Southampton and New Forest, MGOC

Newsletter
November 2025

Wembley Stadium Closed 2020



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The stadium's first turf was cut by King George V and it was first opened to the public on 28 April 1923. Much of Humphry Repton's original Wembley Park landscape was transformed in 1922–23 during preparations for the British Empire Exhibition of 1924–25. First known as the "British Empire Exhibition Stadium"[3] or simply the "Empire Stadium", the construction was carried out by Sir Robert McAlpine[4] for the British Empire Exhibition[5] of 1924 (extended to 1925).

The stadium cost £750,000 (equivalent to approximately £49.81 million in 2023) and was constructed on the site of a folly called Watkin's Tower. The architects were Sir John Simpson and Maxwell Ayrton and the head engineer Sir Owen Williams. The original intention was to demolish the stadium at the end of the Exhibition, but it was saved at the suggestion of Sir James Stevenson, a Scot who was chairman of the organising committee for the Empire Exhibition. The ground had been used for football as early as the 1880s.

At the end of the exhibition, which proved to be a financial disappointment, the site at Wembley was considered by many to be a vast 'white elephant'. It was bought by a property speculator, James White, who planned to sell off the buildings for redevelopment, including the stadium which had been the centrepiece of the exhibition. Arthur Elvin, an ex-RFC officer who had worked in a tobacco kiosk at the exhibition and had previous experience working for a scrap metal firm, was employed by White to oversee the sale of the buildings and the clearance of the Wembley site.

The stadium had gone into liquidation after it was pronounced "financially unviable". After nine months, having earned a good sum from selling various buildings on the site, Elvin agreed to buy the stadium from White for a total of £127,000 as a £12,000 downpayment and the balance plus interest payable over ten years.

Facing personal bankruptcy, White killed himself at his home, King Edward's Place, in 1927. This caused financial complications for Elvin, requiring him to raise money within two weeks to buy the stadium before it too was demolished. He was able to finance this by forming the 'Wembley Stadium and Greyhound Racecourse Company'. He raised the money to buy the stadium at the original price he had agreed with White, then immediately sold it back to the company, leaving him with a healthy personal profit. Instead of cash, he received shares in the company, which gave him the largest individual stake in Wembley Stadium, and subsequently became chairman.

Elvin was able to make a considerable profit with the introduction of greyhound racing from 1927 and is credited with saving the stadium from closure and demolition.

The electric scoreboard and the all-encircling roof, made from aluminium and translucent glass, were added in 1963.

In 1977 fences were erected around the pitch following the England vs Scotland match when Scotland fans invaded the pitch and vandalised the pitch and goalposts. These fences were taken down following the Hillsborough disaster in 1989.

The stadium's distinctive Twin Towers became its trademark and nickname. Also well-known were the 39 steps needed to be climbed to reach the Royal box and collect a trophy (and winners'/losers' medals). In 1934, the Empire Pool was built nearby. The

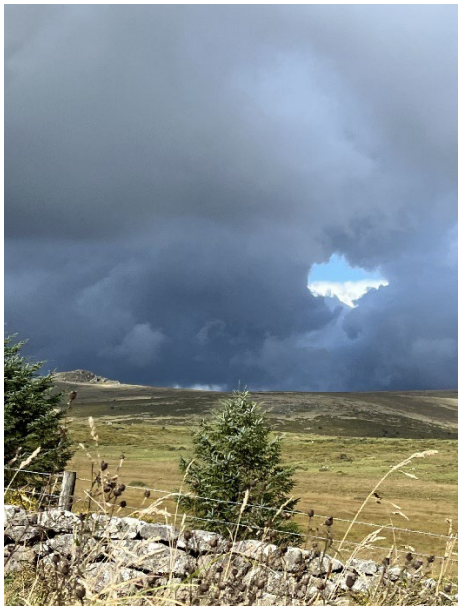
"Wembley Stadium Collection" is held by the National Football Museum. The stadium closed in October 2000 and demolition commenced in December 2002, completing in 2003 for redevelopment. The top of one of the twin towers was erected as a memorial in the park on the north side of Overton Close in the nearby Saint Raphael's Estate.

The cities of Birmingham and Coventry launched bids to become the new home of England's football team following disputes and a political row regarding the new Wembley's construction.]These bids were ultimately unsuccessful as the FA chose in 2002 to keep the national team at the new Wembley once completed.



Aerial view of Wembley Stadium, 1991

This amazing picture was taken by Niki Moore on the Taymar Run



Editor's Notes



Hello Everyone

October certainly October blew in with a strange mix of weather. Now the clocks have gone back, and the evenings are drawing in, we are now looking forward to cosy nights in front of a fire (or by a radiator) and, dare I say it, preparations for the Christmas season. I know some members like to Sorn their cars for the winter, so I expect they are wrapped up in their garages (the cars not the members)!

Luckily there were still some events for members to attend during October. Once again, thank you to everyone who sent their articles in to me.

The Christmas Dinner and dance is proceeding well with 38 attendees. Just a reminder from Jane that final payment is due by Monday 3rd November 2025.

