



NorceMog

The Northern Centre of The Morgan Sports Car Club



The Northern Centre – Norcemog.

The early years. (1968 to 1972)

By

Bryan Hobson.

Date: - 2nd September 2008.

Executive Summary

The Northern Centre came into existence following a letter published in the Morgan 4/4 Club's newsletter in November 1967 which invited interested members in the North to contact Mr R Rigden with a view to forming a Yorkshire & Northern Centre.

Reports in the Morgan 4/4 Club's newsletters from Feb '68 onwards confirm the existence of a Northern Centre which appears to have been recognised by the Morgan 4/4 Club in May '68. During 1969 most of the meetings and officers are based in Lancashire.

The Northern Centre was having a difficult time in Jan'70. Efforts to revitalise it were made including the setting up of a more formal structure with a committee and minuted meetings.

In March'70 the Derbyshire Centre was becoming established and following a suggestion from the Morgan 4/4 Club the Northern Centre moved further north and based in Cheshire/Lancashire.

During 1970 regular reports from the Northern Centre appeared in the Morgan 4/4 Club newsletter including a full programme of events for 1971 in the Dec edition.

In 1971 the Morgan 4/4 Club changed its name to the Morgan Sports Car Club (MSCC), and the Northern Centre celebrated its 1st Birthday on the 9th May. This date was reconfirmed in 2000 when the Northern Centre (by then Norcemog) celebrated its 30th Anniversary.

The names of both The Northern Centre and The Real Northern Centres were acknowledged in the July'71 Miscellany onwards.

The Real Northern Centre became known as The Northern Centre (Durham) in Dec'71 and in Jul'72 changed to The Durham Centre later becoming The Durham and North East Centre.

In 1973 Miscellany issue 3, The Durham Centre introduced Team NORMOG and in 1973 Miscellany issue 4, The Northern Centre introduced NORCEMOG as their competitive teams.

From 1976 onwards both NORCEMOG and NORMOG are listed in Miscellany as secondary names of The Northern Centre and The Durham and North East Centre. The date of the change over to the use of NORCEMOG and NORMOG only is not clear.

The first mention in Miscellany of Yorkshire Centre we have is Mar'76, but there are copies of Miscellany for the latter half of '75 and early part of '76 missing from our records.

Geoff Mizon

Thanks to all contributors for their help in making this short appraisal of ...
“The Northern Centre – Norcemog. The early years.” (1968 to 1972)

Chas Smith.	MSCC Hon Sec. (4/4 Club/MSCC)
Roger Tatton.	MSCC Archivist. (MSCC)
Ted Griffiths.	Northern Centre. Norcemog.
Jeremy Gibbins.	Northern Centre. Norcemog.
Midge Gibbins.	Northern Centre. Norcemog.
Peter Hepworth.	Northern Centre. Norcemog.
Paul Cull.	Northern Centre. Norcemog.
David Birch.	Northern Centre. Norcemog.

“Word for word” and pictorial extracts taken from:-

Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletters.	Various from 1968 to 1970.
Morgan 4/4 Club Miscellany.	Various from 1968 to 1970.
Morgan Sports Car Club. (MSCC) Newsletters.	Various from 1971 to 1976.
Morgan Sports Car Club. (MSCC) Miscellany.	Various from 1971 to 1976.

Centre recognition.

If several established members of the Club thought a centre in their area would be viable they would contact the Secretary. [Morgan 4/4 Club now MSCC.]

If agreed this would be a benefit for the Club [Morgan 4/4 Club now MSCC.] a note would be put in the Newsletter inviting interested members to contact the local chap.

Assuming enough interest was forthcoming the centre organiser would attend a Club committee meeting to get the centre recognised.

As today, all members of that centre had to be fully paid up members of the Morgan 4/4 Club or MSCC. The centre could charge their own centre subscription to cover their own costs, newsletter for example.

All Club members could attend their meetings but could not vote for centre officers at the centre AGM.

The Northern Centre – Norcemog. The early years. (1968 to 1972)

No evidence of the Northern Centre being in existence back in 1967 but something was “going on”....

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter No. 53 – November 1967 carries this advertisement.
(This article had to have been submitted by the 15th Oct 1967 for inclusion into the newsletter.)

A **Mr R. Rigden** of 38 Seagrave Avenue, Sheffield 1Z 512-2JJ wishes to form a Yorkshire and Northern Centre. Would all members in or around that area please contact the above named. We hope that it will be just as great a success as the London Centre.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter No. 56 – February 1968 sees the first mention of the Northern Centre.
(This article had to have been submitted by the 15th Jan 1968 for inclusion into the newsletter.)

The Northern centre is now under way, so anyone interested should contact:
R. Rigden,
38 Seagrave Avenue, Gleadless,
Sheffield 12.

It is hoped that we can include Northern Centre News in the March 1968 edition of the newsletter.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter No. 57 – April 1968 sees another mention of the Northern Centre.
(This article had to have been submitted by the 15th March 1968 for inclusion into the newsletter.)

