



MGB Centenary Meeting at Gaydon

Although MGBGTV8s were not the primary focus of this gathering, it was a well-attended event with a host of attractions to suit any fan of MGs. Jointly organised by several MG car clubs, including the MG Car Club, it was held on Saturday 27th May 2023 at a very attractive and appropriate venue – the British Motor Museum at Gaydon. This is becoming a popular venue for meetings of car clubs for the obvious reason that it is centrally located, has plenty of space for parking and outdoor exhibits, and entry to the museum itself is often included in the price of the event - useful if the weather is unkind.

As it turned out the weather could not have been better. There was blue sky and continuous sunshine throughout the day. The event opened at 10.00am but road runs had been organised from Swindon, Abingdon, Longbridge and Broughton Astley for those wishing to have reserved parking on the tarmac apron in front of the museum. MG cars of all varieties were arriving in succession from 10.00am onwards. Various gazebos had been erected and were attracting punters with memorabilia, parts, magazines and trinketry.



There were quite a few MGBV8s dotted around the parking areas, the GTV8s usually picked out by the distinctive wheels of the Factory cars and the RV8s by their unique shape.



There were some Roadster conversions and possibly some GT conversions, although since there was no dedicated MGBV8 parking area, it was difficult to assess how many.

One aspect of the event that I found particularly interesting was the '100 year Timeline'. The organisers had assembled 100



different MGs covering the 100 years since the formation of MG. (No arguments here about when the company was started!) Starting with a MG Super Sports from the 1920s, the exhibition went through successive years and models to reach the present day Chinese MGs. There may have been a couple of gaps from non-attendees but the line-up was impressive. Each car had an information poster explaining its history and the cars were for the most part in fantastic condition. The MGBGTV8s were represented Bracken 1218 driven over from Germany by Peter Forstner. In the sunshine, the cars looked magnificent and it took quite some time to wander down the line and examine those of interest in more detail.

There were three other particularly noteworthy happenings that piqued my interest:-

- **The long-awaited 'new' electric MG sports car, the Cyberster**, was present in the museum itself. With large signs saying 'no photography', the car was covered in camouflage wrapping but it was possible to get an idea of its size and shape. The recently published press photos in the media were more attractive!
- **The Bonneville MGZTT Land Speed Record breaking car** was on display and 'fired up' on three occasions during the day. There's no doubt it is an ear-splitting noise when standing a few yards away, but fortunately it was only for a minute or so before it was switched off.
- **There was also a flypast by a Spitfire** that gained the attention of the whole crowd. With several passes directly overhead, it was a magnificent sight that lasted too briefly.

In some ways this event might be considered as a **foretaste of the MGV8-50 event at Gaydon on Sunday 20th August 2023**, which celebrates the launch of the MGBGTV8 50 years ago. The venue is ideal for this type of meeting. An opportunity to concentrate on the MGV8s without the distractions of other MG models should provide a full day of entertainment for those primarily interested in the V8s. The use of a couple of meeting rooms in the conference part of the Museum to act as a focal point for MGV8

enthusiasts will be an added bonus and useful for those wanting a sit down and natter.

Report contributed by D J Worthington

