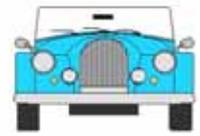




# FolkMog News



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Welcome to the 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of FolkMog News. Please note the new addition to the header above. If you haven't visited the web site run for us by Alan & Diana Biddlecombe do take a look, it is pretty good and getting better all the time. As a result of having the web site FolkMog News will appear a little less frequently than in the past as much of the information will be duplicated here and on the web, but there is no plan to kill it off just yet, so those of you without internet access will still get updates this way.

As usual at this time of year the minutes of the planning meeting, held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at the Duke's Head, Somerleyton, are included below following a couple of reports on recent major events.

## (Fairly) Recent events

### FolkMog Gymkhana – August 13<sup>th</sup>

At eight o'clock the outlook was grim. Rain had been falling most of the night and it was still falling. Should I ring the organisers of the annual FolkMog Gymkhana to see if it was cancelled or not? It then occurred to me that Morganeers are made of sterner stuff than most and a little rain would not deter them.

Consequently we raised ourselves from our warm pit and got ready to go. By the time readiness had been achieved there was a slight lightening of the sky so in typically optimistic fashion we started off without the roof. This turned out to be a good move as we did not need it all day.

By the time we arrived at Combs there were already several cars there. Ian was busy completing the course and Dilys was welcoming everyone with coffee or tea. Maurice and Eileen were busy with the signing-in. All those already there were pitching in with help as and where they could. With brilliant timing I offered my help just as everything was complete.

At the appropriate time, around 11:30, Maurice called us all around for a briefing on the tests before us.

There would be five tests but, because of the size of the garden, we would complete the first three and then learn about the last two. The first test consisted of a pole, a long rope attached to the pole, and a ball attached to the centre of the rope. The idea was



Roger & Linda Coverley circling the pole. The rope had to be held in the left hand only

to drive in a circle with your passenger holding the rope without pulling their arm out of its socket or allowing the ball to touch the ground; either of these

misdemeanours would result in a yellow card and two yellow cards meant disqualification. As many circuits of the pole in two minutes as was possible was the aim. I managed zero. Others did much better.

The second test was a test of brinkmanship and reversing. From a start position the driver had to look back and tell the judges how far apart to put two poles. Then reverse between the two poles without touching them. The distances from the car



Martin Page looking a little concerned about those posts, whilst Caroline checks the other side watched closely by judge Diana Biddlecombe

to the poles on either side were measured. The driver then had to reverse further and get close to another pole without touching it. The third measurement, from the back of the car to the pole was then taken and the three were added. Lowest won. There was, of course, a fifty centimetre penalty for touching a pole.



Eileen Cook tries to keep the water in the bucket whilst Brian Turner does the difficult bit!

The third test was to be a cross-country drive, well cross-garden drive really, whilst the passenger carried

a bucket of water. Does it need saying that the bucket had holes in the bottom and the passenger had to fill it and run to the car before the driving could commence. Perhaps not, but I've said it anyway. The winner was the person to bring back most water.

The fourth test was to be mainly concerned with car control and the ability of the passenger to reach as far out of the car as possible whilst keeping their seat-belt on. A zig-zag course in and out of apple



Pat & Alan Braithwaite collecting apples

trees had been described and on the way were a series of tubs in which floated some apples. As many apples as possible were to be collected without going the wrong way through the trees or stopping the car.



Roger Tatton & Caroline Page, Caroline struggling with a jammed seat belt and both struggling with laughter

The final test was a simple matter (I would like to add a hollow laugh here) of reversing into three 'garages' in the shape of cones and tape and depositing a tennis ball in a bucket. All this without

touching cones or tape. The fastest to complete the course won

Once everyone had completed the tests the scoring could begin. Clearly at least a degree in difficult sums was going to be required so I kept a low profile.

The calculations seemed to go on for a long time but nobody minded as we stood in the sunshine sipping wine and talking to old and new friends and time slipped by gently after the afternoon's exertions. Finally the mathematics were complete and the results announced. The lady runner-up was Liz Prentice ably assisted by her passenger, Ken Prentice. The gentleman runner up was Ken Prentice, ably assisted by Liz! The winner was Roger Tatton aided by Caroline Page.



Roger & Caroline receiving the Gymkhana Trophy

What a cracking day this was. Everyone enjoyed themselves, passengers often found themselves being passengers for several cars and some drivers who had not come in a Morgan even found themselves with a car loaned to them so they could compete. For me this was the true spirit of FolkMog and many thanks should go to all concerned, not least Ian and Dilys for providing an idyllic setting and Maurice and Eileen for all their hard work.

Thanks to Alan Biddlecombe for this report, filched from the web site. The full table of results is also available on the web.

