

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Aug. 8, 2002 (Thu) — Club Meeting & Natter 19
Sep. 7-8, 2002 (Sat-Sun) – Palo Alto British Car Meet..... 8-10
Oct. 20, 2002 (Sun) – California Autumn Classic..... 14-15

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THE OCTAGON

Newsletter of the M.G. Owner's Club



MGs at the MGOC Annual Picnic. (Photo by Felix Wong.)

MGOC-OCTAGON
If undeliverable please return to:
320 B Monterey Blvd.,
San Francisco, CA 94131-3141
email: mgoc@felixwong.com
<http://home.nacbell.net/tensten>

September 2002

About *The Octagon* and MGOC...

The M.G. Owner's Club, formed in 1958, is the Northern California center of the M.G. Car Club, formed in England in 1930. We receive two copies of MGCC's *Safety Fast*, available to members on loan from the Corresponding Secretary. The club is also associated with NAMGBR, the North American MGB Register, and NAMGAR, the North American MGA Register. The MGOC holds a business meeting on the second Thursday of each month at an event known as the "Natter and Noggin" in the style of English clubs. *The Octagon*, our newsletter, is published monthly by the M.G. Owner's Club. Opinions expressed in *The Octagon* are not necessarily those of the MGOC, its members, or Board of Directors.

DIRECTORY of MGOC OFFICERS for 2002

President: Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, magnut_dan@hotmail.com

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Treasurer: Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, MikesMuseum@yahoo.com

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Octagon Editor: Felix Wong, 510-226-7721 home, mgoc@felixwong.com

Commercial Advertising: Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699,
MikesMuseum@yahoo.com

CLUB ADVISOR PROGRAM

Feel free to call these members, who have volunteered to help with purchase, repair, and restoration of various MG models, etc.

MGB 1962-74: Felix Wong, 510-226-7721 home, mgoc@felixwong.com

MGB 1974½-1980: Ed Adams, 510-483-6821

MGC: Kent Leach, 510-254-5748

M.G. Midget: Kingsley Klarer, 707-226-1955

MGA/Coupe/Twin Cam 1955-62: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

Z-Magnette Saloon 1953-58 & S.U. Carburetters: Marty Ray, 831-427-2642 home, martyray@eudoramail.com

M.G. 1100 Sports Sedan 1962-67: Lora Lerner, 831-464-3795

T-types: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

Pre-war Midgets-Magnas-Magnettes: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

PA/PB Midget 1934-36: Eric Baker, 510-531-7032

Lucas electrics: Marty Ray, 831-427-2642 home,
martyray@eudoramail.com

Bodywork: Bill Weissberg, 510-658-4335

Club Meeting & Natter

August 8, 2002 (Thu) at 8:00pm

at

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant

101 Parrott St.

San Leandro, CA 94577

510-357-3571

Board Meeting at 7:30pm. All are welcome!

Driving Directions:

From northbound I-880, take the Washington Ave. exit within San Leandro and turn right on Washington. Travel 2.2 miles until you see Parrott St. Turn right on Parrott.

From southbound I-880, take the Davis St. exit, and turn left on Davis. Travel 1.3 miles, and then turn right on E. 14th St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then turn right on Parrott.

Details:

The Englander is an enjoyable place where we will have our own room. The food is good so bring your appetites and let's have a good turnout.

The Octagon is Online!

The Octagon is online. It is even in color, unlike the print version! For more details and links to the newsletter, see the following web pages:

<http://felixwong.com/mgoc>

The Editor's MGOC Web Site

<http://home.pacbell.net/jensten>

Official Web Site of the No. Cal. MGOC

Attention!!

Have your MG painted by a fellow sports car lover with 11 years experience. High quality rubbed out polyurethane finish at reasonable cost. I do bodywork, rust repair and welding. Fast turn around time. References and examples of my work available. Call for an appointment for a free estimate.

Andy Schank 510-236-5232

Classified Ads

Ads are free to MGOC members and \$6.00 per month for non-members. Please send copy (and check **made payable to MGOC** if a non-member) to MGOC, 3516 Dickenson, Fremont, CA 94538. Members may also email ads to the Editor at mgoc@felixwong.com. Ads run for ONE month, after which they will be deleted unless you call. Your ad can be extended easily, but you **MUST** contact *The Octagon* Editor to renew! Any ad that appeared in the past can be re-run by calling the editor; new copy is not required.

