



The British Connection

Volume 2020 Issue 1

January 2020

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President's Message

Hey everybody, Ready for a new year? Maybe do something new this year? How about running for a club officer position? There are lots of openings. You can put your own personal touch into any officer position. Just throw your hat into the ring. The Christmas party was a success. The weath-

er was perfect. Steve and I are getting ready to head over to Groveland tomorrow morning and farm sit for his sister so I have to make this short. Everyone have a great holiday season! Be safe.

Deb

2019 ABCC Officers

President - Steve Bradley
SBradley5@cfl.rr.com

Vice-President - Gary Thomas
jag65@cfl.rr.com

Secretary - Debi Bradley

Treasurer - Gene Schoonmaker

Editor - Bob Storke
rstorke@cfl.rr.com



2020 DUES ARE DUE

History of the MG cars

By: Karen Border , TRF Publications

Old Number One.

Kimber was still interested in garnering racing credentials for his cars. In 1924, he had a special racing car built on a modified Bullnose Cowley chassis and fitted with the Hotchkiss (now owned by Morris) 11.9 hp, 1548cc overhead valve engine. The lightweight, two-seater body was built by Carbodies of Coventry, and had a boat-shaped tail. The rear was modified by cutting the chassis frame and welding new rails which curved up and over the rear axle to secure the rear springs. The engine was tuned and it had a standard Morris 3-speed gearbox. As with all the Kimber Chummies, the high Cowley steering column was lowered. The dash was fitted with a tachometer, fuel and oil gauges, in addition to the standard speedometer and ammeter. Lighting was provided by two small sidelights on each side of the scuttle and a single headlight. The headlight was removed at some unspecified time and is not on the car at the present time. The car was originally painted in plain grey primer, but its current color is red. It was originally registered FC7900 on March 27, 1925. In March 1950, it was registered under a new number—FMO 842 after a restoration, however in 1959 the car was given back its original registration number.

Kimber drove this car and won a gold medal in the Light Car Class in the 1925 London-to-Land's End-Trial. The car was then sold to one of Cecil Kimber's friends. It was offered back to Kimber but he did not purchase it at the time. It was used to haul food for pigs for a while, and then it was purchased in 1932 by a MG employee after he recognized it in a scrap yard in Manchester. He bought the car for £15. The car was restored in the Abingdon factory in 1933 and was used for sales promotions. The Nuffield Organization (formerly Morris Motors) officially christened the car "Old Number One". It was described as being, "The First M.G., Built in 1923," even though it was built in 1924. Many people feel it was not the very first MG car as that honor should go to either one of the 11.9 hp Raworth Chummies or one of the 1924 Morris 14/28 cars. It has been exhibited at many events and shows in England and it was sent to the United States for the 50th anniversary celebration of the MG. Old Number One is currently on permanent display in the Historic Vehicle Collection at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon and is still kept drivable. Here is a link to the British Motor Museum:

<https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/> You can view a video about Old Number One at this YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfZKfbfMviw>



History of the MG cars

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William Richard Morris, 1st Viscount Nuffield, GBE, CH, FRS was born on October 10, 1877 in Worcester, and he was the founder of Morris Motors Limited. He was also a philanthropist and founded the charitable institutions of the Nuffield Foundation, the Nuffield Trust, and Nuffield College, Oxford. Morris married Elizabeth Anstey on April 9, 1903, and they did not have any children.

In his teens, Morris worked as an apprentice to a local bicycle dealer who sold and repaired bicycles. When he turned 16, he began his own repair business in a shed behind his parents' house in Oxford. He was successful and opened a shop to assemble and repair bicycles at 48 High Street, Oxford. He had his own badge, a gold cycle wheel with "The Morris" words. He was a bicycle racer, and raced his own bicycles in races that varied in distance between one and fifty miles.

He began to build motorcycles in 1901 in a partnership as Morris-Cooper which produced the Morris Motor Cycle. In 1902, after dissolving the partnership, he bought a disused horse stable in Longwall Street, Oxford where he operated several businesses under the name of The Oxford Garage. He still repaired bicycles and sold, repaired, and hired cars, and operated a taxi service there. He demolished the stables in 1909, and built a new building with a Neo-Georgian facade. It was so fancy it was called "Oxford's New Motor Palace." The car dealership sold several different makes of cars including Arrol-Johnston, Belsize, Humber, Hupmobile, Singer, Standard, and Wolseley cars. By 1910 he found that he needed more room, so he built new buildings on Longwall Street and acquired more space on Queen Street. He officially changed the name of his business to Morris Garages.

