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Drivers' meeting-22/10/11

The drivers meeting this year took place in the MGCC conference room in Kimber House, Abingdon. This venue was chosen due to its central location and to enable drivers to see the facility. It also helped to stress our attachment to the MGCC.

The room was well prepared for our meeting, and the facilities were excellent.

The meeting started promptly at 10-00 with 21 drivers present.

1. The proposed regulation change to 3.2.1.9 was accepted unanimously with agreement this will improve the fire safety of the cars affected.

In response to a previously circulated proposition from John Rose, there was some discussion with regard to the classification of MGB cars that had been converted to V8 specification. All such cars, both GT and roadster, had been previously classed as specials. It was decided that for 2012 converted cars of a genuinely road going nature would be accepted in Group 3 over 2400 cc. And that this would apply to both GT and roadster models. However, only engines of 3.5 or 3.9 ltrs. would be acceptable, because to achieve larger capacities it had been necessary to increase the stroke.

2. Target times.

It has long been the case that some target times had been based on times set many years previously by cars with unverifiable specifications. In response to our request, Helen has produced a set of targets which ignored any record set before 2003.

A sheet of targets was presented to the meeting and they were accepted by all present with an expression of thanks to Helen for her efforts.

3. MG engine specials.

There is a proposal that cars fitted with MG engines and built prior to 1980 would be offered the chance to compete in MGCC organised events. There would be two classes:- up to 1500cc and up to 1800 cc. There would be an "Approved list", of eligible cars.

These cars would not score points towards the Luffield Championship but would be presented with separate small awards for each class.

4. Awards Venue.

There was some discussion regarding the venue for the Luffield awards. This partly arose because this year's winner is a Southern competitor, but the main award ceremony will take place in the Manchester area.

It was pointed out that the championship was originally set up by the North Western Centre, with the Southern region being later invited to take part. In addition the Northern dinner is built

round a series of Championships, whereas the Southern dinner is some long time after the end of the season.

It was agreed that the possibility of a Luffield awards ceremony in the South could be explored at a later date.

There was some complaint that our sponsor was not represented at the southern dinner. It was pointed out that at the time of the Southern dinner it was difficult for a representative of a busy Car retailer to find time to attend. In addition it was pointed out that we were extremely lucky to have such a dedicated Sponsor as David Wood.

One point was not made at the meeting, but should be mentioned is that in 2010 almost half of the Southern competitors who had won awards failed to attend the dinner.

AOB

Lawrie Brown announced that he would be retiring from the post as coordinator and that this position would be taken over by John Wilman. There was a general expression of thanks and appreciation for all Lawrie's hard work and dedication over the years.

John Wilman had great pleasure in announcing that Lawrie had agreed to carry on in the post of calendar organiser and as roving ambassador to various events

The meeting closed at 12-00. Drivers were provided with an excellent snack meal courtesy of Lizz of the Kimber House staff. We are extremely grateful to Kimber House for extending this fine facility to us.