



&



FARINA
REGISTER

Newsletter

*For the enthusiast of the
BMC Farina Riley 4/68, 4/72;
MG Midget Mk 3 and Mk 4*

ISSUE 47

MARCH, 2005

IKA MAGNETTE



*Pictured is an IKA (Industrias Kaiser Argentina)
Magnette 1622 built in 1966.*

*This shot was sent to us by roving Argentine reporter
Juan Carlos Tuzzolino.*

MG & RILEY FARINA REGISTER

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WELCOME to the beginning of another rally season and time of year when we can start enjoying our cars again.

- My Riviera find certainly generated a lot of interest and was featured in *Practical Classics* no less, in March! Work has begun on the welding, but it will take time.
- Plenty of Argentine material this issue from Juan Carlos Tuzzolino who is becoming a regular correspondent.
- Please note the new website address: www.mgcars.org.uk/farina
- Yet another first class article from Andrew Idle is also featured.

Without Andrew and Neil Cairns' input I don't know how I would keep the *Newsletter* going, so again, ***please help me with some material!!***

Mick

Celebrity Farinas from the World of Film

ONE OF THE REASONS that I enjoy watching films from the 60s and early 70s is that the street scenes are filled with cars from my childhood days, now regarded as classics. Having been lucky enough to be brought up in a family where the family car was an Austin Cambridge through most of the decade, it is small wonder that I developed a lasting affection for these cars.

There must be many films and TV series from this decade that show brief, cameo appearances of BMC Farinas. I can think of a few, including *The Fast Lady* from 1962 with a youthful Stanley Baxter learning to drive in a 1930s supercharged open-topped Bentley, being coached in the art of driving her by James Robertson Justice. A light grey and red Cambridge A55 Mk II pops up two or three times in the background in the driving sequences. Early driving lessons before the novice acquires the Bentley as *The Fast Lady* are taken in an Austin A40 Farina.

Another fertile ground for car sequences is the *Avengers*, especially the later episodes from 1965-67, shot in colour for the first time. I recall one of these featuring a Morris Oxford VI in Trafalgar Blue and Cream.

In one episode of *The Likely Lads* from around 1973-4, James Bolam does a stint of private hire work using a Hunter-shape Minx and manages to reverse into an A60 Cambridge in a car park.

In one of the Norman Wisdom films, *On The Beat*, 1962, the accident-prone Norman Pitkin is dashed in his hopes of being a proper policeman, being relegated to a washing attendant in Scotland Yard's car park, where there is a fleet of black Wolseley 6/99s or 6/110s. Norman gets into trouble with the hose and soaks the Chief Constable. This film is readily available on DVD for anyone interested.

However, to my knowledge the only film where a Farina features strongly is entitled *The Deadly Affair*. This film has not been shown for a long long time on the regular channels and frustratingly, the video is now deleted. It is not available at the time of writing on DVD. Some of the film's sequences can however be seen on www.turnerclassicmovies.com. I am endeavouring to get hold of a refurbished used video, but for the meantime, the publicity illustration shown of the Cambridge A55 Mark II with James Mason is included in this article.

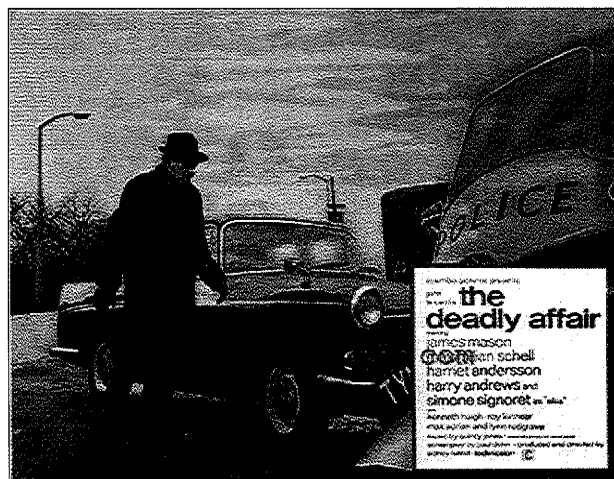
The car would have been five to six years old when the film was produced in 1966. Disregarding any effect that light filters might have had in the shooting,

the colour appears to be Sutherland Green, probably with a light grey/fawn interior. I have never seen a survivor in this colour scheme, though there are one or two light grey and green two tone versions left.