In 1912, Morris designed the Morris "Bullnose" Oxford car and built them in a factory in Cowley, Oxford. To read more about the cars he designed and built; please read the article, "Background to the MG", on The Roadster Factory website at <http://the-roadster-factory.com/Images/POTW/MG-Origins/MG-history.html>

FOR SALE

MGA radiator fan shroud, Moss \$49.89 - \$32.00 Jan.

Starter MG-TD, MG-TF, TR250, MGA, Moss \$109.99 - 75.00 Jan.

Contact Steve Bradley, Orange City sbradley5@cfl.rr.com 386-775-9558, 386-801-2624 cell .



Celebrations

By: Gene



January Birthdays

Anita Elworthy January 3
Celia Martin January 11
Bill Kooy January 13

Happy Anniversary

Steve and Deborah Bradley January 6

2019 ABCC Upcoming Club Activities

Do you have an idea for an event? Contact Steve at SBradley5@cfl.rr.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- JANUARY 3-5, 2020 "Roar before the Rolex 24" IMSA test days. Daytona, FL - <http://www.imsa.com/>
- JANUARY 2-12, 2020 Mecum Auction. Kissimmee, FL. - www.Mecum.com
- JANUARY 22-26, 2020 Cavallino Classic, Ferrari Gathering. Palm Beach, FL. - <http://www.cavallinoclassic.com/>
- JANUARY 24, 2020 BMW Endurance Challenge. Daytona Beach, FL - <http://sportscarchallenge.imsa.com/>
- JANUARY 25-26, 2020 Rolex 24 hours of Daytona. Daytona Beach, FL.** - <http://www.imsa.com/>
- FEBRUARY 7-9, 2020 Boca Raton Concours d' Elegance. Boca Raton, FL - www.bocaratonconcours.com
- FEBRUARY 10, 2020 Sir John Black's Birthday, drive your Triumph day. - Worldwide event
- FEBRUARY 16, 2020 27th Annual All Brit Car Show. Boca Raton, FL** - www.goldcoastbritcar.com/
- FEBRUARY 20-22, 2020 British Motor Trade Assoc. Annual conference, St. Petersburg, FL.** - <http://www.britcar.org/bmta-2020-conference-st-petersburg-fl>
- FEBRUARY 21-23, 2020 Winter Florida Autofest. Lakeland, FL. <http://www.carlisleevents.com/events/schedule>
- FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1, 2020 Spring Vintage Classic (SVRA) Sebring Raceway, Sebring, FL - www.svra.com/
- MARCH 5-8, 2020 Amelia Island Car Show. Amelia Island, FL.** - www.ameliaconcours.org
- MARCH 7, 2020 Annual Festivals of Speed. Omni Amelia Island Plantation. Amelia Island, FL - www.festivalsofspeed.com
- MARCH 18-21, 2020 Sebring Support races. Sebring, FL - www.imsa.com
- MARCH 20, 2020 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) 1000 Miles of Sebring. Sebring, FL - <https://www.fia.com/events/world-endurance-championship/season-2019/fia-world-endurance-championship>
- MARCH 21, 2020 Mobil 1 12 hrs. of Sebring. Sebring, FL. - www.imsa.com
- MARCH 26-29, 2020 HSR Spring Fling. Sebring, FL www.hsrrace.com
- MARCH 26-29, 2020 Road Atlanta Grand Prix. Braselton, GA - www.svra.com/
- MARCH 27-29, 2020 Daytona Beach Spring Car Show and Swap Meet. Daytona Beach, FL** - <http://www.turkeyrun.com>
- APRIL 4, 2020 36th Annual British Car Show. Central Winds Park, Winter Springs, FL** - www.allbritishcarclub.com/
- APRIL 17-19, 2020 54th Annual GOF South. Howey-In-The-Hills, FL** - <https://www.gofsouth.org/>
- AUG 31 – SEPT 4, 2020 VTR2020. Galena, IL** - (no additional information) - <https://vintagetriumphregister.org/>



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