

Luffstuff July 2007

Let's start with some really good news.

Our Sponsor, Luffield Cars, is one of the first companies to be granted an MG franchise by Nanjing Automotive. Attached you will find the press release from Luffield cars. Luffield have been a wonderful Sponsor to MGCC for several years now, not only financially, but also showing a real enthusiasm for our sport. Last week end at Silverstone they excelled themselves on the track with a very shrewd piece of tactical driving, details of which are enclosed.

Our own event at Silverstone was cursed with rain, varying from a gentle drizzle to a tropical down pour. Nevertheless some people managed to put in remarkably good times, sometimes with vehicles you would have thought least suited to very wet and slippery conditions.

While walking the track I had the pleasure of standing at the entrance to Vale, and discussing with Terry Pigott the best way to tackle this tricky left hander. You can measure the skills gap. Terry managed a 58.66 run, while my best was 72.56.

Congratulations also to David Morrison (Midget,57.82), John Payne (Sprite,59.10) & Stephen Irvine (BGT, 58.69). Anyone who got below 60 seconds showed remarkable skill. There were a surprisingly large number of competitors who got into the low 60s.

Happily, in spite of the dreadful conditions there were no serious "Offs". I have sent a message of thanks to the marshals who so nobly stuck it out to the end.

I am delighted to report that we have an entry for Loton Park of 29, and for Shelsley Walsh of 33. Prescott, Loton and Shelsley which are very popular with all competitors, are always under pressure to find space in their programmes. I am pleased to report that you, the competitors, have created a very favourable impression at these venues, as a result of which they try very hard to accommodate us.

On the question of venues, you will all be aware that this year our Hillclimb at Scammonden had to be cancelled because of lack of support. This, and other considerations have caused us to look hard at our calendar, and we believe that there are, this year too many events.

We have been looking at all our events, and measuring popularity by numbers of entrants. We think that the ideal number of events is between 16 and 20. We also believe that MGCC organised events should be given priority in this selection of events. But we need feed back from our competitors. With this news letter you will find two opposing views, both submitted by serious competitors in our championship. What we would like you to do is to read these views, give the whole matter serious thought, and get back to Iain or Lawrie with a brief summary of your feelings. The ideal way to do this is via E Mail, But we will happily read letters and answer telephone calls.

Our short list of venues, based on the philosophy given above is as follows:

Venue	Club	Joint/North/South	Hill or Sprint
Curborough 1 Lap	MGCC (M)	J	S
Curborough 2 Lap	MGCC (M)	J	S
Loton Park	H&DLCC	J	H
Silverstone	MGCC (NW)	J	S
Anglesey 1	MGCC (NW)	N	S
Anglesey 2	MGCC (NW)	N	S
Harewood 1	BARC	N	H
Harewood 2	BARC	N	H
Scammonden	MGCC (NW)	N	H
Three Sisters	L&DMC	N	S
Castle Coombe	BPMC	S	S
Colerne	MGCC (SW)	S	S
Goodwood	TWMC	S	S
Gurston Down	BARC (SW)	S	H
Prescott	BOC	S	H
Wiscombe Park	MGCC (SW)	S	H

To these we would probably wish to add Shelsley Walsh, for which no attendance figures were available when this table was produced. In addition Lydden is important to SE competitors.

The two following sections are slightly edited e mails I have received on this subject.

Regarding the Championship overall. The Championship has far too many rounds. Remembering that a competitor only needs six events for a Regional Championship, and eight for the National, we should have circa twelve Regional events and no more than about twenty events in total. The apparent numeric discrepancy between my two suggestions is accounted for by ' joint ' events.

To make up those twenty events, we should support all current MGCC Centre organised events. This should include Scammonden, if the North West Centre cannot " take over" another location. We may need to examine having four rounds at Anglesey. The Driver 's Meeting should canvas competitor 's opinion on venues, to draw up a short list of events for 2008. My suggestion's for twelve Northern Region events would be:

- * Aintree
- * Anglesey (x2)
- * Curborough (x2, 1 lap and 2 lap) - Joint Northern/Southern events
- * Harewood (x2)
- * Loton Park - Joint event?
- * Scammonden
- * Shelsley Walsh - Joint event?
- * Silverstone - Joint event
- * Three Sisters

By good fortune, it breaks down into two ten event Regional Championships, each of six sprints and four hills. The National Championship would remain at eight events to count. Prescott becomes a Southern event (was Joint). All MGCC Centre organised meetings make the cut by default, the only exception being the Anglesey 3 and 4 meetings.

As a 'Starter For Ten', what do you think?

Some thoughts

The Calendar this year has been unusually difficult with a lot of early season cancellations , this has caused a log jam of events mid year .

I am trying to do enough events to qualify for the first time for the nationals but this means 8 events in 10 weeks with the consequent trouble from "her in doors" and in looks as if we shall also have the highest number of wet events recorded.

The point of this ramble is that we need sufficient events to enable us to run as a national championship if we reduce the number significantly then I believe that we will split into the north and south (a tendency which already exists)

For instance the next three events for me will be Loton,Shelsey and Curbough ,fine if you live in Birmingham but difficult if like me you come from Gatwick .

We also have a duty to the organising clubs who invite and rely on us to support the local events , for instance if the Mg's did not support Llys y fran then we might lose the location as the entry would be below the minimum, the alternative on that day is Scammonden , I would not want to be in the position of choosing between a good event in wales which needs our support and Scammonden which has a reputation as a poor event and is generally support by the Northern competitors

Just because the event is run by the MGCC then that does not make it a good event , however generally most of the CC meetings are well supported and just because we have one poorly attended event the committee should not overreact .

I have also have contact with a number of the racers who are being put under subtle pressure to support MGCC events but they also have strong loyalties to the other organising clubs Aston Martin etc and people they have competed with for years and do not wish to break these loyalties

So there you have two very different, but equally valid views. We need to reconcile these into a viable calendar. Please give it a lot of thought and let the Speed Committee know your opinions.

For E Mail reply to macsport1@btinternet for Iain McDougall Bell, or lawriebrown@aol.com for Lawrie