

## V8 Website report

### Aims for the V8 Website

We aim to have an active V8 Website with a good flow of useful information which fellow V8 members will feel is interesting, lively and topical and is also a valued part of their MG Car Club membership benefits. That information provides useful technical information and news on events – for example prompt reports on matters of interest to V8 members in budget statements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We aim to provide accurate and complete technical information and where necessary is peer reviewed by fellow members with technical knowledge.

The V8 website is run on an “open to all” basis providing access to visitors who are not current members of the MG Car Club and V8 Register but may be considering getting an MGV8 and/or joining our Club and V8 Register. As useful information for those potential members we have a special panel on the homepage of the V8 Website headed “Getting an MGV8” which is packed with useful links to information on getting an MGV8 and also a useful price guide.

### Technical information

Information and news items on technical topics, often covered by new workshop notes derived from threads posted on the two forums (V8 Bulletin Board and the V8 Register Facebook Group) and also in restoration and rebuild reports contributed by fellow members. The V8 Website has listings of the contents of the two sets of workshop notes and also a regular updates of the detailed index for each set of workshop notes – this pair of documents for each set enables members to search for information on technical topics. The editor of both sets of workshop notes is Peter Ellis.

<https://www.v8register.net/subpages/V8det.htm#latest>

<https://www.v8register.net/aa/UD2voIs/V8NOTES-Vol-0-Index.pdf>

<https://www.v8register.net/subpages/RV8det.htm#latest>

<https://www.v8register.net/FilesRV8WN/RV8NOTES-Vol-0-Index.pdf>

### Events – Rolling V8 Calendar

There is a regularly updated rolling calendar listing the V8 Register events, Club main events and other events over the next 12 to 15 months. That information provides useful technical information, news on events (provided by the MG Car Club, V8 Register and other bodies like Goodwood and the NEC & Stoneleigh shows).

<https://www.v8register.net/subpages/calendar.htm>

### MGV8 Price Guide & Market Review

For over 10 years we have had a price guide which is updated every six months and released in May and November. The price guide and market review cover each model – the Factory MGBGT V8 and MG RV8 but not MGV8 conversions.

<https://www.v8register.net/v8/profileprices.htm>

The guide is based on an analysis of the MGV8s spotted for sale or listed for auction using four condition classes – Exceptional & Conditions 1, 2 & 3. They are defined on this webpage:

<https://www.v8register.net/v8/profilepricesinfo.htm#condition>

The price guide is useful for V8 members setting the agreed value for their classic car insurance policies. We have heard that some brokers do use our guide for checking policyholders’ proposed agreed values!

### Activities on the V8 Website that generate useful income for the V8 Register

Since the formation of the V8 Register and the launch of the workshop notes service, sales of sets of workshop notes and later other items and services have generate a useful stream of net revenue to maintain the financial viability of the V8 Register, covering website costs and other admin costs. The V8 Register has never received any funding from Main Club.

Via our online V8 Shop those activities are:

- **Sale of sets of workshop notes and also updates**

In the last year we have switched to a digital files delivery system provided by WeTransfer because of three thefts of memory sticks whilst airmail packages were in transit with the suspected location of the theft at the UK distribution centre near London Heathrow Airport. Delivery by Twister memory stick is still offered to buyers in the UK but the take up of delivery by WeTransfer by UK based members has been strong. We no longer sell sets of workshop notes to non-members – before they were sold at a £17 (60%) premium, so are now a member-only service. Delivery Worldwide to V8 members by WeTransfer is £23.95 and to UK based V8 members by Twister memory as a Royal Mail at £27.95. The two workshop notes series are popular and have reached a total of 1,152 notes in 31 volumes plus copies of many technical useful manuals – together a successful substantial source of useful technical information

for MGV8 enthusiasts. The workshop notes have been contributed by fellow V8 Register members over the years.

- **Sale of MGV8s for Sale adverts**

We have two webpages – one for MGV8s for sale and the other from RV8s for sale. The offer on the online V8 Shop is a **standard advert** with a **link to a PDF document** with a full set of photos of the car offered for sale so a potential buyer can see the vehicle in reasonable details before deciding to contact the seller.

<https://www.v8register.net/subpages/MGV8forsalerevised.htm>

<https://www.v8register.net/subpages/RV8forsalerevised.htm>

- **Other items including regalia offered through ACE**

ACE is an outsourced supplier of a range of clothing and other items with V8 logos. ACE provide a micro-website (which they maintain) with the range of items on offer, handle the sales transactions, supply and package the items and mail them to the buyer, plus handle any aftersales issues. The V8 Register receives a modest commission on the sales.

