

MGF & Modern MGs: MGF/TF SAIC Motor Swaps – Mild & Wild

(Words Haydn Reynolds, Pictures David McNabb)

Friday May 10th saw the MGF & Modern MGs Register hold a Technical Evening on the potential for using recent SAIC MG6 engines as replacements for MG-Rover k-series 'engines-in-distress'. Two versions of such a substitution were discussed (and exhibited) being a "Mild" non-turbo example and a "Wild" version, being the enhanced turbo installation in Dick Manning's current race-car project, both being the results of Dick's initiative and efforts.



The program consisted of three parts.

The first part was a brief 'show and tell' by Dick, with content that included how to look after k-series engine components so that the 'engine-in-distress' situation was avoided (for as long as possible). The point was also made that similar care was warranted for motors generally.

The second part of the program was a fairly extensive 'slide-show' presentation covering the changes that had been made to the cars to this point (the race-car being very much a 'work in progress' albeit one that runs). Questions were encouraged during the presentation, which more than adequately fielded by Dick.

The final component was 'hands-on' inspection of the two cars on display, with (once again) Dick dealing with the accompanying Q&A. Not surprisingly, the race-car was the focus of much of the attention, as it dealt with the challenges of the turbo-engine demands for additional engine-bay space and heat management. The key feature exhibited by the 'Mild' (road-going) car was that at the end of the exchange process there are effectively no obvious changes to the original MG-Rover installation of a 135 TF motor.

Supper and further discussions followed. The overall impression being that the Technical Evening had been a success, no doubt in part due to the excellent Clubroom support.

A bonus for those that stayed on while things were packed up was to hear the race-car run, as it was loaded onto Dick's trailer. The combination of the ease with which revs increased and the exhaust note verged on intoxicating!

Should anyone be interested in seeing what was in the 'slide-show', a PDF format can be provided from hreynolds@internode.on.net

Enjoy what you drive!

Haydn Reynolds