Our new Northern Centre is gathering momentum and anyone interested should contact **Roger Rigden**. 38 Seagrave Avenue, Gleadless, Sheffield 12. They are hoping to arrange for some of their members to visit the Morgan works in the near future (on a week day it will have to be) and we thought it would be nice if any members in the Midlands area could offer accommodation for the night. Names to the Hon. Secretary, please. (I.M. Boyle, 70 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcs.) Noggin and natters at some convenient pub in the evening to welcome them to the Midlands.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter No. 58 – May 1968 sees another mention of the Northern Centre.
(This article had to have been submitted by the 15th April 1968 for inclusion into the newsletter.)

The Northern Centre is doing fine with 30 odd members. We would like to see some of them at the AGM so come on lads of the north.

The May 1968 issue of Miscellany contains the following article;

Northern Centre - The Story so Far. by **Roger Brotton**.

Once upon a time there were several enthusiastic Morgan owners in the North of England, each with a common interest of their car. Considering that the part of the country north of a line from the Wirral to the Humber had no official representation and yet so many square miles though perhaps not quite so many Morgan's, it stood to reason that these enthusiasts should be brought together.

The wheels were set in motion by Mr. **Roger Rigden** advertising in the 'Miscellany' his intention to form a Northern Centre of the 4/4 Club. From this letter he received replies from interested parties from various areas in the North. A preliminary and successful meeting was organised centred on Manchester, the outcome of which was a solid core, of interested and interesting Morgan owners, the first unofficial Newsletter, and an earnest desire to seek out Morgan's owners in the North and get them interested too. In this first Newsletter another meeting was called in Sheffield this time, and despite bad weather, nearly a foot or so of snow, nine Morgan's attended including a beautiful +4+.! This meeting was followed by a party at Roger's home on the occasion of his wife's 21st birthday. (In the following newsletter the necessary apologies were made for excessive Morgan talk and for using the sideboard as Santa Pod.)

Our next and most successful meeting was held in Burnley. An impressive turnout it was too with yet more interested Morganeers from Preston, Manchester, Harrogate and St. Helens. Yarns were swapped, photographs of Moggies shown in suitable pose, usually going like "the clappers" as every Morgan should. One "bent" specimen even found a new home. This gathering then adjourned for a delightful tea at the home of Mr. & Mrs. **Paul Haworth**, after which the serious matters of our Club formation were discussed. After correspondence with the 4/4 Club, their helpfulness and our members enthusiasm, we are surely becoming a recognised Centre. **On the 4th May Granville Martin and I will be attending the 4/4 Club A.G.M. when we hope to receive official recognition for our Centre.**

On the 28th April we had a pleasing turnout to the Ragley Hill Climb, to cheer on our member **Ted Griffiths**, who entered his +4 against appalling odds. Good luck for future events Ted. We now have a few members interested in racing and hope to prove this with a few firsts in the future. We hope soon to be organising Club runs and to receive invitations to Sprints Hill climbs and even Concourse with perhaps some events of our own next year. Good motoring and good luck with the recruiting.

The last mention of the Northern Centre in 1968 is taken from the The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter No. 61 – August 1968 and reports;

I am most disappointed that our Northern Centre boys have not sent any news down for inclusion in this Newsletter. Everyone is interested in what you get up to. So send something down for the next Newsletter. I will require the news by 22nd August. Our press officer **Bob Wheat** is moving up north so if you want any advice, you will be able to contact him.

His new address as from the 8th Sept will be, 12, Field Way, Alsager, Cheshire.

The Northern Centre was formed some time between February and May 1968. There is no mention in the Feb 1968 edition of Miscellany (or those of August 1967 and November 1967, suggesting the formation of a centre). The article mentions several past events so the centre was clearly in being before May 1968. The only date mentioned in the article is 28th April 1968 when they went to Ragley Hill Climb, but four events are mentioned which took place prior to that – it must have been a very busy centre. Judging by the number of things they had done before May 1968 I guess it must have been formed in February, or early March 1968.

Northern Centre Members known in 1968. (*list incomplete*)

Roger Rigden.
Roger Brotton.
Paul Haworth.
Granville Martin.
Ted Griffiths.
Bob Wheat.

Member **Ted Griffiths** recalls,

The first meeting I went to was at the Kaybee Hotel (*that's how you say it, not as you spell it*) at Burnley [Keirby Park Hotel, Burnley.] which I think was in March and then entered at Ragley Hall in April 1968.

Roger Rigden. A Sheffield policeman had disappeared by then and the noggins were organised by **Granville Martin** and **Roger Brotton** from Barnsley. **Bob Wheat** then said he would take over the organising and we had a meeting at Alsager one Sunday. **Charles Smith** attended. He was the Main Club [4/4 Club now MSCC] secretary at the time. Soon after this Bob was killed in a car accident. This most likely takes us to the end of 1968.

Moving on now from 1968 into 1969, the Northern Centres second year the earliest reports came from;

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – March 1969 and reports;

The Northern Centre News.