For sale: two **MG Magnettes**. One is a '55 ZA parts car and the other is a '57 ZB that used to belong to my father. Neither car has been on the road for years and are complete restoration projects. I have all the parts and more to complete the restoration of one of the cars. The cars can be seen at El Monte Storage, 3512 Clayton Road in Concord. See Neno Davi, the manager in the El Monte Storage office. You can also call Charles Campbell at 650-723-0525 (work) or 650-938-3804 (home); you can also email ccamp250@yahoo.com.

For sale: **MGA** in Oregon. A good-looking, drive-anywhere car with less than 2000 miles on its completely rebuilt engine and good paint. Contact Frank Peterson at 541-846-1036 or peterston@ccountry.net.

1957 MG ZB Varitone Magnette. Nice condition, everything works. Call/write for details and to discuss the price. (See May 2001 Octagon for info)
1969 MGB-GT body shell. Price negotiable. Marty Ray 831-247-5863 or martyray@eudoramail.com. For more info on the cars, see <http://www.corybantwest.com/cars/cars.html>.



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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN *THE OCTAGON*

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or MikesMuseum@yahoo.com. 2002 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75). All ads expire on Jan. 1st, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 10th of the preceding month. The MGOC makes no claims as to the reputation or quality of work performed by businesses advertising in *The Octagon*.

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO *THE OCTAGON*

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*! Please make your contributions by the 10th of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. The editor's address is: Felix Wong, MGOC, 3516 Dickenson, Fremont, CA 94538. Or, you may email contributions to mgoc@felixwong.com. Preferred electronic text formats include ASCII text or any version of Microsoft Word; preferred image formats include TIFF, GIF, JPEG, PICT, and BMP.

RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? Bob Stine (650-349-5128; RAStine@prodigy.net) is in charge of new member recruitment and can send you flyers.

You can cut out this coupon and give it to prospective members

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE MG OWNERS CLUB!!

For a sample copy of our monthly magazine, *The Octagon*, and a membership application, please contact our Registrar:

Mike Jacobsen
 320 B Monterey Blvd.
 San Francisco, CA 94131-3141
 415-333-9699
MikesMuseum@yahoo.com

Membership

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at future meetings and events of the MGOC and having your stories, photos, and tips printed in *The Octagon*!

Calendar of Events

MGOC (which is us!) events are in **bold** type. Abbreviations (if used): CSRG – Classic Sports Racing Group, SSTS – Sorry Safari Touring Society, HMSA – Historic Motor Sports Association, ESCA – Empire Sports Car Association

General British Car Events

September 8, 2002 (Sun)—All British Car Day. El Camino Park in Palo Alto. Featured marque is Austin Healey. See page 8-9.

September 22, 2002 (Sun)—2002 Palos Verdes Concours d'Elegance. At the Ocean Trails Golf Club in Pebble Beach overlooking the ocean. This year's Grand Marshal is legendary Parnelli Jones. Weekend events include a visit to Parnelli's private collection. For more info, contact Cynthia Radom, modar@earthlink.net.

October 6, 2002 (Sun)—San Diego British Car Day and Picnic. See www.sandiegobritishcarday.org for more info or call Steve at 760-746-9028.

October 20, 2002 (Sun)—The California Autumn Classic in San Juan Bautista. Call Bille Meade at 831-722-3253 for more info. Note: MGOC members will caravan to that event leaving from the McDonald's at the Mission exit off I-680 in Fremont. (There are two Mission exits. This is the more northerly one near the Mission San Jose.)

October 31-November 2, 2002 (Thu-Sat)—HCT (High Country Tour) in Sedona, Arizona. Includes rally, lodging, car show, meals + more for around \$325. Email RacerMoss@sedona.net for more info.

Minutes

MGOC General Meeting

August 8, 2002 (Thu)

Submitted by David Wright

The meeting was called to order by president Dan Shockey at 8:15 p.m.