The film was based on a novel by John Le Carre, who was a well known espionage writer, another earlier film based on his story being the *Spy Who Came In from the Cold*.

Perhaps one of the reasons that *The Deadly Affair* has lapsed into obscurity is that, unlike the James Bond films, it was a gritty, realistic espionage thriller, devoid of humour and deliberately shot in murky, subdued light colour photographic technique using the shabbiest London suburban streets. That said, it was a well regarded film of its era with an international cast and with some romantic interest. I am personally surprised that it has been overlooked, whereas *The Ipcress File* from 1965, starring Michael Caine, is still shown fairly frequently.

The story in *The Deadly Affair* centres around the apparent suicide of a government officer, raising suspicions with Charles Dobbs (Mason), a security agent who is taken off the case and so resigns and decides to investigate further.



He is assisted by Inspector Mendel, played by tough-man Harry Andrews. It turns out that Dobbs' wife is having an affair with a former friend of his, played by Maximilian Schell and an intriguing web is spun as the story unfolds.

There are numerous sequences with Dobbs' Austin Cambridge featuring, but the most noteworthy is when Dobbs chases after a suspect who has made off

in a pre-Farina MG Magnette. The filming camera inside the Cambridge is dominant and the impression given is that the action takes place in the depths of winter, with the roads being mucky and the windscreen wipers on. The Austin is put through its paces, with Dobbs shoulders lurching from side to side as he hauls it around the bends and plenty of obligatory tyre squeal. Dobbs catches up with the MG after the driver stops at a hostelry and his suspicions lead to him reaching down to open the boot of the Magnette. As he attempts to do so, he is dealt a blow from behind and lands up in hospital.

I would imagine that in its day, the Cambridge was the sort of modest, unremarkable car that would have been considered appropriate for Dobbs. It was a notable contrast to James Bond's all singing and dancing Aston Martin DB5!

ANDREW IDLE

CHANGES TO CAR LISTS

DI TELLA

1500 – chassis 473, SKW617. Owner: L. La Corina, San Luis, Argentina.

1500 – chassis 32203, VTU729. Owner: L. La Corina, San Luis, Argentina.

MG

New car: Mk3, chassis 11258. Owner: J. Ledentec, La Chapelle St. Pierre, France.

New car: Mk4, chassis 25768, AOU760C. Owner: S. Lee, Horsham, England.

Mk3, chassis 9255. New owner: J. Barclay, USA.

RILEY

New car: 4/72, EYC528C. Owner: T. Drohan, Taunton, Somerset, England.

New car: 4/72, chassis 16348. Owner: A. Thompson, Trelawny, Jamaica.

4/72, chassis 24864, MKU808G. New owner: G. Tomlins, Shrewsbury, England.

4/72, chassis 19967, EGH802C. New owner: A. Williams, Dyserth, North Wales.

4/72, chassis 19598, CMW7C. New owner: B. Aldred, West Sussex, England.

4/72, chassis 24929. New owner: J. Macleod, England.

Car scrapped: 4/72, chassis 23939, KTC758F. Owner: S. McGeorge, Sale, Cheshire, England.



Siam Di Tella 1500

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ARGENTINE SHOTS

Dear Friends,

The picture shows Alfredo Valderrama's shop. He is the owner of Casa Vial (photo opposite). Alfredo is in the business since 1970, and from then on he is a car parts (spares) and accessories dealer. He sells parts for Siam Di Tella cars (Siam Di Tella 1500, Riley, Morris, Magnette, Argenta, Traveller).

