AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MG OWNERS' CLUB

The MG Owners' Club was formed in 1973 to cater for the growing number of MGB and MG Midget owners who felt they were not adequately catered for by other MG Clubs. The membership grew steadily.

In 1980 it was announced that the long established MG factory in Abingdon would close and production of the MGB and Midget ranges would cease. The reaction to this announcement was such that demonstration rallies were organised and the "Save Abingdon Campaign" organised by the MG Owners' Club and factory workers achieved extensive national media coverage, this resulted in the rapid growth in the Club membership.

Despite the best efforts of the Club and its members the MG factory shut in 1981 and the Club focused its attention on the active preservation of the marque.

The MG name was revived in 1983 with the launch of the MG Metro/Maestro/Montego ranges and in later years the MGF, TF, ZR, ZS, ZT, MG3 and MG6 models. These cars are all valuable additions to the MG family and have gone a long way to assuring that the MG name has a positive and successful future. The MG Owners' Club welcomes all classic and modern MG's into the Club's activities.

The membership continued to grow through the 1980's resulting in a move to larger premises in 1983. By the early 1990's the Club had outgrown its offices and commissioned the building of a purpose build headquarters in the Cambridgeshire village of Swavesey. The new building was opened in spring 1992 and houses all the club activities, plus a fully equipped repair and restoration workshop, accessory department and a comprehensive retail spare parts counter.

The Club membership currently stands at around 20,000 making it one of the largest one-make car clubs in the world. The mainstay of the club is its 90 page full colour monthly magazine "Enjoying MG".

The MGOC Racing Championship is an important part of the Club's activities and I hope the attached Starter Pack will whet your appetite for joining the exciting world of MG motorsport.

Richard Monk

General Manager

ADRIAN FLUX
Insurance for the individual

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MGOC RACE CHAMPIONSHIP STARTER PACK

Thank you for asking for information about the MG Owners' Club Racing Championship.

This Starter Pack is intended primarily for the novice racing driver, it gives background information about the Championship, details of how to get started in racing, how to go about finding/building a race car and outline information on initial start-up, running and maintenance costs.

It's unlikely that the contents of this pack will answer all of your queries. You are welcome to contact us for further information or, better still, come to one of our races and talk to any of the competitors, they will happily give you the benefit of their experience.

Motor racing can never be regarded as a cheap hobby. The initial set-up costs are relatively high but once you have a suitable car and have purchased the necessary safety equipment and clothing the ongoing costs of competing in the MGOC Championship are amongst the lowest for any form of National motor-sport. We have tried to be realistic about the costs involved and believe that the MGOC Championship represents the most cost effective route into the exciting world of National level motor racing.

We hope that you will decide to take up motor racing. It is a sport that has few rivals for pleasure and excitement but beware – it is very addictive !!.

If you choose to join the MGOC Racing Championship, you will have joined one of the most cost effective and friendly Championships available. We will do everything we can to ensure that those first, stressful race days are as trouble free as possible.

Good luck and we hope to see you soon. If you need any further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact the MG Owner's Club on 01954 231125 or email Jim Baynam at baynam@btinternet.com

Introduction

The Championship was created in 1981 by the MG Owners Club and the British Automobile Racing Club (BARC) to provide an opportunity for Club members to race “standard production” MG sports and saloon cars in a race championship where close and competitive racing at reasonable cost is the order of the day. The Championship has moved on over the years but the basic philosophy has not changed in that the Technical Regulations are still based on cars with limited modifications from the “standard production” road going versions.

The Championship appeals to competitors of all levels of ability, ages and both sexes. It prides itself on the fact that whilst the racing is competitive the relationship amongst drivers is one of co-operation and novice drivers are actively welcomed and mentored through the start-up process. If a competitor has problems all efforts will be made to help him get onto the grid.

The cars must be fitted with all the statutory safety equipment as demanded by the Motor Sports Association who administer all motorsport in the UK. All cars have to run on E marked Toyo 888R tyres, these are available at a discounted price to MGOC registered competitors.

