



Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MG CLUB

www.MG-Edinburgh.co.uk



OCTOBER
2025



Photo:
Peter
Woodham

Scenic Run to Loch Katrine and a Trip on the Sir Walter Scott

Credits: Helen, Steve, Peter, Matthew

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Steve Hastwell **Occupation:** Biotechnology Business Development Manager

MG and current state of repair: 1968 MGB Roadster, Tartan Red, painted wire wheels, in good working order, MOT'd to August 2026, no advisories.

What is your normal car? Volvo XC40, mild hybrid B4 engine

How did you get into MG? To be honest there was no previous MG ownership in my family. My Dad had owned a Vauxhall Cresta, Triumph 1300 and Austin Maxi so an MG was definitely too flashy.

My initial motoring experience was with motorbikes to the extent that I ended up racing a sidecar outfit with my brother as passenger. This was on the basis that on a race track there was nothing coming the other way and there was an ambulance on site should anything go wrong.



Eventually work took over and my first car was that Austin Maxi, followed by another of Dad's castoffs, a Simca 1100 (remember them ?)

Latterly I had a number of company cars, mostly BMW 3 Series - typical rep-mobiles. As retirement approached, I was looking for something to tinker with and motorbikes were a definite no no as my racing days were well behind me.

However, an open top sports car had its attractions. An MGB Roadster seemed to fit the bill nicely, easy to work on and importantly would fit in my rather cramped single garage. So in 2019 I started scouting a few examples down in Sussex and Suffolk before finding NRU 953G in Oxford. Originally registered in Bournemouth it arrived in Edinburgh in March 2019 covered in snow but otherwise in great condition. I don't have much history on the car prior to 1991 when it was re-shelled, but it seems to have spent time in Guildford, Wales and Yorkshire before it made its way to Scotland. Since then I've done around 8,000 miles in it and really enjoying the thrill of open top driving (most of the time !)

How many miles did you do in your MG over the last 12 months? 1,400

Who are you insured with? Lancaster Insurance

Who does your repairs? Working on race bikes over the years I'd a good introduction to basic mechanics, so I do all my own repairs - which for me was part of the attraction of owning an MG. So far there has been plenty to keep me busy, but all fairly straightforward tasks. I've owned it for 6 years and apart from the usual maintenance work I've sorted a few mechanical issues over this time including: Fitting CSI electronic distributor (gave up on adjusting the points), oil cooler, replacing both prop shaft UJs (big hammer and a decent vice required) replacing rear lever arms, throttle cable and fitting LED lights, including instrument dials. Also replaced leaky O/D gasket, a hazard warning switch and a new dashboard switch.



Favourite run? When the weather is fine I love the A85 from Tyndrum to Oban via Loch Awe - stunning views and plenty of opportunity to open up those twin SUs (May and June are best times to do this to avoid the tourist traffic). There is a lovely Artisan coffee shop just off the A85 and worth stopping off on Loch Awe at Kilchurn Castle, derelict but nice views. Also St Conans Kirk is worth a visit.

As a local run I use the A904 from South Queensferry to Bo'ness just to shake down the car and keep it in trim and stop for coffee at Mannerstons Café on the way back.

SCENIC RUN TO LOCH KATRINE

ELBMG Club had 6 cars turned out for this run to Loch Katrine with a trip on the historic Sir Walter Scott steamship. Despite the gloomy weather forecast, the morning was bright and sunny but with the threat of showers which thankfully never materialised.



Meeting up at the Klondyke Garden Centre at J5 on the M9 were: Donald MGA, Peter MGB GT, Neil & Maggie MGB, Tony & Caroline (plus Hector) MGB, Jim & Marjorie MGZS and Steve & Margaret MGB.

In addition, the Stirling MGOC turned up with them having organized a trip in the opposite direction to Traquair House - so we had a brief chat before heading out after the obligatory bacon rolls.

The 50 mile route took us up to J9 on the M9 before heading through the Carron Valley and onto Fintry and Kippen then heading along the A811 towards Port of Menteith and Aberfoyle. The weather remained dry and there were some spectacular views and great driving roads despite some potholes and errant pedestrians/cyclists.

Unbelievably there was a cycle event happening at the same time with cyclists seemingly heading from Aberfoyle to Stirling along the exact same route thankfully travelling in the opposite direction.



Aberfoyle provided a convenient coffee stop and we had around 45 minutes before heading off on the final section over the winding Dukes Pass and down to Loch Katrine. Special mention goes to Neil and Maggie for doing the route without the route notes as I had forgotten to hand them to them ... oops!



On parking up at the Trossachs Pier we had 30 minutes before queuing up at Pier 1 for the Sir Walter Scott. Of course the four ladies headed straight for the gift shop and took the opportunity to purchase children's books and tablet and wool and Whilst they were in the shop I was keen to get us up at the front of the queue so that we could all sit together at the stern. This was rather risky as it wasn't under cover and rather exposed to the wind. However this turned out to be a prime spot as at least the rain held off and the wind was not too bad out in the middle of the loch.