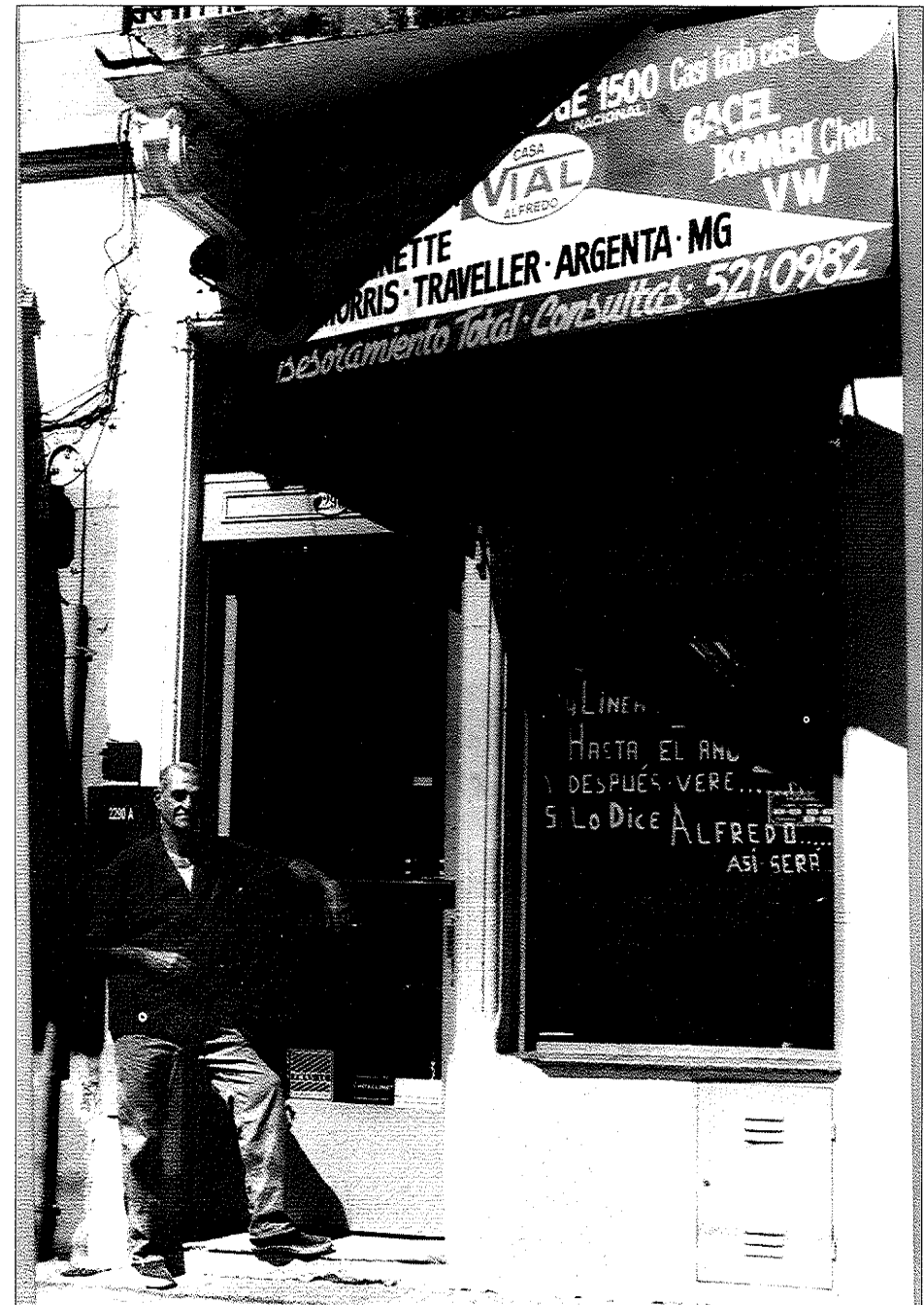
Some 20 years ago, he also added parts for Volkswagen and Dodge 1500 lines. There's no owner of any Siam model that does not know about him in the country. Everyone who needs Siam parts goes to him because he surely has them. Though there aren't many parts left for these cars, he still has not only Argentine made parts and England made ones. He is also a very experienced man in mechanics, he is always willing to teach us the secrets about these wonderful cars. Besides, he is also very willing to help anyone who needs a hand. He is really a great friend.

JUAN CARLOS TUZZOLINO

*Quilmes, Provincia de Buenos Aires,
Republica Argentina.*



A Magnette in clean condition built for IKA Industries seen parked in Buenos Aires.



Proprietor Alfredo Valderrama stands proudly outside his Parts business.

OVERSEAS GATHERINGS



Argentinian Farina line-up including Argenta Pick-up and early pick-up based on A55, as well as two Di Tella 1500s (Riley based fronts).



Both the cars of the Johnsons of San Diego, California and Richard Cutwright of Ohio pictured at Daytona, Ohio, USA on British Car Day.