After the meeting on Wednesday 5th November, I will have a supply of **Member of the Year** nomination slips for anyone who has not already completed one. Please come and find me to complete yours.

If you prefer, please send your nomination to me on the Editor email address. At this moment in time, I am not sure if I will be at the mid monthly event on 19th November, to hand out any further slips. **The closing date for nominations will be Thursday 20th November**. This allows plenty of time to get the shield engraved to be presented at the Christmas Party.

Yvonne

editor@1009mg.org.uk



Secretary's Scribbles

Well, that's Halloween done and now ready for Bonfire Night –

October was a particularly busy month, during which I devoted considerable time, gratefully supported by the invaluable efforts of Yvonne and Robin, to compiling documents and proposals for presentation at our Extraordinary Special Meeting.

Choosing to remain in post until the proposed structure is fully implemented and running smoothly has not been an easy decision. That said, I'm confident in the strength and dedication of our team, who I know will work tirelessly to keep the Club on track.

Looking ahead, our New Forest Run start-up meeting is just around the corner. With the date confirmed for Sunday, 7th June 2026, the venue secured, and skittles booked for Saturday the 6th, we're well on our way to delivering another fantastic event.

November's mid-monthly gathering will be held at the Rockingham Arms - a perennial favourite. Despite the darker evenings, I hope many of you will come along to support Ivor and Janet.

December brings a festive flurry of activity: Club Night on the 3rd, our Christmas Party on the 13th, and the mid-monthly on the 17th at the Waterloo Arms in Lyndhurst, where we'll host our traditional Christmas raffle in support of Parkinson's UK.

Have a good month.

Fiona

SOUTH DOWNS RUN

By Ivor and Janet Binns

NOTE from the Editor. My apologies to Ivor and Janet as I missed off some of the photos and write ups in the October Newsletter.

This year we were the only car from 1009 to take part in the 35th South Downs Run. It is one of our favourite runs as it takes in lovely countryside following the South Downs and ending on the lawns on the seafront at Eastbourne.

For the second year the start was from the Southdown Gliding Club, Cootham, near Storrington.

There and back in a day is a long run so we decided to stay the night before in a Hotel in Pulborough which only meant a 5-minute drive to the start.





The Gliding Club offers good facilities for refreshments and toilets before the start. Many Glider pilots were getting their aircraft ready for their flights. These gliders are pulled up by light aircraft. The weather was perfect for flying and enjoying our MG's.





There is plenty of room for parking at the start, which is just as well as there were nearly 200 cars attending. All cars had to leave by 10am as the gliders start to take off.

Rally plate fitted and Navigator ready for the off. The Run was approximately 70 miles and took in some lovely Sussex Villages and countryside.

We stopped in the Village of Ditchling for coffee. Ditchling is a pretty village but very busy especially with 200 MG's driving through it. This was the former home of Vera Lynn.

Our second stop was the Anchor Inn in Ringmer for lunch.



We arrived on the Lawns at Eastbourne after driving along the coast road alongside Beachy Head. We will try and make time to visit the Vistors Centre another year.



The oldest car taking part was this 1932 MG 2M with fabric body. The newest was a Cyberster.





Only one MG Magnette ZB took part but was a very nice example in an attractive colour combination. There is always someone ready to show off their engine bay.



As usual entertainment was provided by The Boulevards. These are a rock and roll band playing 50's and 60's music and surprisingly they all look under 30. If you have never done this run, we would thoroughly recommend it. There were obviously many more cars present but these in particular caught my eye.



The Alpha Romeo Club put on a good display. or more. I always liked this model



The car I would take home, a GTO, probably worth £5m but if you are Nick Mason from Pink Floyd , you have his and hers.





Roger Clark's London to Sydney Rally car, Lotus Cortina mk2.



I still like the MK 1 and this a lovely and the owner said he has it insures for £40K.



This Ford Consul was complete with very 50's accessories including the sun visor, space age wing mirrors and port holes On the wing.



This was a very nice restored 1965 Cooper S.



Being an Audi fan, it was nice to see this early Coupe example



The car that started the upmarket SUV trend. Now SUV's are everywhere



. A concourse looking MGA





A one off. A Cadillac, once owned by the Duke of Windsor. The same car for those who love to polish chrome.

Club Night – 1st October 2025

Club night was well attended to say "Thank you" to Sue at Exbury Club for hosting the New Forest Run in June, and to handover a cheque to Nigel from Waterside Gateway Club.

Fiona thanked Sue and all the staff at Exbury Club for their hard work in helping to make the New Forest Run such a success. A bag of goodies was presented to Sue by Fiona.

Fiona then presented a cheque for £500 to Nigel from Waterside Gateway Club. Nigel expressed his grateful thanks for the donation.









Club members looking resplendent in their 25th NFR Anniversary polo shirts.

Waterside Gateway Club

Forwarded from Fiona

I have just received this from the Waterside Gateway club - they are certainly really pleased with our donation.