The series has a Motorsport UK (MSUK) approved scrutineer who oversees the technical aspects of the Championship to ensure equality of machinery which puts the basis for success upon driving skill and ability.

The Championship has over ~~40~~ 50 registered competitors with a very strong base of regular competitors and a healthy number of novices who benefit from open and friendly advice from the more experienced drivers.

The race calendar for 2026 is as follows:

Rounds 1 and 2	March 21/22nd	Donington
Rounds 3 and 4	April 11/12th	Cadwell Park
Rounds 5 and 6	May 16th	Oulton Park
Rounds 7 and 8	July 4/5th	Thruxton
Rounds 9 and 10	August 1/2nd	Brands Hatch
Rounds 11 and 12	September 12/13th	Snetterton
Rounds 13 and 14	October 3/4th	Silverstone

All races will be 20 minutes duration with a standard entry fee of £480.

Class Structure

The championship has several Classes as follows:

Classic Class : MGB, MGB GT, MG Midget, Austin Healey Sprite

Class B : MG Maestro 1600, MG Maestro/Montego Efi, MG ZR160 ~~(Road)~~

Class F : MGF 1.8VVC, MG TF160

Class Z : ~~MG ZR 160(Race), MG ZS160(Race)~~ ZR170, ZS170

Invitation Class : For cars not covered by existing MGOC regulations. Entries for the Invitation class will be subject to approval by MGOC.

How do I become a competitor

All motorsport in the UK is governed by the MotorSport UK (MSUK) who issue Competition licences. They also issue the National Competition Rules (formerly known as the Year Book or the Blue Book) which contains the basic rules applicable to all forms of competitive motorsport.

To obtain a UK Race license you must first purchase the MSUK Go Racing Starter Pack which includes the MSUK Year Book and a video. You must then undertake the Novice Driver Training Course at an ARDS approved racing school. This is a written and theory test intended to test your knowledge of race procedures and a reasonable level of awareness and on-track competence.

On satisfactory completion of the ARDS test you will then be able to apply for a Race ~~Inter~~Club (formerly National B) license. From 2020 onwards the requirements for medical examinations are as follows:

For new applicants below 60 years of age
No medical examination is required but you are required to take a vision test. A voucher for a free vison test at Specsavers is included in the Go Racing Starter Pack.

For new applicants over 60 years of age
You are required to have a medical examination, a “resting” ECG and a vison test.

The approximate costs involved in obtaining your first MSUK Race license are currently:

MSUK Go Racing Starter Pack	£120
ARDS Test	£200 approx.
Race licence	included in the cost of the Go Racing Starter Pack

The MGOC championship is administered by the British Automobile Racing Club (BARC) and you will need to be a BARC Racing Member. You will also have to be a fully paid up member of the MGOC and to formally register for the Championship. The costs involved are as follows:

BARC Racing Membership	£150
MGOC Annual Membership	£ 48
MGOC Championship Registration	£ 60

What other initial costs are involved

Motorsport in this country has an excellent reputation for safety, and the MSUK impose strict safety regulations. You are required to wear an approved helmet, flameproof overalls, gloves, boots and balaclava, these will be checked at pre-race scrutineering to ensure that they conform to current MSUK Regulations. Details of minimum standards are found in Section K of the MSUK Year Book.

As a general rule:

- Do not spend any money on safety equipment until you are satisfied that it conforms with current (or known future) MSUK regulations.
- It’s not necessary to spend a fortune, perfectly acceptable equipment can be bought for sensible money. Do your research and ask any current driver for advice.

The following budget costs are for the minimum safety requirements necessary for racing on UK National meetings:

Overalls	£350
Helmet	~~£300~~ £400
Boots	£120
Gloves	£ ~~70~~ £90
Balaclava	£ 40

The safety related items as detailed above must be to an approved FIA standard.

