to exceed 100 m.p.h., and it holds all Class "H" records from five to one hundred kilometres.

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## 1931 MG MAGNA F-TYPE SUPERCHARGED SPORTS

Paul Warn

Continuing the Fraser Nash/MG vintage sports car theme of the 1930s, I came across this 1931 MG Magna at the Bonhams Goodwood Members' Meeting Auction last weekend. It sold for £91,100.

As you will know, general manager of Oxford-based Morris Garages, Cecil Kimber brought sports car motoring within the financial reach of the man in the street with a succession of affordable MGs - what 'affordable' actually meant I'm not really sure. These were based on existing Morris models, arguably the most famous and certainly the most influential being the Midget, which first appeared at the 1928 London Motor Show. And of the type that won the Ulster TT mentioned earlier.

The first - M-Type - Midget was based on modified Morris Minor running gear and used the latter's 847cc single-overhead-camshaft four-cylinder engine, though it was its two-seater body that set the little MG apart from its humbler sister car.

In 1931 this six-cylinder F-Type Magna was introduced and like its equally new four-cylinder stablemate, used a development of the under-slung chassis first seen on the racing C-Type Midget, but of longer wheelbase. Wolseley, also owned by William Morris, had been responsible for the Minor engine, and it was this unit in 12hp, 1,271cc, six-cylinder supercharged form that powered this Magna.



## SKITTLES CHALLENGE WITH GLOUCESTER MG CLUB

**THURSDAY APRIL 26<sup>th</sup> 2018**

We are holding an inter MG Club Skittles match at the Spencer Club on Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> and need volunteers to form a team to play against our neighbours the Gloucester MG Club,

Please let me know if you are interested in joining what will hopefully be the winning team!!

**Martyn Lucas**



In preparation for this important match, I would like to welcome all members to an evening of our own Skittles! The alley is reserved at the Spencer Club for Saturday 31st March with the first ball thrown between 7:45 pm and 8:00pm.

Supper will be included. The cost will be around £6 per head depending on numbers - in any event a bargain!

I need to know ASAP if you would like to join in so I can finalise arrangements with the club.

Please phone/email 01225 704685/[vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk](mailto:vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk)

**Vic**





HERE WE GO  
AGAIN

Malcolm Taylor

You will all remember Malcolm's altercation with his MG - more specifically the drivers' door? this is Malcolm's latest instalment...

The plan is to have the new door on in time for the Cheese Run, hmm? You will see that the car is raised on runways in the garage. The plan was to clean and paint the subframes and inject them and any other hollow sections with waxoil.

I decided that the waxoil wouldn't function properly in the cold. Or maybe it was me that wouldn't function in the cold? So that's a job for the warmer weather, when the car will be in use!

Oh well, maybe next winter?





## PHOTO GALLERY

### 17th-18th March Goodwood 76th Members' Meeting



It was cold and snowy!



## Secretary's Scribbles

Last month I gave the modern Fiat 500 a bashing - no one has complained.....

Since then I have spent a few hours helping Vic with a few jobs on his original Fiat 500 - now here is the thing, I reckon this car will be so much more fun. I have never driven one but I reckon it would be a hoot to drive.

Are all originals better? Is the MG F better than the TF, is the original 1930s Beetle better than one of these new modern ones? What is the definition of 'better' and I suppose we would all disagree on that definition anyway.... Are the early clean and basic MGBs and Midgets better than the last of the line - more powerful, safer and more advanced technologically ones.

The market prices could be a guide - but here early and originality seems to have control - is this right? Do we change our minds when considering buying a new car - we do buy new cars don't we and if they were worse than the previous older generation car why would we buy them?

Now I really have tied myself in knots! Is it really just about shininess?

On another note I was impressed with Car S.O.S this week - a pretty brave restoration of an MGA - I do love them in iris blue - don't you?



Tom



## Club Diary

2018 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
<b>26-Mar</b>	<b>Club Night - Severn Freewheelers Talk</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Spencer Club</b>	<b>Martyn Lucas</b>
31-Mar	Skittles Evening	Yes	Spencer Club	Vic Wright
30 March - 2 April	Easter Bank Holiday			
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Spencer Club</b>	
12-Apr	Morgan Factory Tour		Malvern	Peter Hine
26-Apr	Skittles - Club v Gloucestershire	<b>Yes</b>	Spencer Club 7:00pm	<b>Martyn Lucas</b>
<b>20/22-Apr</b>	<b>Club Spring Weekend Including The Stilton Cheese Classic Vehicle Run</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Rutland</b>	<b>Graham Bennett</b>
<b>30-Apr</b>	<b>Club night - Prod and Poke</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Spencer Club</b>	<b>Moved due to Club's Spring Trip</b>
6-May	Spring Classic Car Show	Yes	Bowood	
20-May	Visit to Aerospace Bristol	Yes	Filton Bristol	Kevin Meakin
<b>21-May</b>	<b>Club Night - Mystery Run</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>A Mystery</b>	<b>Roger Binney</b>
27-May	Gurston Down Hill Climb	-		For Information
31May/3Jun	Jersey Motoring Festival	-		Martyn Lucas
17-6	MGs in the Park Burford	-		<b>(Event TBC)</b>
23-24 June	Bicester Classic	-		For Information
<b>25 Jun</b>	<b>Club Night - BBQ</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Spencer Club</b>	<b>Martyn Lucas</b>

2018 EVENTS DIARY				
Date	Event	Club Event	Venue	Contact Details & Start Point/Time
15-Jul	Summer Picnic	Yes	Lepe Country Park	Sue Warder/ Jeni Wright
7-8 Jul	Chateau Impney	-		For Information
23-Jul	Club Night - Boules	Yes	Tollgate Pub	<b>Vic Wright</b>
20-Aug	Club Night - Pub Run	Yes		Vic Wright
27-Aug	Action Day	Yes	Tom's Field	Tom Strickland
<b>TBC</b>	Coventry Motor Museum	No		Martyn Lucas <b>(Event TBC)</b>
24-Sep	Club Night - Talk - Topic To Be Confirmed	Yes	Spencer Club	<b>Tom Strickland</b>
<b>TBC</b>	Mini Factory Oxford Factory	-		Peter Hine <b>(Event TBC)</b>
6-Oct	Autumn Classic Meeting	-	Castle Combe	Vic Wright
22-Oct	Club Night - Talk - The Racing History of the Ford GT 40	Yes	Spencer Club	<b>Paul Warn</b>
27-Oct	Binney's Bash Halloween Party		Eddington Village Hall	Roger Binney
<b>TBA</b>	Pre AGM Committee Meeting	No	Spencer Club	
9-11 Nov	Classic Car Show NEC	-		For Information
26-Nov	Club AGM	Yes	Spencer Club	Formal notification will be included in the Sept & Oct newsletter.
15-Dec	Christmas Party	Yes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>

## Club Asset List

CLUB ASSET LIST			
ASSET	CURRENT HOLDER	CONTACT DETAILS	
Engine Hoist	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk
Club Sail Banner	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk
Event Shelter + Sides	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk
Projector (old)	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector (new)	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Speakers	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector Stand	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
Projector Screen & Cover	Paul Warn	01225 768676	paul.william.warn@gmail.com
New Set of Boules	Vic Wright	01225 704685	vic@devizes-domestic.co.uk

### NOTE:

If you need to borrow or take custody of any of the club's assets, the current holder should be contacted directly to arrange transfer. The new 'holder' of the asset should notify Paul Warn by email to ensure the asset list is kept up-to-date.