

MGF & Modern MGs: Not Quite All British Enough (NQABE) Run 11/02/2024

(Words Haydn Reynolds, Pictures David McNabb – except the obvious one!)

The reasoning (excuse) behind the Run was to provide an alternate event for Member's vehicles that could not attend the (at the time of writing) upcoming All British Day (ABD). While most of the cars that took part were, in fact, eligible to attend ABD, their participation was seen as solidarity with those that could not.

In establishing the course for the NQABE, attention was given to both the "British" and the "Not Quite" aspects. Now, the quintessential British Car Run, has to be the London to Brighton Rally. And it should be noted that it is to the seaside, not some nice sporting ground in the Cotswold Hills. To keep in character, the NQABE Run commenced in London Road (Mile End, so not quite London) and travelled 75km via Balhannah to Seacliff (so, not quite Brighton).

The choices of the start and finish locations being reinforced by London Rd, being the home of Solitaire's Jaguar and Land Rover service centre, two Marques that remain British icons despite having been variously owned by Germans, Americans and now Indians (perhaps a hint of 'Not Quite' in that?) As well as the 'Not Quite' (Brighton) thrust, Seacliff Hotel was chosen as it has a bigger carpark than the Esplanade at Brighton and finding parking for 16 cars on a warm Sunday at a beachfront location can be somewhat of a challenge.

The first part of the Run (to Balhannah) went well, where the participants regrouped at the Balhannah Oval. The second part, back to the coast and lunch, was a little more challenging with regards navigation. Apparently, the Run Sheet I had provided was viewed with some suspicion, with just over half the participants finding their own way to Seacliff!

The Seacliff Beach Hotel looked after us well, with lots of choice on menu including fish and chips (which should almost be considered mandatory when being 'British at the seaside'). While waiting to be served, the participants were given (some might say subjected) to a brief talk on Modern MG facts. The talk included that SAIC has now sold two ZS SUVs for every MGB ever produced and SAIC produces an MG badged, right-hand drive, 4-door Ute (the MG Extender) in Thailand, which could conceivably come here!!

Eating, drinking and talk ensued and the very comfortable point was reached where, despite the navigational challenges and 'The Talk' there was affirmation that those present were looking forward to the next MGF & Modern MGs Run, the proposed 'April Fools Run', in (um) April. (After I had promised to produce a Run Sheet with only 4 changes of direction!)

The participants* on the Run were: Dean Baker (MGF), Andrew Booth & Jessica Booth (MGF/TF), Ken & Heather Bourke (Rover 75), Steve Bowra & Graham Butler (MG5), Robin Button (MGF/TF), Mike & Jenny Greenwood (Mg6), Darryl Kelly & Jane Dean (Walked!), Dick Manning (MGF), Peter & Liz McCrae (MGF), David McNabb (GS), Simon & Monique Pierce (MGF), Trevor & Helen Praithe (ZS SUV), Haydn & Jeannie Reynolds (MGF/TF), John Roach (MGB), Richard & Caroline Sutherland (MGF/TF), Stephen Wade (MGF), Mark Whibley & Margotte (MGF/TF). (* With the Author's apologies for any errors!)

Enjoy what you drive!

Haydn Reynolds