On board there was live music from Hair of the Dug - a Callander based Scottish folk music band who played throughout the trip and provided a fitting soundtrack to the day. There was a running commentary from the guide pointing out key points of interest and some history on the Loch and the Walter Scott itself which was very interesting. For the steam engine geeks there was an opportunity see the triple expansion engine in operation below deck. Some of us also had the pleasure of spotting an Osprey in a tree by the shoreline on the return journey as well as low flying Cormorant.

All too soon we were back at the pier and disembarking. Some of us had a coffee and picnic at the pier whilst others made tracks back home. Overall a very pleasant day out and lovely trip on the Loch. **Steve Hastwell**

Ed: Thanks to Peter & Steve for the photos and we finish with Peter's pics of members enjoying the windswept trip - have to say, Peter is getting rather good at candid camera!



CARHAILES

We had 10 signed up for this but illness and breakdowns brought the attendance down to seven MGs and a Land Rover. We had Peter MGB GT, Steve MGB, Richard MGB, Helen MGB GT, Ian & Chris MG ZS180 (which got a fair bit of attention) Neil Mac US spec MGB, Donald MGA and Martin & Fraser in the Landie - which also got a lot of attention.

We'd been told we had been moved to the front of the house, beside the Minis and the TVRs.



I have to say I preferred our old slot (closer to toilets and cafe!) and if we'd had the full number of cars we couldn't have got them in our allocated space in front of the house - although there was room across the drive next the TVRs. Having said that, it was nice to be in the sun, get a good view of the house and have plenty of room (because of the driveway) for the public to get a good look at the cars.

We didn't have the gazebo gavotte as there wasn't room to put up the small gazebo, but we had the flag fandango as Steve & Peter put up the feather flag - handicapped by one of the spike's centre bit coming adrift. Richard offered to try to weld it for the next show, but it did mean we only had one flag. Although, that wasn't the end of the world as the cars had the ELBMG club rally plates, so everyone knew who we were.

After this, it was coffee and elevenses time - Fraser & myself had the most ginormous cinnamon whirls after our trek to the cafe!





Once the show opened there were a good number of MOPs (members of the public) looking at the cars and stopping to talk - along with some new members, one of whom had bought Guy Booth's red MGB LE that he sold a couple of years ago. We wandered round the show ourselves, stopping to chat to people we knew on BVAC and Triumph 6 club stands. BVAC had a big entry and were fairly squashed in on our old slot but had quite a range of very nice cars.



After looking at the cars and other attractions, some of us went on the tour of the house and some chatted or snoozed. The weather stayed kind, not warm once the sun was clouded over, but it didn't rain - or at least it hadn't by the time I sneaked off at 3pm.

An enjoyable day, a nice, friendly and not too large show - well worth a visit. As usual I've finished with photos of members enjoying themselves - I'm even in some of them thanks to Peter & Steve also taking photos! **Mrs Grumpy**





COFFEE & CLASSICS at MELVILLE CASTLE

Several ELBMG club members made it to Melville Castle on a sunny breezy day. Some, including myself, weren't in an MG but were still worth a photo - even if Hector was missing! **Mrs Grumpy**



EVEN MORE ON THE WEE MADAM

Having asked Dave to bring his meters so we could investigate where the charging fault was, I decided to do a preliminary poke around myself. Whereupon I found a loose wire at the back of the dynamo, but couldn't find anywhere to attach it. Dave said there is a spade connector for it - yes, there was, but most of it was inside the dynamo. He managed to pull it out and attach the wire and the ignition light goes out and she's charging fine - so I could have taken the Wee Besom to Biggar! Anyway, will have to decide if I'm going to get the dynamo repaired or fit an alternator, which would be better for the electronic ignition. I decided to investigate when I'm at MG Fest North at Croft Circuit - I'm calling in there on my way home from Yorkshire. No Joy as not too many trade stands, so have bought Lindsay's spare alternator that looks like a dynamo - it is positive Earth, but I'm told it's not too difficult to change the polarity.

Mrs Grumpy

CAPTION COMPETITION

Matthew sent in a nice pic of Emo having a stressful day in the garage!
Suitable captions are invited, answers as ever to mrsgrumpy@icloud.com



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Please feel free to contact the committee if you have any queries.

Monthly meetings have resumed at the rugby cub, second Thursday 7.30 for 8pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All provisional

October 8 Coffee & Classics at
Park Bistro, Linlithgow

October 9 Monthly Meeting & Raffle

*October 19 Last Run of the Season to
East Lothian & St. Abbs.
Start at Fort Kinnaird,
near Primark - 9.30 for
10am departure. Optional
end-of-run Bar Lunch at
The Pine Martin, Dunbar.
Please contact Peter -
details above.*

November 12 Coffee & Classics at
Mortonhall Garden
Centre

November 13 Monthly Meeting

December 5 Christmas Dinner

*December 11 Monthly Meeting &
Raffle*