Forthcoming Events planned during the year

C.O.O.C NORTH-EAST RALLY

to be held at

**HURWORTH SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE,
HURWORTH, Near Darlington
on Sunday, 8th MAY, 2005.**

*Contact: Ron Gilbertson
Tel: 01642 615706*

C.O.O.C NATIONAL RALLY

to be held at

**MOFFAT CLASSIC CAR RALLY, SCOTLAND
25-26th JUNE, 2005.**

** * * Pre-book if you can * * **

*Contact: Jim Wilson
Tel: 0131 228 5158*

THE MG 'M' CLUB MG Saloon Day

to be held at

**STANFORD HALL, LEICESTERSHIRE
3rd JULY, 2005.**

Patrick Roberts (Event Co-ordinator)
*E.mail: mgsd2005@yahoo.co.uk
Website: mgcars.org/mgm*

RILEY MOTOR CLUB
80th Anniversary/National Rally

to be held at
ARLEY HALL, CHESHIRE
6-7th AUGUST, 2005.

***** All Rileys Welcome *****

Contact: Keith Hutchinson
Tel: 01253 728332

BL/BMC SPARES DAY

to be held at
FERRY MEADOWS, PETERBOROUGH
Sunday, 7th AUGUST, 2005.

Contact: Les Williams
Tel: 01234 870372

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CLASSIFIEDS

PARTS FOR SALE

Ray Wheadon of Devon (Tel: 01409 221400) has the following parts available:
Riley 4/72 dash, mechanics, gearboxes x3 unknown, and 3 sets of doors.

Vic Butler of Andover, Hampshire (Tel: 07710 771165) has available a
Magnette Mk3 and Mk4 Driver's Handbook.

Stan McGeorge of Sale, Cheshire (Tel: 0161 976 6919) has the following Riley
4/72 spares available:

Bonnet - £30;
3 Front Panels with Chrome - £20 each;
Dashboard complete with Instruments - £20;
Front Bumper - £15;
Seats (Front and Rear) - £30;
Petrol Tank - £10.

Also for A60:

Red Vinyl Seats (Front and Rear) - £25.

AUTOPAINT (St. Helens)

Suppliers of Auto Refinishing Products

Old BMC Colours
available in Aerosol or Tin

Mark Dunn,
24 Sutton Oak Drive,
Baxters Lane Industrial Estate, St. Helens, UK
Telephone: 01744 818102
www.auto-paint.co.uk

BOOKS ON MG's

by Neil Cairns

| | | Quantity Required |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 1 | Post War MG Saloon Cars 126 pages with b/w photos all about the saloons. | £10.00 |
| 2 | MG Engines, 1935-1998 160 pages with b/w pictures covering the XPAG to the 'O' series. | £14.00 |
| 3 | Living with the MG Metro 1300 Articles on this nippy little hot-hatch. 85 pages. | £11.00 |
| 4 | The Cinderella MG and Riley Farina A history of this now rare model. 110 pages. | Out of print |
| 5 | Y Type Information Lots of data and out of print information on this smart little MG saloon. 90 pages. | £10.00 |
| 6 | Living with the XPAG Running, servicing, faults and cures of this ever popular engine. 90 pages. | £12.00 |
| 7 | Living with the Z Magnette Understanding this sports saloon of the 1950's. B/w pictures. 80 pages. | £11.00 |
| 8 | Living with the MG Y Series How to keep it running and serviced. 75 pages. | £10.00 |
| 9 | The XPAG Gearbox History, faults and running problems. 25 pages. | £5.00 |
| 10 | Living with the MG 1100/1300 The best seller and largest production number of MG's. 51 pp. | £8.00 |
| 11 | Cecil Kimber, a Mini Biography | £5.00 |
| 12 | Who will steal your MG? Advice on security. | £5.00 |
| 13 | NEW Living with the BMC B Series Engine 66 pages. | £11.00 |

Neil Cairns, MG Enthusiast. Cheque payable to Neil Cairns. P&P included.

Send to: **44 Highfield Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 3LZ.**

E.mail: neil.cairns@virgin.net

*Also available from the MG Octagon Car Club; the MGCC Y and T Registers;
and for USA enthusiasts, from BritBooks.*