Members Present: David Wright, Dan Shockey, Mike Jacobsen, Bob

❖ MGOC Regalia ❖

Description	Qty	Each	Total
MG Owners Club Regalia			
Pennant – Red “MG Owners Club”, cream canvas, 9½" high by 17" long		\$10.00	
Grille Badge – MGOC logo, 4" high, mounts with one stud through grille		\$30.00	
Patch – 3" diameter, embroidered black MGOC logo on white		\$6.00	
MG Car Club of England Regalia			
MG Car Club Grille Badge – 3" dia., mounts with studs through grille		\$45.00	
MG Car Club Grille Badge – 3" dia., mounts with bracket to badge bar		\$45.00	
Key Fob – Black leather fob with cloisonne MG Car Club logo		\$10.00	
Lapel Pin – ¾" by 1" enamelled metal MGOC badge		\$6.50	
Outside Window Decal – 5" by 5½" brown & cream MGCC logo		\$1.00	
Inside Window Decal – 2½" by 3" brown & cream logo; reads “Member”		\$1.00	
Inside Window Decal – 2½" by 3" brown & cream logo; reads “Member” and “Marque of Friendship”		\$1.00	
Round Mug – British Racing Green with gold MGCC logo and rim		\$10.00	
MGs at Jack London Square from Posters & Plaques			
Dash Plaque – 2002, brown on gold, MG J2		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 2001, red on gold, Elva Courier		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 2000, dark green on gold, late MGB		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1999, black on gold, MG TC		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1998, blue on gold, MGB/GT		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1997, red on gold, MGOC logo w/ “Britain Meets the Bay”		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1996, green on gold, MGA with Jack London		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1995, white on black, MGOC logo and Tribune Tower		\$2.00	
Poster – 2000, features a red Elva Courier with Earl Pierce		\$10.00	
Poster – 1999, features a blue MGB roadster and the JLS History Walk		\$5.00	
Poster – 1998, features a yellow MGB/GT with the yacht Potomac		\$5.00	
Total Amount Enclosed			

❖ “Ship To” label – please print!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone number in case we have a question about your order _____

❖ Ordering Information

- ♦ All prices include tax, and shipping is FREE! Some items are stocked from England and may have a long lead time; we will notify you if the delay will be more than three weeks.
- ♦ Make checks payable to “MGOC” – sorry, but we cannot accept credit cards or cash.
- ♦ Send orders to: **MGOC Regalia, 5518 Thomas Ave., Oakland, CA 94618-1752.**

MGOC Regalia!

Our club has MGOC regalia that is available for purchase by anyone. Below is a sampling of available regalia; more items are listed on the order form on page 17. Please contact David Wright at 510-653-3831 for more information.



Key Fob – \$10; Pin – \$6.50



*Octogonal Mug – NLA
Round Mug – \$10*



Pennant – \$10

Stine, Bob McCoy, Grant West (not yet a member), and John Hunt.

Treasurer Report: (Mike J.) Both savings and checking accounts have a healthy balance.

Registrar Report; (Mike J.) At this time, the MGOC has 155 regular members and 35 auxiliary memberships. We will send final notices to members who haven't yet renewed with the September Octagon.

Regalia Report: (David W.) No regalia news.

Secretary Report: (David W. covering for Nina Barton) No minutes were available to review. They are in the August Octagon.

Octagon Report: (Mike J. for Felix Wong) The August Octagon was assembled at the end of the meeting.

EVENTS:

Run for the Roses, July 28: The event was a great success and much enjoyed by members. We had a 40-car caravan from Fremont with the Sorry Safari Club. The Cypress MG Club of Monterey organized the event that also included the Sorry Safari and Abington Rough Riders clubs. The MGOC had 12 cars and 24 people plus others who also belong to other clubs.

Annual Picnic, August 18: Dan will arrange for awards. George Steneberg will bring raffle prizes.

New Event?: One of our club members suggested we participate in the Highland Games on October 5 at Ben Lomand north of Santa Cruz. This is a new event and thus not so large. Marty Ray offered to lead us on a tour of the Santa Cruz area if we do this.

Autumn Classic, October 20: It was suggested that the club caravan to San Juan Bautista. (See info in the September Octagon.) Note that this is for two-seater sports cars (and their jump-seat derivatives) only.

Joint Rally with O'Connor Classics: This was suggested as a possible event for next year. Mike O'Connor said they are interested in doing this.

Holiday Tea, Dec. 7: John Hunt generously offered to host this event at his home in Lafayette. It will be a potluck starting in mid-afternoon (2pm to

5pm) in an attempt to avoid schedule conflicts during this busy season. There will be more details to follow.

MGs at Jack London Square: The favored location for this event is still Jack London Square. However it was considered prudent to continue the club's investigation into alternate locations. Bob Stine has talked to the Special Events Committee of the City of San Mateo and has given them a video of past JLS events and other info. Bill Dinehart (of the Sorry Safari club) has suggested Civic Park in Walnut Creek as a suitable location.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed (other than the ongoing discussions regarding Jack London Square).

