



Midge Owners and Builders Club Christmas Newsletter 2012

Secretary: John Bircumshaw,
15 Westminster Drive, Burbage, Hinckley LE10 2HA
Email: johnbirc@btinternet.com

Dear Members,

Christmas is almost upon us, and I am unprepared as usual! I hope that you will accept my apologies for this seasonal round-up instead of the usual magazine as I give you a résumé of the Club over the past year.

We have produced a quarterly magazine which I hope has been well received and in the last 12 months another twelve members have joined from the UK and from France, The Netherlands, Sweden and the USA. This is one of the joys of the internet, where it is just as easy to keep in touch with a member on the other side of the world as someone just down the road. Tom Sherring recently visited Australia and met up with our Australian member Matt Stafford as the pictures show. Also, my basic knowledge of the French language has improved as I have sought to respond to enquiries from members in France in their mother tongue!



**Our Australian Member Matt Stafford meets
Tom Sherring from Hampshire on his recent trip
down-under**

One of our previous members, Bryan Coventry, has re-joined recently, and we give him a very warm welcome into the Club once again. I will give more details about Bryan in the next Magazine.

Our total membership now stands around 90, although I am aware that a number of members have sold their cars so they may not wish to continue in the New Year.



**What happens under the bonnet is often a bit of
a mystery!**

Neil Russell who is our Club Webmaster deserves sincere thanks from all of us. Without the Website there would be less communication between members, and certainly we should not be able to attract members from abroad. Neil continues to do a great job, and at the time of writing this message we have achieved more than 19,000 hits which is a wonderful response to Neil's hard work.

I have had the pleasure of meeting a number of you. It is always good to put faces to names, and it has been great to get to know Jim Hewlett, Rob Garrett, Fred Swansborough and Roger West on a more personal level. I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting JC, who started it all by inventing the Midge, but I am in regular contact with him, and I understand that his new project is almost ready to go public. Perhaps we could have a special 'register' within the MOBC for John's latest project!

Of course it has been disappointing that we have not been able to arrange any meetings at shows etc, but our home membership is widely scattered across the UK and Midge owners are not well known for traveling long distances in their cars. The exception to this rule is Dave Harvey who travelled in his Midge from Derby across Europe via France and Switzerland to Italy and then by ferry from Venice to Corfu. His homeward trip was via the southern tip of Italy, through Austria, Germany and Belgium to the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme, eventually returning to Derby. We congratulate Dave on his marathon journey which was done to support the Charity Help4heroes, and must have been the experience of a lifetime.

Financially, we are in a healthy position, so I'm sure that you will all be pleased to know that no further subscriptions will be needed next year.

And what of the future?

We are in a strong position, both financially and in terms of our membership, but I feel the time is coming for me to take a step back from some of the day to day activities as I am now in my eighth year as Secretary and general dogs body, but be assured that I do not wish to give up my whole involvement, unless another volunteer comes along who is prepared to take on the job! The task of organizing the Club can be broken down into the following headings:-

- Keeping the Membership records and the Accounts up to date, including the Members' List.

- Responding to technical and membership queries.
- Issuing sets of drawings and the Build Manuals to new members.
- Producing the quarterly magazine.
- Arranging visits to shows and places of interest
- Liaising with Neil over the Club Website.

If anyone would like to help then do let me know. I shall be only too pleased to share some of these tasks so feel free to contact me for more details.

Here is a photograph sent in by one of our French Members, Pierre Rene Lecoq whose home is in the Le-Catel region of France.



Pierre's collection includes a Moss Malvern, a Moss Monaco, and a Midge so he is obviously a great enthusiast for the cars designed by JC.

The next task is to update our database for next year. I am attaching a form for you to complete and return to me on line. If all your details are the same as I currently hold in the Member's List (also enclosed) then please fill in your name and tick the 'No Change' box. If I don't hear anything by mid-January, I'll assume that you no longer wish to continue your membership of our club.

It only remains for me to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year in 2013. Future economic prospects are not brilliant, but our hobby remains good value for money as the Midge can be built and enjoyed as a relatively cheap and exciting hobby as many members have proved.

John