For cars manufactured after 1st January 1976 (ie. all MGF and ZR) it is mandatory to use an FIA approved Frontal Head Restraint (aka HANS) device, these cost approximately £250. FHR devices can only be used with helmets that have been factory fitted with suitable threaded inserts.

For cars manufactured before 1st January 1976 the use of an FHR device is not mandatory but they are strongly recommended on safety grounds.

Note: Any driver of a pre-1976 built car who opts not to use an FHR must be able to produce a MSUK Period Defined Vehicle Identity Form to confirm the age of the vehicle. Refer MSUK Year Book J5.1.2.

How do I obtain a car to race in the Championship

You have two options in obtaining a suitable racing car:

- To purchase an existing race prepared car
- To modify a road-going MG for race use

Purchasing an existing race prepared car

This is the quickest, easiest and generally the cheapest option. If the car has recently been raced in the MGOC series it will have all the necessary safety equipment and is likely to conform with current MSUK Regulations.

Details of race prepared MGOC compliant cars currently for sale can be obtained from MGOC offices or the championship website www.mgoc-championship.co.uk

As a guide you can expect to pay the following for a current MGOC specification "ready to race" car:

MGB/GT	£7,000
MG Midget/Sprite	£7,000
MGF/TF160	£5,000
MG ZR160	£6,000

A car with a successful race history will inevitably command a premium price.

When buying a previously raced car, consider the following:

- When was it last raced (it may need upgrading to meet MSUK regulations)
- In what series has it been raced I (does it comply with MGOC Regulations)
- Is the fire extinguisher an FIA approved type
- Has the extinguisher been serviced in the past 2 years.
- Is the harness "in-date"
- How many races since last engine re-build
- Does it have the approved Toyo 888R tyres. What condition are they ?
- Are any spares are included in the price
- Is a TSL timing transponder included in the price (transponders are mandatory for all UK circuit racing – they cost approximately ~~£200~~ £300 but can be hired for £50 per meeting)

Race Preparation of a Roadgoing MG

It is entirely possible to modify your own roadgoing MG to conform with MSUK and MGOC championship regulations, this should be well within the scope of a decent home mechanic. The MGOC drivers representative or any of the current competitors will freely give advice on what to buy and how best to spend your money.

Racing places far greater stresses on car components than normal road use. Check everything very carefully and remember:

- The car must be structurally sound
- Safety related equipment must comply with Section K of the MSUK Year Book
- The windscreen must be laminated glass.

In considering what modifications to make you are, as a novice, advised to spend your budget on safety and reliability rather than expensive performance modifications, these can wait until you gain experience.

You must fit the following before you start racing:

• Full six point roll cage	£1,000
• FIA approved six point harness belts	£ 300
• FIA approved plumbed-in fire extinguisher	£ ~~280~~ £320
• FIA approved competition seat	£ 300
• Ignition cut-out switch	£ 40

You are also strongly advised to look closely at the cooling, brakes and suspension before you venture out onto a circuit and start racing. In addition to the obvious safety factors, any improvements in this area will significantly improve your reliability and lap times. As a start consider fitting:

- New Dot 5.1 brake fluid
- New brake discs/hoses/pipes/competition pads/shoes
- Uprated shock absorbers and springs
- New suspension/steering bushes and wheel bearings
- Check that the radiator is structurally sound and have it professionally flushed out.

Most of the major mechanical components are “standard production” items and can be readily obtained from MGOC Spares or most MG supplier.

The build costs for converting a road car into a race car will largely depend on how much of the work you can do yourself and how much you’ll have to get done by a third party.

A few words about the engine …….

A standard road-going engine is suitable for a novice providing it is in sound condition (you will very soon find out if it isn't !!) but after your first season you will be seeking more power. Whilst the Regulations provide for only limited modifications a professionally built `blueprinted' engine will give you more power but will cost around £2,000 for a K series engine and £5,000+ for an MGB/Midget engine.

