

MGF & Modern MGs: Not Quite “Not Quite British Enough (NQBE)” Run 16/02/2025

(Words Haydn Reynolds, Pictures David McNabb and Haydn Reynolds)

This was the second annual running of an NQBE event. The original intention was to showcase Members' vehicles that could not take part in the upcoming All British Day at Echunga, including Modern MGs and non-UK sports cars. Unfortunately, the only non-UK sports car entry (MX5) did not eventuate, due to club member Peter Coulson's laudable decision to take part in Queensland flood relief. On the Modern MGs front, only one example (Steve Bowra's MG5) actually completed the Run, with David McNabb's MG GS putting in a brief appearance for photos at the departure point in London Road (for which the author is grateful!). As such, all but one of the participating vehicles could attend the ABD at Echunga, hence the Not Quite “Not Quite British Enough (NQBE)” Run.

In establishing the route for the NQBE, attention was given to the “British” aspect. The Run commenced in London Road (Mile End) and travelled 75km via Balhannah and Lobethal to the Fox & Firkin (British Theme Pub) in Tea Tree Gully.

The plan was to set out from London Road at around 10:30am and arrive at the Fox & Firkin as it opened at 12:00 midday. The reason for ensuring the bulk of Participants were at the F&F for opening time is because the pub does NOT take reservations, so if the aim is to sit 20 people conveniently, there is a need to be there as the doors open.

The excitement began before the actual Run commenced. Gathering in the Solitaire carpark, one of the last arrivals was Louise Whibley, who's MGF/TF was behaving badly, cutting out, not wanting to start and with the speedo 'on strike'. The assembled Member experience and some jumper leads determined that the battery was flat and there was strong communal suspicion that the alternator was the villain of the piece. Dick Manning stayed on site with Louise and her co-pilot Ruth, while awaiting a tow-truck and the rest set out on the Run. (Dick caught up at the Fox & Firkin.)

The Run itself was straightforward and with no further mechanical distractions. (It was noted, however, that there just may have been some kind of event on in Lobethal, given that there were literally hundreds of motorcycles along the main street with more arriving! It was the Amberlight to Bierhaus Lobethal Motorcycle Show and Shine.) Apart from a few missed turns, nobody got lost and the biggest challenge was the turn and steep climb into the Fox & Firkin Carpark. Being in one of the only 2 automatics, the Author has to admit to stopping at a point on the steep driveway that caused John Roach an unfortunate amount of clutch-slipping. John was extremely gracious about it.

Daryl Kelly and Jayne Dean joined us at the Fox and Firkin, showing a commitment to the theme of the Run, by sporting custom 'Not Quite British' medallions, showing pictures of Megan Markel and Prince Andrew.

The Fox & Firkin appears to have gone down well with the Run Participants. The staff were all great and the food was good and (very) plentiful. I'm sure nobody leaves that establishment hungry! Some of the imported beers were not to everyone's' taste – but that is the nature of discovery (and local beers were available).

The participants* on the Run were: Penny & Phil Bentley (MGB), Andrew Booth & Jessica Booth (MGF/TF), Roger Dawe & Nick Moore (MGF/TF), Steve Bowra (MG5), Daryl Kelly & Jayne Dean (MGF/TF), Graham Lehman & Shane Murray (MGF), Dick Manning (MGF), David McNabb (GS), Haydn Reynolds (Honda!), John Roach (MGB), Richard & Caroline Sutherland (MGF/TF), Stephen Wade (MGF), Louise Whibley and Ruth Hart (MGF/TF), Mark Whibley & Margotte (MGF/TF). (* With the Author's apologies for any errors!)

London Road to a British Pub – Perhaps it should be the 'More than British Enough Run'.

It's now time to start fleshing out the rest of the MGF & Modern MGs program for the year, starting with the April Fools Run (April 13th) and then on to some MGF 30th Anniversary events.

Haydn Reynolds