NEW BUSINESS

New Venue: Bill Hiland has suggested a monthly tire-kicking in the South Bay. The Britannia Arms in Cupertino was mentioned as a possible location. Dan will talk to other club members and check out the sites. (See flier elsewhere in the Octagon.)

Club Newsletter: Dan S. proposed that we consider increasing the size and content of the newsletter and take advantage of bulk mailing savings to pay for the increased printing costs. This would be a way to better serve the majority of our members.

Club Direction: Dan felt it was important to hold a major planning meeting. This would be a brainstorming session to consider ideas to keep the club healthy in the future. We would do this on a weekend day this fall.

Next Meeting and 'Natter: Will be held Thursday, September 12, at The Englander. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

From the President

*By Dan Shockey
August 27, 2002 (Tue)*

We have the British Field Meet in Palo Alto again this year. I know many folks really missed it last year. I am still jazzed about the great annual picnic we had last week. I optimistically made 24 car number and owner info cards and 40 ballots. We used all 24 cards and all but a couple of the ballots.

after sales service will make us a major new player in the luxury and sporting sectors of the Mexican market."

Jim Lynch, MG Rover's director of international sales commented: "It is an important part of our marketing strategy to expand sales into more international markets and to exploit the unique appeal of our great range of cars. The early feedback from Mexico gives me confidence that Rover and MG will prove to be very popular with Mexican car buyers." He also stated: "MG Rover Group will be fully backing MG Rover Mexico, so Mexican customers will be treated to the highest standards."

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There is also a Saturday afternoon coastal & backroads drive plus a group dinner Saturday evening.

Schedule:

9-10 am – Cars arrive and park in assigned places
 10 – 3pm – Public viewing of cars and vendor sales
 2-3 pm – Drive up presentation of 24 silver trophies
 3:30 to 4:30 pm – Country and mountain tour

Info: Bill Meade 831-722-3253

Co-sponsors: Austin-Healey Golden Gate Club, Triumph Travelers Club, Santa Cruz British Motorcar Club, Jaguar Associate Group, Sorry Safari Touring Society, Northern California Morgan Club

Rain Date: October 17

\$25 registration by October 14 provides participation for two people and two group tours. Late registration is \$35. Mail check payable to Bill Meade/California Autumn Classic at 533 Cedar Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076

MGOC: We plan to meet at the McDonalds at the Mission Ave exit from I-680 in Fremont (the more northerly Mission exit). Meet at 8:15am to depart at 8:30am.

Mexico Sees Return Of MG And Rover Cars

August 29, 2002 (Thu)

Issued by MG Rover Group Communications

Submitted by Dan Shockey

In the last few days MG and Rover cars have been reintroduced into the Mexican market. Initially the Rover 75 Saloon and Tourer, the MG ZT and ZT-T and the MG TF sports car will be available to Mexican car buyers with potential to extend the range at a later date.

As a result of the free trade agreement that exists between Mexico and the European Community, European built cars are becoming more popular with Mexico's more affluent middle classes. Total new car sales in Mexico are rapidly moving towards one million per annum.

Armando Martinez, general manager of MG Rover's importer in Mexico said: "The MG Rover range is ideal for the Mexican market where our target customers appreciate the distinctive nature of British cars. Backed by a US\$15,000,000 investment, we have already recruited six dealerships and feel confident of achieving our target of over 20 nationwide by next year. The appeal and quality of MG and Rover cars coupled with an excellent

(Some people arrived too late to vote.) The site and weather were perfect except that we could have used a couple more picnic tables in the main area.

Have you seen the new 1:18 scale MGB-GT cast models? I splurged on a red one and it is just about perfect. There is also a green one and they are marketed by Auto Art. You can find dealers by searching for Auto Art MGB. Prices run from \$53 to \$60 but I got mine on eBay for \$40. Triple C shows a 1:18 scale MGA coupe due out in November. Just in time for Christmas!

Since the P-type is down, I am having to keep the BGT rolling as is if I want to have an MG to take to events this fall. I rebuilt an MGB motor (economy freshening-up) for some friends and am working to get my TR3 back together. I shall have to start job searching in earnest again, however.

Hope to see you all at the Field Meet. Be sure to stop by our canopy and say hello. Bring ideas for club events and improvements.

