

## Presidents annual report 2024

Hi all,

Well, here I am again, writing up another annual report as president, and not to break the habit of a lifetime, several days overdue with editor Steve getting very cross with me. However you'll all be pleased to know this one will be my last as I'm standing aside from committee this year – you'll have far less waffle to read, and one less person to chase for overdue MaG copy for Steve. The girls are both growing up and have extra curricular activities every night of the week, and with Jennie and I both working full time (plus managing a new business of our own in our mythical "spare time"), we don't have the time to put into the club as we once did. I have been on the committee since (I think) 2006 other than our OE in Germany, with the last 5 years as president so I think it's time for someone else to inject fresh ideas into the club. I feel privileged that I've been able to work with a great bunch of people throughout that time who've all given a lot to the club, so thank you to all those past and present committee colleagues. I also feel fortunate to be leaving the club in good hands – the incoming committee is a fantastic group who all put in a lot of effort behind the scenes to make our club so successful.

We are running more events than ever, so there is an increasing amount of work for the committee, and it is falling on a decreasing number of shoulders, most of whom also work full time. In other words, more help is always welcome, on or off the committee – if you've got an idea for an event you'd like to run, or you're keen to help out in any way, get in touch with a committee member.

It has been a very busy year, with our MG100 celebrations kicking off in December with the Christmas Concours, and highlighted by the MG100 National Rally – from an organisers perspective it was nice to get really positive feedback as it meant most hadn't seen some of the scrambling behind the scenes to get things all together! It was a thoroughly enjoyable event from my perspective, we had a lot of public visitors through during the display days, all our overseas visitors have been asking when the next one will be so we must've got some of it right. Following MG100, our other major public centenary event was the Eilerslie Intermarque Concours where we had a big display of cars in the inner circle. Dad put in a lot of late nights getting the display together, and again we had a lot of positive feedback and wrangled 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the team display.

Membership is down slightly from last year at approx. 560 but still very strong. There are a few areas of focus for the incoming committee, in particular the changes to the Incorporated Societies Act and refreshing our public-facing material – website, physical brochures etc – to reflect the expanding model lines with the modern MGs. We have a good relationship with MG New Zealand and Giltrap MG who have both supported our events and happy to give out information to customers on the club.

Lastly, I of course have to thank my entire family (and there are a lot of them, so I'm not going to list them all separately because Steve doesn't have enough pages in the MaG) who all help out in one way or another for the club, particularly Dad who has been on the committee longer than me and organises so many events for the club. However, I'll sign off by saying thank you to Lily, Devon and of course Jennie, who have not only put up with me spending long hours on club stuff and being hauled along to events, but have also helped out a tremendous amount behind the scenes (that's mostly Jennie, Lily and Devon are too busy socialising) and have the octagonal bug at least as much as me.

I'll leave you with one last anecdote (which I may have already used in a presidential, but never mind) – unlike a lot of their contemporaries, Lily and Devon are very keen on noisy cars (so long as they're "nice noisy", i.e. not a boy race mobile with a fart canon). When we visited Ross and Anne

Armstrong in Wellington last year they very kindly offered to lend us their (SUV) ZS EV, Lily's reaction to which was "I don't like it, it's too quiet". Jennie and I looked sideways at each other as this was about a week after we had put a deposit down on the MG4. Once we'd taken them for a drive down the first motorway onramp Lily said "Crrriikey Dad, now I know why you bought it."

Octagonally

Andrew