In trying to achieve better performance you can spend, and often waste, a lot of money as many of the performance related items shown in various retailer’s catalogues are either pointless or not legal for the MGOC championship regulations. Do speak to one of the experienced MGOC racers before spending your hard earned cash.

Testing

We do not consider it necessary to have any professional instruction prior to entering your first race but it is worth doing a Test or Track day to gain some general experience of what it’s like to be on a race track.

Test Days are only open to MSUK Race Licence holders.

Track Days do not require an MSUK Race licence, you only need a valid DVLA road licence.

Tyres

Cars in the MGOC Championship must use Toyo 888R road legal treaded tyres, these are available through Adams and Page (01494 445389). Costs range from ~~£115~~ £125 for an MGB to ~~£150~~ £160 for an MGF/TF/ZR
Cars running on other makes of treaded tyres are welcome to enter the Invitation Class.

Trailer

Finally, you need to get your car to and from the circuits. It is possible to drive your race car to the circuit but you should notify your insurance company of the modifications you have made. Race spec cars aren't best suited to driving on the road and most people take their car to the circuit on a trailer.

Expect to pay £4,000+ for a new twin axle trailer. New trailers are expensive but are an excellent investment and hold a high re-sale value.

Second-hand trailers can be bought but good ones are hard to find and command high prices.

Don't forget to give your trailer regular and thorough checks, losing a wheel on the M1 at 6.00am on your way to a race meeting is a stressful experience ….....

What are the ongoing costs of racing?

Race Entry Fees

All MGOC meetings have a 15 minute qualifying session and 2 x 20 minute races giving a total of 55 minutes track time.

The biggest single cost is the race entry fee but thanks to the support of our championship sponsors, Adrian Flux Insurance and Vision Vehicles, the entry fees are held at £480. These entry fees are in line with other entry fees for other championships using similar venues and track time.

Travelling Expenses

Our races may be on any of the UK circuits. Race meetings are generally over two days but the MGOC events usually have the qualifying session and both races on one day.

In addition to travelling expenses you may need to consider overnight accommodation. For those on a limited budget the circuits allow camping free of charge for competitors. The choice is yours.

Repairs and Maintenance

Inevitably the stresses of racing will cause rapid wear on consumables eg. oil and brake pads which may need replacing every six races. One set of Toyo 888R tyres should last most novice drivers a full season.

Other repairs are largely a matter of good preparation and bad luck and it would be unrealistic to expect a full season of competitive racing without incurring some mechanical problems.

License/Club Membership Renewal

In order to continue to compete in the MGOC Championship you will need to renew your MSUK race license, BARC and MGOC club memberships annually. Allow approximately £250 per year.

Depending on your age, you may also need a medical examination.
Drivers require a resting ECG at the ages of 60, 65, 70, 72 and 74

USEFUL CONTACTS

MGOC Race Championship Administration

MG Owners' Club, Octagon House, Swavesey, Cambridge, CB24 4QZ
Tel: 01954 231125
Email: reception@mgownersclub.co.uk

MGOC Championship Drivers Representative

Jim Baynam
Mobile: 07871 119785
Email: baynam@btinternet.com

British Automobile Racing Club

BARC, Thruxton Circuit, Andover, Hants, NG17 3AQ
Contact: Dave Wheadon 01264 882209 or John Hutchison 01264 882205
Email: dwheadon@barc.net or jhutchison@barc.net

MotorSport UK

MotorSport UK, 141 Command Works, Bicester Motion, Bicester, OX27 8FY

Tel: 01753 765000

Association of Race Driver Schools (ARDS)

ARDS, Thruxton Circuit, Andover, Hants, SP11 8PW
Email: admin@ards.co.uk
Website: www.ards.co.uk

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIERS

Alternators and Starter Motors

Company: Guy Auto Electrics
Location: Elsenham, Essex, CM22 6JX
Contact: 01920 822002
Website: www.guysautoelectrics.co.uk
Services: Rebuild/repair of all classic and modern alternators and starter motors