Cheers, Dan

Possible South Bay Meeting

Bill Hyland suggested that we get together monthly somewhere in the South Bay. I have called some of the club members in the South Bay for reaction. There seems to be interest. Nancy and I checked out the two English Pubs located near highway I-280 but they each have crowded parking lots on a Friday evening. I was thinking a Friday evening (once a month) might be good since we can be out late without having to think about getting up early Saturday morning and a location near 280 would be easy to get to for folks from San Jose to Palo Alto.



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We did find a neat area just off I-280 at Wolfe Rd. It is right across from the Sears at the Vallco Shopping Mall. It is well lighted and not crowded and has pavers rather than blacktop. There are four restaurants right there including McHart's Pizza. This is the Marketplace Shopping Center next to Long's Drugs at 19732 Stevens Creek Blvd.

This would be an informal "tire-kicking" and not a meeting. Folks can look cars or get a pizza. We would encourage bringing your interesting cars and invite folks from the other clubs and people we meet.

Let me know if you are interested in the event or have ideas for a convenient meeting place. Check out the McHart's Pizza area if you get a chance.

Thanks,
Dan Shockey
(408) 923-3927
magnut_dan@hotmail.com

The Palo Alto British Car Meet

*Saturday Tour - Sunday Show
September 7-8, 2002 (Sat-Sun)*

Be part of the biggest all British automotive lawn event in California. Over 500 classic, quirky and thoroughly lovable British cars are expected to fill the field at El Camino Park in Palo Alto, for the 23rd Annual Palo Alto British Car Meet.

Saturday - September 7th

The Official British Car Meet Tour To The Sea starts at El Camino Park in Palo Alto - The same place as the Sunday Show. This is a no cost option for people who like to drive their cars rather than just show them. We will be sending cars off between 9:00AM and 10:00AM. Don't be late! The event will end at Cameron's Pub in Half Moon Bay where we will be kicking tyres and telling tall tales in the car park into the afternoon.

Sunday - September 8th

Join us for the Best All British Car Show In The West! Don't have a show car? Don't worry! Daily drivers, vintage racers, street rods & works-in-progress are as welcome as concours quality show cars. Great British food, jazz, parts, literature, toys and gifts and more fun than you'll be able to



More MGBs.

California Autumn Classic – British Sports Cars Concours

October 20, 2002 (Sun)

San Juan Bautista, just 30 miles south of San Jose

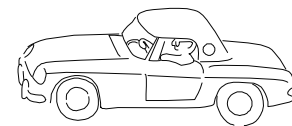
For regularly driven (non-trailer) classic two-seater British sports cars.

This 10th annual event brings back the nostalgic fun of relaxed, friendly sports car club events of the 1950's and 60's. All classic British sports cars (2-seaters and their jump-seat derivatives) are invited to participate. There will be 24 silver trophies for all marks. The event is held on the main downtown street of San Juan Bautista. There are many restaurants to choose from for lunch and many quaint shops to enjoy. Also enjoy visiting the old Mission and State Historic Park.

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MGOC Annual Picnic

August 18, 2002 (Sun)

Photos by Felix Wong



President Dan Shockey and Secretary Nina Barton presenting the awards.



Some MGBs. The red one in the center won an award.

tolerate! People's Choice awards in six classes. Join your British car friends for a smashing day at the park.

The American MGB Association will join us with their National West Coast Convention. We are expecting over 100 MGBs and Spridgets to line the rows in front of the stage. There will be special additional AMGBA awards in classes that will be open to all MGB/Spridget owners, Members, or not. Another special area will be provided for members of the Arcane Auto Society who will display their automotive oddities from around the globe.

Cars will be placed on the field by marque, starting at 9:00AM, and the fun goes on all day. The registration fee is \$25 per car at the gate. There is no preregistration. All participants will receive a commemorative gift. Spectators park and attend free.

Directions

El Camino Park is located on the El Camino Real, just north of University Avenue, opposite Stanford Center, From 101 take University Ave west, go under the Alma Street overpass, and turn right onto the El Camino Real. From 280, take the Sandhill Road Exit east and turn right on the El Camino, stay to the right to the University Ave exit, turn left at the overpass, then left again back onto the El Camino heading north. Trailer parking is available on-site at the park.

Do Not Park Trailers In The Shopping Center Parking Lot Please!

For information call: 310-392-6605 or email rfeibusch1@earthlink.net.

