

MGF & Modern MGs: April Fools/Very Late Summer Run 21/04/2024

(Words Haydn Reynolds, Pictures David McNabb)

The Run was named as it was because it was on the 21st not the 1st and held in Autumn!

Commencing at the Gully Hotel, the route took just on 100km of traffic-light free roads, via the Murray Flood Plain, to end up at the Charleston Hotel for lunch. The weather was perfect, road conditions were great and there was an almost complete absence of cyclists. What more could be asked for?

Participants gathered at The Gully between 9:45 and 10:00 to have a chat and, in some cases, get a cup of coffee at the pub. Conversations held during 'the gathering' included one led by Dick Manning, who I expect was extolling the unparalleled virtues of the MGF Trophy (particularly if yellow) and a second led by John Roach, who would have been equally adamant that MGB GTs are the way to go. After a 'Class Photo', the Participants set off at 10:15.

As you would all expect, Runs have to include a significant element of 'winding' bits. In this case the stretch through Chain of Ponds and on to Mt Pleasant fulfilled this requirement, while the remainder of the route was generally less demanding, allowing co-pilots stomachs to settle in good time for lunch. There was also what might be called a 'novelty' section, being Milendella Road at the foot of the Ranges on the flood plain. Participants were cautioned that there would be the need for delicate throttle control on that stretch. It is great to report that everyone passed that challenge with 'flying-colours'.

The group arrived at the Charleston Hotel in good time for the 12:00 booking, where our status was recognised in that we were taken straight 'to the Pool Room' (as per "The Castle"). A special note of thanks to Member Caroline Sutherland, who undertook the task of grouping the seating the nearly 30 Participants at the 3 tables. The hotel staff looked after us well and there were plenty of choices on menu.

While waiting for meals to be served, those present were subjected to a mandatory brief talk on Modern MG matters. On this occasion 'The Talk' touched on the arrival later this year of the new Hybrid MG3, the cost of increasingly complex safety systems in new cars that are principally there for autonomous driving requirements, European authorities considering whether new cars should be fitted with aeroplane-style 'Black Boxes' and the question raised as to why does it currently appear that the Cyberster will cost twice as much as MG4 X-Power, when the basics (and performance) of both cars appear quite similar!?

Eating, drinking and talk ensued (despite the photographic evidence to the contrary – food was served) and (despite 'The Talk') there was general consensus that those present were looking forward to the next MGF & Modern MGs Run.

The Participants* comprised: Dean & Jenny Baker (MG6), Andrew Booth & Jessica Booth (MGF/TF), Steve Bowra & Graham Butler (MG5), Roger Dawe (MGF/TF), Brian Hills & Co-pilot (MGF/TF), Darryl Kelly & Jane Dean (MGF/TF), John & Kate Kelly (MGF/TF), Dick Manning (MGF Trophy), Barrie McElroy (MGF), David McNabb (MG GS), Simon & Monique Pierce (MGF), Haydn & Jeannie Reynolds (MGF/TF), John Roach (MGB GT), Richard & Caroline Sutherland (MGF/TF), Stephen Wade (MGF), Peter Walsh & Jenny Ho (MGF), and Mark Whibley & Margotte (MGF/TF). (* With the Author's apologies for omissions and errors!)

Enjoy what you drive!

Haydn Reynolds