Company: Burghfield Alternators and Starter Motors
Location: Burghfield, Reading, RG7 3BL
Contact: 0118 983 2284
Website: www.burghfieldstarterandalternatorcentre.co.uk/
Services: Rebuild/repair of all classic and modern alternators and starter motors

Brake Pads

Company: EBC Brakes Direct
Location: Northampton, NN1 4RB
Contact: 0845 2255011
Website: www.cambridgemotorsport.com
Services: All EBC brake pads and shoes

Company: Cambridge Motorsport Parts
Location: Letchworth
Contact: 01462 684300
Services: Brake pads, shoes, clutches and other MG related motorsport components

Brake Shoes
Company: Auto Industrial Friction
Location: Arlesey, Beds, SG15 6SE
Contact: 01462 834778
Services: Relining of classic car brake shoes using uprated friction material

Carburettors

Company: EB Engineering
Location: Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 4HD
Contact: Ed Biddle on 01684 577564
Services: Rebuilding of MGB/Midget carburettors

Coil Springs

Company: Faulkner Springs
Location: Chichester, West Sussex, PO30 3UH
Contact: Pete on 01243 543049
Website: www.dfaulknersprings.com
Services: Race specification coil springs for all cars

Engine Builders

Company: Mass Racing
Location: Great Gransden, Bedfordshire, SG19 3AH
Contact: ~~Stuart~~ Pete Darlow on 01767 677800
Website: www.massracing.co.uk
Services: MGOC Championship winning engines for MGB/Midget with engine dyno and rolling road

Company: SRD Race Engines
Location : Huntingdon, Cambs
Contact: Stuart Delf on 07900 685498
Website: www.srdraceengines.co.uk
Services: MGOC Championship winning engines and cylinder heads for 25+ years.

Company: Peter Burgess
Location : Alfreton, Derby, DE55 7EZ
Contact: Peter Burgess on 01773 520021
Email: peter@burgesstuning.free-line.co.uk
Website: www.peter-burgess.com
Services: MGOC Championship winning engines and cylinder heads for 30+ years.

Company: Pitstop
Location: Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3QQ
Contact: Ralph Saunders on 01933 850654
Services: 30 years experience in building MGB and Midget engines

Company: Triad Racing
Location: Padbury, Bucks
Contact: Steve McDermid on 07815 069021
Services: MGOC Championship winning K series engines for ZR

Company: KB Automotive
Location: Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AJ
Contact: Kevin Bull on 01206 242492 or 07900 085701
Email: kevin@kb-automotive.co.uk
Website: www.kb-automotive.co.uk
Services: MGOC Championship winning K series engines for ZR and MGF/TF

Engine Mapping (MEMS 3 ECU only)

Company: KMapsTuning
Contact: Mark Stacey on 07928 196856
Website: ~~www.superchips.com~~ www.kmaps.co.uk
Services: Nominated supplier to the MGOC Championship for ZR160 and MG TF160

~~**Engine Mapping (MEMS 2 ECU only)**~~ ***NO LONGER TRADING – PLEASE DELETE***

~~Company: Superchips~~
~~Location: Buckingham, MK18 1XJ~~
~~Contact: 01280 816781~~
~~Website: www.superchips.com~~
~~Services: Nominated supplier to the MGOC Championship for MGF fitted with MEMS 2 ECU~~

MGB/Midget Exhaust Systems

Company: Maniflow
Location: Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PY
Contact: 01722 335378
Website: www.maniflow.co.uk
Services : Race proven manifolds and exhaust systems for all cars

MG Spares

Company: MG Owners Club Spares
Location: Swavesey, Cambs, CB24 4QZ
Contact: 01954 230928 or sales@mgocspares.co.uk
Website: www.mgocspares.co.uk
Services: Spares for all road and race MG's