### FolkMog trip to the Yorkshire Dales – September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

Just as I went to get the car from the garage it began to drizzle so on went the roof - a good move as it turned out because as we drove on towards Yorkshire the worse the weather became and most

of the journey was spent in torrential rain and blinding spray. Road works and accidents didn't help progress and we eventually arrived at the Charles Bathurst (known as the C.B.) Inn, at Langthwaite in the Yorkshire Dales, just before seven, or an hour and a half after the sat-nav's original estimate! Not all bad news though as by the time we arrived the rain had stopped and we could unload the car without getting wet. Some of our clothing in the suitcase was a little damp in places but we can overcome little things like that, although our room looked a bit like a jumble sale for the rest of the weekend as things dried out.

A couple of pints of Black Sheep brewery's Riggwelter in the traditional and busy bar, thankfully devoid of music or fruit machines, made me feel much better and this was followed by an excellent meal enjoyed by the nine couples who were staying at the C. B. Inn, and Peter and Tyra Smith who were staying just down the road.

On Saturday morning the weather was much better, roofs were stowed away and all set out in various directions to explore the local area. We found a



Alan & Pat Braithwaite setting off for a day exploring the Yorkshire Dales

farmers' market in Leyburn which yielded some interesting pottery and a cheese flavoured with Theakston's old Peculier beer (you can see where my tastes lie)! After a coffee we went on to the attractive market town of Richmond with its massive ruined castle and the largest market square in the country. Sadly the pubs didn't match up to the rest of the town but we eventually found a tea shop which provided quite a good sandwich lunch, after which we devised own scenic run back to Langthwaite.

We were joined in the evening by Russell and Angela Sayers who had taken a lot of trouble preparing a scenic run for us and had even set up

camp in their trailer tent nearby. Unfortunately when they arrived on Sunday morning to lead us on the run the weather had turned again and it was rainy with low cloud right down to the surface, so the scenic run as such was abandoned. However many of us planned to meet up about lunchtime at the Wensleydale Creamery, home of the only genuine Wensleydale cheese, as this was a planned stop on the scenic run. Perhaps we could pick things up from there if the weather improved.

It was still raining when I tried to turn round in a lane and managed to get the car well and truly grounded. Martin and Caroline, who were with us, thought this was hilarious and proceeded to take photographs whilst I tried to work out how to get all four wheels back on the ground. Sadly the pictures didn't come out as, unknown to Martin at the time, the drive on his camera had broken. I would have included one for general hilarity if it had been available. Anyway, about ten feet away was a handy builders plank so I jacked the car up, put the plank under one rear wheel and rolled the car off again. No damage done and it hadn't delayed us long.



Chrissie Tatton, Martin Page, Caroline Page and Roger Tatton above Wensleydale

We made it to the Wensleydale Creamery OK and the weather did gradually improve. By the time we had finished lunch the sun was out, it was time to remove the roof again, and we managed to complete quite a lot of the beautiful scenic run,

though in the opposite direction to that planned.

Next Morning was dry and bright as we set off for home but by the time we reached Sleaford it had started to rain and we arrived home in a downpour, only slightly damp but having watched the three couples with new V6s putting their roofs on and off in quick time we were determined to get a roof that is easier to use - the car is off to Allon White's at the end of November to have one of their modified hoods fitted!

For anyone visiting the northern Yorkshire Dales the C.B. Inn is highly recommended. A bit off the beaten track but the food and the beer are both superb and the accommodation is excellent.

### Track Day, Snetterton – October 18<sup>th</sup>

Very few takers this year, only 5 cars from FolkMog plus one from Oxmog. However, I gather those that did go along had another great day. If you would like to attend a track day Gold Track are organising another on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The price for MSCC members is the same, £130 including loan of a helmet and free tuition if required. Please book by email to [morgan@goldtrack.co.uk](mailto:morgan@goldtrack.co.uk) or by phone on 01327 361361 and mention you are from FolkMog

### Planning Meeting - November 12<sup>th</sup>

Thanks to Eileen Cook for the following minutes of the meeting:-

Maurice opened the meeting at 2pm thanking the 33 members for attending. No nominations for official posts were forthcoming and current officials endorsed the earlier decision to give 12 months notice to stand down.

#### Officials:

The Chairman, Chris Dady thought all 2006 events had been much enjoyed by many members and thanked Maurice & Eileen for their hard work organising such a successful programme.

Maurice Cook as Secretary hoped the mixture of events could be continued. He promised that where possible he would include road names in his directions to venues for the benefit of Sat/Nav users.

Then as Treasurer he reported that finances were satisfactory although cash in hand was slightly down on last year.

Sandra Hunt, Regalia Officer, reported all garments were still available through the catalogue.

