

MGF & Modern MGs Go Round The Bend 25/06/23

(Words Haydn Reynolds Pictures Simon Pierce, Mark Whibley & Haydn Reynolds)

Having noted that the Breakfast Run folks had scheduled a Run to Murray Bridge on the same day as the MSCA Super Sprint Round 2 at The Bend Raceway, it was decided to tag along (with their permission) and then for the MGF & Modern MGs contingent to go on to The Bend.



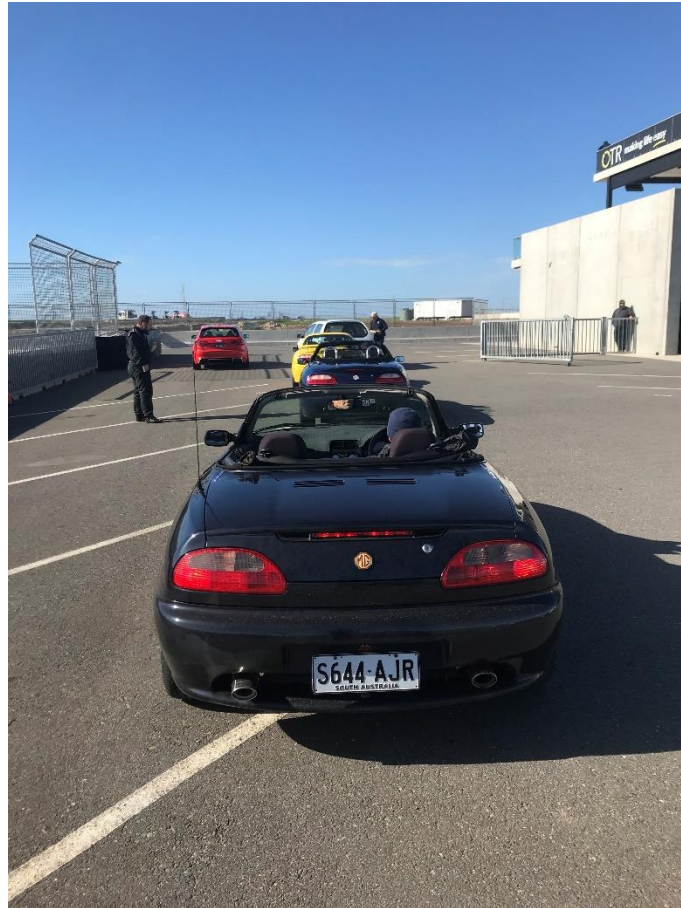
Some added 'spice' for continuing to The Bend was provided by Dick Manning, who arranged for the MGF & Modern MGs participants to do 'Parade Laps' of the Western Circuit during the MSCA lunch-break.

You can read a report on the Breakfast Run component elsewhere, so I will cut to the 'The Bend' component of the MGF & Modern MGs activities, other than to note that numbers for both groups were down on what was expected, due to the predicted rainfall. Once past Stirling, however, it became clear (literally) that rain was unlikely to be a problem at The Bend.



Given the straightforward nature of getting from the Riverside Reserve in Murray Bridge to The Bend Raceway, even the Author's usually suspect route instructions could not lose anybody and everyone was in place in the track form-up area in good time for (escorted) laps.

Thanks (again) to Dick Manning, who was competing at MSCA, there was one surprise addition to the MGF & Modern MGs 'grid', insofar as he generously lent his yellow Trophy to the author. (Hence that car's appearance in the following photos.)



The offer was taken up with enthusiasm, but did present an initial challenge, in that while Dick and I are about the same volume, he is taller and leaner. Accordingly, accommodating the clutch take-up point and the racing harness, required a 'special racing slouch', which thankfully proved effective. A second beneficiary of Dick's largess was Trevor Praithe (who's shiny brand-new MGZS was deemed a little too low 'mileage' for laps), Trevor was installed as co-driver, with specific instructions to keep count on how many times the car was stalled!