Nuts, Bolts and Fasteners

Company: Spalding Fasteners
Location: Fiskerton, Spalding, Lincs, LN3 4HU
Contact: 01522 753444
Website: www.spaldingfasteners.co.uk
Services: Nuts, bolts, washers and all types of fasteners in UNF, UNC and Metric threads

Oil Coolers and Brake Lines

Company: Think Automotive
Location: Ashford, Surrey
Contact: 020 8568 1172
Website: www.thinkauto.com
Services: Oil coolers, braided hoses and all automotive plumbing

Race Preparation

Company: KB Automotive
Location: Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AJ
Contact: Kevin Bull on 01206 242492
Email: kevin@kb-automotive.co.uk
Website: www.kb-automotive.co.uk
Services: ZR and MGF race preparation and race transport

Company: Triad Racing
Location: Padbury, Bucks
Contact: Steve McDermid on 07815 069021
Services: Multiple MGOC championship winning preparation for ZR

Company: Pitstop
Location: Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3QQ
Contact: Ralph Saunders on 01933 850654
Services: 40+ years experience in MGB/Midget race cars with full workshop facilities.

Company: Summit Motors
Location: Maidenhead
Contact: Gary Smith on 01628 629707
Website: www.summitmg.co.uk
Services: Gary and Kelly are former MGOC racers and long time supporters of the MGOC championship ~~racing~~. They offer a full range of service, repair and race preparation for classic and modern MG's.

Racewear / Pit and Paddock

Company: Competition Supplies
Location: Silverstone Circuit, NN12 8TN
Contact: 01327 857991
Services: All pit/paddock and race preparation parts

Company: Merlin Motorsport
Location: Castle Combe circuit, SN14 7EY
Contact: 01249 782101
Website: www.merlinmotorsport.co.uk
Services: Overalls, helmets, harnesses, gloves, boots and all race parts

Company: Demon Tweeks
Location: Wrexham, LL13 9UG
Contact: 01978 664466
Website: www.demon-tweeks.co.uk
Services: Overalls, helmets, harnesses, gloves, boots and all race parts

Roll Cages

Company: MGB Hive
Location: Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 4JE
Contact: 01945 700500
Website: www.mgbhive.co.uk
Services: Official suppliers for Safety Devices roll cages for MGB/Midget

Rolling Roads

Company: Mass Racing
Location: Great Gransden, Bedfordshire, SG19 3AH
Contact: Chris Conoley on 01767 677800
Website: www.massracingdevelopments.co.uk
Services: Chris has been racing Classic/Historic cars for 40+ years and has full rolling road and engine dyno facilities.

Company: Pitstop
Location: Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3QQ
Contact: Ralph Saunders on 01933 850654
Services: 40+ years experience in setting up and rolling road tuning of MGB/Midget race cars

Company: Peter Burgess
Location: Alfreton, Derby, DE55 7EZ
Contact: Peter Burgess 01773 520021
Website: www.peter-burgess.com
Services: 30+ years experience in setting up and rolling road tuning of MGB/Midget race cars

Company: Northampton Motorsport
Location: Northampton
Contact: 01604 766624
Website: www.northamptonmotorport.com
Services: Full diagnostic rolling road services for classic and modern race cars.

Tyres

Company: Adams and Page
Location: High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 3RQ
Contact: Stuart or Pete on 01494 425971
Services: Nominated supplier of Toyo tyres for the MGOC Championship

Windscreens

Company: EB Engineering
Location: Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 4HD
Contact: Ed Biddle on 01684 577564
Services: MGB/Midget windscreens and quarter lights

Wiring and Lighting Components

Company: Vehicle Wiring Products
Contact: 0115 9305454
Website: www.vehiclewiringproducts.co.uk
Services: Wiring, lighting and all electrical components

Company: Auto Electrical Supplies
Contact: 01584 819552
Website: www.autoelectricalsupplies.co.uk
Services: Wiring, lighting and all electrical components

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