Roger Tatton, FolkMog News editor, said that he and the FolkMog Website Team, Alan & Diana Biddlecombe, were currently attempting to harmonise the contents and timing of material in the newssheet and on the website. Again he asked for any articles by members concerning events or motoring experiences.

Alan and Diana Biddlecombe were thanked for their hard work on the website. Alan said that future events would be listed, events already reported transferred to the archive page and the 'update' date shown on the Home page. As they became more experienced other avenues would be considered.



FolkMoggers outside the Duke's Head at Somerleyton

**Review of 2006 Events:** Not The Christmas Lunch (NTCL) remained the most popular event, closely followed by the Treasure Hunt and Gymkhana. The least well attended were the Track Day and June boat trip at Morston, the latter probably due to June being a popular holiday month for members. Also attendance at the October evening noggins had been disappointing and it was decided to restrict evening noggins to May to September. The Chequers at Thompson was considered to be a good pub for such a summer evening meeting.

**2007 Programme:** NTCL on 14 January to be held at Gissing Hall - menus would be distributed after the December meeting. Discussion then took place concerning our Silver Jubilee event to be held on 5th & 6th May centred at the George Hotel, Swaffham. Ian Charity, Dave Kennett and Richard & Ruth

Brown offered to be on an organising committee for this event. Chris Dady and Ian Warner were getting in touch with past Secretaries to invite them to join us. The committee would discuss commemorative items/ dress for the evening dance and other possible activities over the two days. Accommodation bookings for the Saturday night (or more nights) should now be made directly with the George Hotel, Swaffham (01760 721238), quoting the Morgan Car Club Anniversary Dinner.

A talk and slide show by Jeremy Rivers-Fletcher on motor racing and his father's involvement with Sir Malcolm Campbell and BRM, were discussed. This had been recommended by the Warwickshire Centre, and Flixton Village Hall as a venue, was offered by Sandra & Terry Hunt. Costs would be investigated before confirming the event. Should it not prove viable Chris Dady recommended Andrew Kirby as an alternative speaker.

The annual Gymkhana could again be at Ian Charity's - any suggestions for new devious driving tests would be much appreciated by Maurice.

Maurice informed the meeting that the Sherwood Forest Centre might visit Norfolk in the Summer and if so, he would arrange a get-together with them.

Various proposals including some from absentees, were discussed and those gaining most support were:

Friday evening race meeting at Newmarket (Roy May to progress)

Treasure Hunt around Lavenham then lunch at The Angel (Braithwaites to be asked to progress)

Adnams Southwold Brewery Tour (Alan & Diana Biddlecombe to progress)

Summer evening visit to Archant Print Works in Norwich (Ken Prentice to progress).

Discussion took place regarding a foreign trip to France or Norway, however it was agreed that for 2007 we should simply progress a possible autumn weekend in the UK.

## Forthcoming Events

On the Sunday 10th December we have managed to reserve just 20 places at The Spread Eagle, Barton Bendish. This is an extremely popular eating house with a reputation for fine dining, and they require a £5 per person deposit with main course and starter choices a week before. So if you would like to be among the 20 attendees, contact Maurice with your

selections from the menu that you should have received by email, **by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** .

After the Yuletide celebrations, it will be time for our annual prize giving event 'Not The Christmas Lunch' This traditionally popular event will be held on Sunday 14th January at the Gissing Hall Hotel, near Diss. We have hired their ballroom with its own bar. The hotel has provided a menu for the lunch that consists of 3 courses, including coffee at £15 each. Maurice will send out the menu in early January. Firm orders will be required to enable him to liaise with the hotel, however they have agreed to waive a deposit as we have booked the room.

FolkMog does not charge a Centre subscription and this occasion is also an opportunity to help shore up our funds, so would you please bring along a small

prize for the raffle that will be drawn after the awards. Chris Dady has been persuaded to devise another of his excellent, popular and devious quizzes.

Finally, a reminder of the FolkMog Silver Anniversary. In order to commemorate this auspicious occasion we shall be having a special 25th Anniversary weekend next year. Our intentions are that on Saturday 5th May there will be a dinner/dance at The George, Swaffham with overnight accommodation available, followed by a scenic run to a pub for lunch on the Sunday morning. Full details to follow but in the meantime, if you would like to book accommodation for the Saturday night contact the George Hotel, Swaffham on 01760 721238 quoting 'Morgan Car Club Anniversary.

Chrissie and I will be unable to make the lunch on 10<sup>th</sup> December or 'Not The Christmas Lunch' in January so now is the time to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New year.

# Roger

MSCC Eastern Counties (FolkMog) is a part of The Morgan Sports Car Club Limited.  
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