We were (very generously) given three laps of the circuit. In my case, just as well. It took a good half a lap before it was remembered that there was no requirement to 'stick to the left'; During the second lap there was some regret that the layout of the track had not been studied, off-set by the realisation that the black marks on the kerbs were a clue of where to steer. Third lap was the charm.

I suspect that Dick has had far too many MGFs and MGF/TFs go through his hands (sometimes more than once) to get sentimental enough to name them. I, on the other hand, have now named his yellow Trophy 'Rice Bubbles' because of the heroic amount of 'Snap Crackle and Pop' it emitted during the laps. I thought it was great!

A novel aspect while being on a racetrack was that co-drivers were able to take pictures, such as the sight of Rice Bubbles disappearing into the distance, taken from Mark Whibley's car. Mark Whibley was sufficiently enthused as to pen his own account of the day and send it off to Laurie Houghton for inclusion in the MGCCSA Magazine, so keep an eye out for that one.



After the fun was over, all participants stated that they had enjoyed the experience and in a couple of instances, made a point of being keen to do something similar again. Accordingly, I will be looking into one of the Bend's offerings for some Laps and Lunch. Probably in Spring though, while the sun shone and the rain stayed away, something a little warmer certainly would not detract from the overall experience.

The MGF & Modern MGs participants in the Run Round The Bend were: Andrew Booth (MGF/TF), Barrie McElroy (MGF), Simon & Monique Pierce (MGF), Trevor Praitte (MG ZS), Richard Sutherland & Haydn Reynolds (MGF/TF), Stephen Whibley & Chris Williams (MGF/TF).

Enjoy what you drive!

Haydn Reynolds

Photo Files for these pictures herewith.

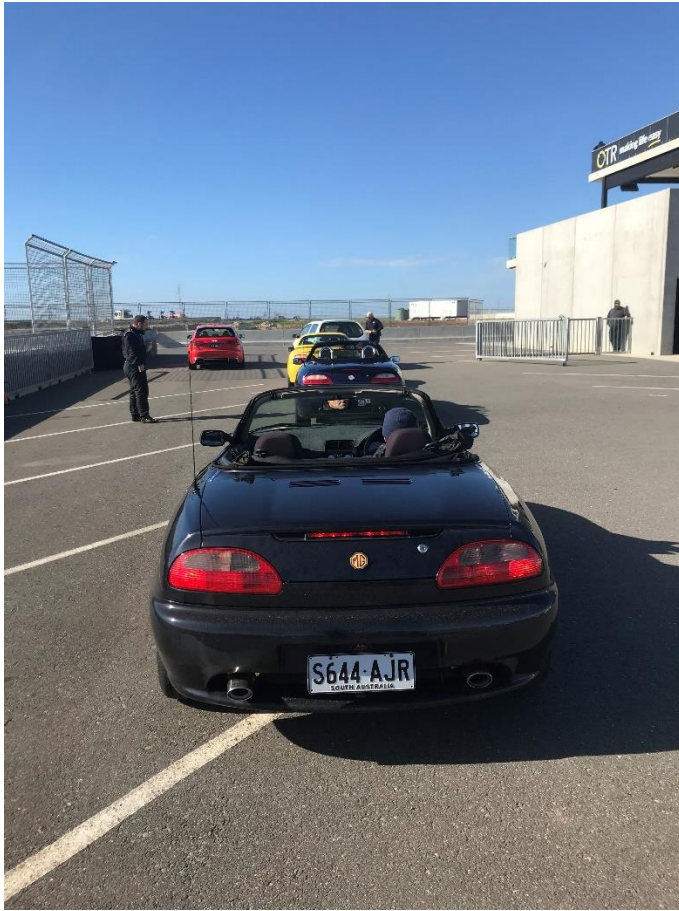
Veale Gardens



Promise of a Clear Blue Sky



Form Up Grid



Distant Rice Bubbles