Waterside Gateway Club

CHARITY NUMBER: 1151877

Dear Fiona,

I have been asked by our Chairman, Mr Nigel Cooper, to pass on our sincere thanks for the very generous donation of £500.00 made by the Southampton and New Forest MG Owners Club.

The Waterside Gateway Club, meet regularly at Exbury. It is with the support of organisations like yours and the patronage of Jim and Sue at Exbury Club that enables us to provide social outings for our special members.

Please thank all your members.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Vokes
Membership Secretary.
The Waterside Gateway Club

Our thanks to Julie Rumsey who gave Fiona a copy of the 18th September-9th October copy of the Herald a community magazine. On page 2 was an article featuring Ruth Dennison handing over the cheque to Lesley Brooks from the Minstead Trust.

The
HERALD
Your Community Magazine
Est: 1994

LOCAL MG CAR OWNERS GROUP RAISE MONEY FOR LOCAL CHARITY

The Southampton and New Forest MG Owners Group recently donated £2000 to Minstead Trust following their 2025 New Forest car run in June.



Lesley Brooks (right) accepting the cheque from the Southampton and New Forest MG Owners Group

Lesley Brooks accepted the cheque, commenting: *"We are so grateful to this wonderful local group, who love their MGs and love raising money for local charities, this amazing amount of money will do a great deal to support the work of the Trust, helping people with learning disabilities to thrive and lead lives of their choosing."*

Jumble Sale Totton

Totton Sunflowers WI invite you to go along and support them at their Jumble Sale on **Saturday 11th October** at the Three Score Club, Totton (next to the Library carpark) between 10am and 12noon.

British Leyland Rally at Milton Keynes Museum and Breakfast with Vintage Tyres, NMM, Beaulieu

By Martin Charles

On Sunday 28th September I accompanied mate Mike in his Austin 1300 up to the Milton Keynes Museum, for the 20th British Leyland Rally. A wet, dank morning as we drove up, but about ½ an hour after we arrived, the rain eased and then stopped, which was a relief.





Of course, Milton Keynes was famous for its straight roads and numerous roundabouts, some of which had concrete cows on, remembered by these miniatures, Mike's yellow 1300 just over my left shoulder. It was a very enjoyable day, with all manner of British Leyland marques on display, with many MG variants amongst them 1100/1300's, Metro, Maestro and Montego. There was a special parking area for MG/Rover cars which included several MG F/TF's and Z's as well. We had a great day, in addition to the Rally there was free admission to the Museum and a large autojumble/traders' area, definitely one for our diaries again next year.

Saturday 11th October was the first of two Autumn breakfast meets with Vintage Tyres at NMM, Beaulieu.




The weather gods were being kind once again with an overcast but dry morning. The thing I enjoy about these meets are, one it is free to attend and two you never know what is going to turn up. Add in the bonus of the mobile food outlet, I enjoyed a bacon and sausage roll with coffee, it is a nice, relaxed way to enjoy the morning.





The picture on the left sums up the diversity of what turns up, a Sinclair C5 and a mighty AC Cobra Coupe V8 replica. The lad's dad, stood on the left, had restored it for him and he had a wonderful morning raising lots of smiles as he toured round the carparks, tooting the horn to warn of his presence. It was nice to bump into Linda Taylor and Nick in Linda's Midget and Roger Maughan in his Lexus Coupe.

I also took the opportunity to go into the Museum to look at the Icons of F1 display, which if you are quick can still be seen until 2nd November.





The last breakfast meet of this year is on Saturday 15th November from 08:30 to 11:30, so it would be nice to see you there.

More photographs from Vintage Tyres Breakfast from our new club member – Geoff Lowe

The event was hosted by Vintage Tyres of Beaulieu & usually happens when the venue is not hosting a 'Simply' event or similar, so more than likely early in the season or Autumn time. It's very popular, or has become so, with a vast selection of cars, bikes, military & Americana showing up. I didn't see more than 3 other MG's however and didn't catch an owner so i could ask if they were from 1009mg. There is another meet on the 15th November so maybe, if the weather is kind, we may get to see a few more members!





















BREAKFAST WITH VINTAGE TYRES AT BEAULIEU

By Linda Taylor

On certain days of the year Vintage Tyres have a breakfast meet, in the grounds of the National Motor Museum on a Saturday between 8.30 - 11.30am. Any vehicle of any age welcome - if you love it - bring it, to park up & chat to like-minded enthusiasts, it is free, you can come & go when you like, & dogs are welcome. Cars, motor bikes, campers, trucks, tanks & traction engines all rock up, & walking up & down the rows, seeing pristine, ordinary, rare, interesting & patina. They had breakfast vans there serving a proper breakfast menu, didn't partake as they had just had breakfast, but said it was very good, & could tell from the long queues. I hope I have taken some photos to show you the eclectic mix, the last one of the year is November 15th.

Club contacts

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WEBMASTER
Fiona Sommerville

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NEW FOREST RUN ENTRIES HANDLER (2026)
Eric Moore

mailto:nfrun@1009mg.org.uk

Please note that all these roles are volunteers and we are happy to help and offer advice but please contact us before 9pm – *thank you*