<https://mgbv8.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue>

- **Outsourced secure online transaction service provided by Stripe**

When a buyer clicks “Buy” on the online V8 Shop they are seamlessly transferred to the secure Stripe website where the transaction is processed as the buyer provides their debit or credit card details and postal or online address for the delivery of the item. Following the completion of the transaction Stripe sends the buyer and the V8 Register an email confirmation of the transaction. The volunteer covering the V8 Shop Admin role then arranges the delivery of the item to the buyer and an email confirmation of despatch. Stripe provide monthly reports of the transaction they have processed for the V8 Register (showing the gross sales revenue, their very modest transaction fees & VAT, and the net receipts) which are passed to the V8 Treasurer so he can maintain the V8 Register bookkeeping and accounts plus the VAT returns to the Club's financial officer. The Stripe service is excellent and at a modest cost too.

- **Other items – books, windscreen badges and grille badges**

These are handled by a volunteer in a similar way as described above.

- **Maintaining the online V8 Shop**

Currently the volunteer maintaining the V8 Website also maintains the online V8 Shop as a separate website – <https://www.v8shop.uk/index.htm>

- **Maintaining the V8 Website**

Currently the V8 Website is maintained by a volunteer, Victor Smith. There is a need to move the webhosting of the V8 Website to a new webhost because the service quality from the present webhost (Nasstar who took over the business from KCOM based in Hull, UK) is dreadful. Keith Belcher and Victor Smith are working to plan and carry out that move but it is a substantial challenger as the V8 Website is now over 5.5GB on the webhost's server with a he number of files created during the development of the website since the launch in May 2002. Updates on the preparations for the webhost move will be available during 2024.

<https://www.v8register.net/>

- **V8 Spares for Sale or Wanted**

This active webpage provides adverts for spares and replacement parts offered for sale or wanted by fellow V8 members. It is a **free member-only service**. Over the last 12 months there have been 27 V8 Spares adverts posted to the webpage – that's just over one every two weeks on average.

<https://www.v8register.net/subpages/v8sparesforsale.htm>

Victor Smith (V8 Website Maintenance volunteer)

## V8 Bulletin Board Report

### Our aims for the V8 Bulletin Board

Our aims for the V8BB are to attract **good quality postings in terms of both subject matter and how they are expressed**. Since the launch of the original V8BB it has succeeded in attracting good quality messages with real substance, usually with reference to either acknowledged sources (like workshop and parts manuals or other recognised authoritative sources) or to direct personal experience or knowledge to support the advice or views in the message, rather than simply bold assertions. The general style of the original V8BB has been polite and welcoming so many members who might not have posted messages on a forum find they have been able to do so on the V8BB as the system is so straightforward and there has been a low risk that a someone might respond with a barbed comment. So the **emphasis has been on quality and not on quantity of messages** on the V8BB.

<https://www.v8register.net/v8bb/v8bb-access.htm>

### Access to the V8BB

It is available as a **membership benefit only to current members** of the MG Car Club who have also registered an MGV8 with the V8 Register and have been accepted as a V8BB Registered User. We have an online V8BB access application form.

<https://www.v8bb.co.uk/ucp.php?mode=register&sid=cb24a08e3c9cb66656c671a5c6b653d4>

Applications are notified the V8BB Admin (currently Victor Smith) via an automated email via the V8BB webhost and then the V8BB Admin has to check their eligibility for the member-only benefit of V8BB access and the applicant's suitability. Checks are made via the V8 Registrar (currently Dugald MacNeill)

### Moderation

The V8BB has rarely suffered from domination by people posting on a high proportion of the threads but it is something we wish to avoid. Careful moderation of a bulletin board like ours is necessary because the arrival of one or two individuals bringing with them the blunt and aggressive style occasionally seen on some other online forums, or poor quality postings with chat or prattle or excessive "techie speak", can very easily take over a bulletin board and move what is seen as the "norm" in a direction which can tend to damage the qualitative and substantive content aims the V8 Register, as the website owner, has for the V8BB. That moderation policy and approach has been discussed and agreed with the V8 Committee.

### Fake V8BB applications & freeloaders

About 2 in every 5 applications received use a fake Club membership number - like "12345" or 100000 or "111" or even "1" so presumably they must have known Cecil Kimber! The application process is not automated so false or speculative applications from freeloaders are rejected.

### V8BB activity

Currently we have **676** registered members with V8BB access. There have been 93 new threads over the last 12 months, about 1.8 per week.

Victor Smith (V8BB Admin volunteer)