MGOC'ers:

Some of us will gather before 9am at the Sears parking lot (west side of Sears) at the corner of San Antonio and El Camino. That way we can drive the Field Meet and park together. There is usually a big line waiting at 9am at the park so we head over a little after 9. Feel free to go over on your own and we'll see you there. We plan to set up a canopy, promote the club and sell regalia. Stop by and say hello.

LAST MINUTE UPDATE

Well folks, it's just a week away and no one has torn up the El Camino so we're still on. The new entrance and intersections (yep, that's plural) are in place so forget everything you know about the way it used to look. We will be starting the tour to Cameron's Pub on the coast on Saturday in the El

Camino Park parking lot this year so PLEASE DON'T GO DOWN TO BRITISH CAR MAGAZINE AND WONDER WHERE EVERYONE IS!

Participant Gifts at the show this year will be both a large, 11oz coffee cup that features a Morris Royal Mail van, AND a dash plaque. Shirts will be available from California Custom at the meet.

The American MGB Association will be joining us with their 2002 National Convention and there will be a display of even more unusual cars from all over the world from the Arcane Auto Society. Many of you British car enthusiasts who have cars too few and far between to have a club should consider joining: Contact Byron Brill at jowett1@earthlink.net.

Jazz this year will be by the Herb Gibson Quartet. These are the present day incarnation of the old San Francisco Jazz Workshop combos that we featured over a decade ago. Moss Motors, The Ministry of Food and designer coffees from Cafe Caretto will be there to serve you. Mike O'Conner and O'Conner Classic MGs will be there celebrating 25 years in business.

Club displays and easy-ups are welcome. Come join the fun!

British Racing Green

By John Hunt

One day at work I was talking about my 1971 MGB GT and they asked me what color it was. I said, Forest Green and they replied, you have British Racing Green. I began wondering why they call the color of my car, British Racing Green. What's British about Green? My friends at work said in the early days of auto racing, each country had it's own color. I wondered where could I research such a question. I e-mailed the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust. In a few short days they shot back Germany's color is White, France is Blue and Italy is Red and suggested that I contact Brooklands Museum for more detailed information. You should check out their website: www.brooklandsmuseum.com. It details the birthplace of British Motor Sport and Aviation, and is very impressive.

The curator at Brooklands was very helpful. As a matter of fact, he mailed me a full article on colors. Here are some of the highlights: "The practice came into existence at the beginning of the century when the Automobile Club de France drew up regulations for the Gordon Bennett Cup races. Colors were then assigned to the countries expected to compete in Internationals events: white to Germany, red to America, yellow to Belgium and blue to France. It seems the (emerald) green was adopted by the Napiers

(Rolls Royce's main competitor) representing Great Britain in the 1903 Gordon Bennett Race at the suggestion of Count Zborowski as a mark of appreciation to Ireland for providing a venue when all efforts to hold the race in England had failed. At some point in time America yielded red to Italy and America substituted colors of white for the body and blue for the chassis in its place. By 1936 the painting of cars in national colors was compulsory only in International events where supplementary regulations required it. However, these colors became widely accepted as the norm by manufactures of competition cars, and thus green became customary for Bentleys, red for Alfa-Romeo's and Ferraris, and white for Mercedes. At some point, Mercedes-Benz and Auto-Union were interpreting white as silver.

"Whether or not there ever was an exact shade of green to be used by entrant from this country in international races is a matter of conjecture, but, if long usage can be taken as a criterion, then the green used by the Works Bentleys at Le Mans in the Twenties must be accepted as the authentic color. Not just because Bentley used it, but because they bought the paint from Thos Parson & Sons Ltd. in whose shade cards it was shown as Napier Green No 479/16, from which it may be deduced that this was indeed the color used by the great cars of the Gordon Bennett days."

There you have it, the official color. However, over the years since, British car manufactures have used various shades of Green and referred to them as BRG. Now, when most people see a green English car, they say it's BRG or is it?

Three World Records for MG

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Submitted by John Hunt

In selling the late John Thornley's MGB GT for 131, 250 pounds, Cheffins set three new market records-most money ever invested in an MG registration, the highest price paid in public auction for an MGB and, thanks to achieving this extraordinary result for the former MG general manager's company car, the car department clocked up its first 1/2 million sale total. Despite a bullish pre-sale forecast valuation of 40,000 pounds, bidding quickly reached 80,000 pounds at which the telephone players left the field and it was left to two combatants in the room to slug it out until the gavel fell in favour of a cherished registrations dealer. The unsuccessful underbidder had been representing MG Rover.