- 23rd March. Co-promoted restricted driving test (M.G. Car Club (N.W.) Rolls Royce, Crew MC, Austin Healey C.C. Morgan 4/4 Club) to be held at Rolls Royce, Crew Car Park.
Regulations from **C. A. Brough**, 47 Upton Park Drive, Upton, Wirral, Cheshire L49 6JN.
Anyone who would like to Marshall, please contact Chief Marshall, Bill Clayton, 131 Old Road, Walmersley, Bury, Lancs. But please com along anyway, if only to watch.
- 26th March. The M.G. Car Club have invited us to their film show (Cum Noggin and Natters) at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Mollington, Chester, on the A540 about 3½ miles out of Chester towards Hoylake, on the Wirral. (Map Reference 109/379701½). Start about 8.00 p.m.
- 23rd April. As Above,
- 28th May. As Above.

Mr Robert Wheat.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the tragic death of **Bob Wheat**, Press Officer and member of the General Committee, also enthusiastic organiser of the Northern Centre. To his wife, Val, and his family we send our heartfelt condolences.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – April 1969 repeats reports;

Northern Centre Events.

- 26th March. The M.G. Car Club have invited us to their film show (Cum Noggin and Natters) at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Mollington, Chester, on the A540 about 3½ miles out of Chester towards Hoylake, on the Wirral. (Map Reference 109/379701½). Start about 8.00 p.m.
- 23rd April. As Above,
- 28th May. As Above.

Any members who live in the North and are interested in taking part in these activities should contact **C.A. Brough**, 47 Upton Park Drive, Upton, Wirral, Cheshire L49 6JN.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – May 1969 then reports;

Northern Centre.

1st June.

Meeting at the Blue Cap Hotel, Chester Road, Sandiway, Cheshire.

The Blue Cap is situated on a main road about a mile from the rural village of Sandiway, four miles from Oulton Park Racecourse and twelve miles from Chester. Being on the old Chester to London coaching route, the pub was built in 1716 and originally known as Sandiway Head. The present name is after a very famous race hound. This lovely olde worlde venue has Cheshire windows and inside there are plenty of personal areas to enjoy candlelit dining with open fires to keep you warm in winter. Like all Chef & Brewer pubs we employ high quality Chefs who have superb kitchen facilities. The food can be chosen from a main menu or unique Specials from the chalk boards which allow our Chefs to show their flair! You will be served meals which have been prepared from the freshest of ingredients and cooked to order. To complement your meal there is an extensive choice of quality wines or a selection of real ales if you prefer. Come along soon to enjoy a delicious meal or a quality pint. You are guaranteed a friendly, warm welcome at Blue Cap.

The Blue cap is situated on the A556 approximately ½ mile from the A49/A556 crossroads in the direction of Manchester. All 4/4 Club members and Morgan owners and enthusiasts are invited to attend.

The intention is to meet at the hotel at 5.0 – 5.30 p.m. for natters, tea available at 5/- per person. A film show will commence at 7.00 p.m. when a suitable selection of motoring films will be screened, there will be a break during the film show for a noggin. Mr. **Alan Brough** has gone to a lot of trouble to arrange this so let's make it a success. I want to see at least 50 people attending (50 Morgan's?)

The M.G. Car Club have invited us to their film show (Cum Noggin and Natters) at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Mollington, Chester, on the A540 about 4 miles out of Chester on the Hoylake Road. (Map Reference 109/379701½). Start about 8.00 p.m.

Dates. 28th May. 25th June. 23rd July.

Marshalling at Oulton Park.

Due to the increase in popularity of marshalling at race meetings Mr. **Alan Brough** has managed to obtain invitations for a limited number of our members to marshal at several meetings at Oulton Park, where he himself marshals.

These are two restricted race meetings, 5th July and 30th August organised by the B.R.S.C.C. and the Mid Cheshire Motor Racing Club restricted meeting on 7th June. There will also be a limited number of marshals needed for the Gold Cup Meeting (international) on 15th/16th August. Consideration for this latter meeting will be given only to those who marshal at the club Meetings. Will members interested in this scheme, please fill in and send the enclosed form to **Alan Brough**.

Our spares secretary has just moved, his new address is;

Dr. H.E. Postlethwaite,
Chapel House,
Chester lane Brook,
Marton,
Nr Winsford,
Cheshire.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – August 1969 has a Northern Centre summary;

Northern Centre News.

February 23rd: About 30 members and friends turned up to the Mollington Banastre meeting and film show. There were only about 8 Morgan's, including a pre-war 4/4, in the car park, so I assume that some members present had left their 'secret weapons' at home to keep the opposition guessing before the commencement of the coming Sprint/Racing season.

The meeting started with the serving of afternoon tea, followed by much Moggie talk. Shortly after 7.00 p.m. the Film Show started, there was a break for a 'noggin' at about 8.30., the films then continued until about 9.30.p.m. when the members departed.

March 23rd: Only 4 Morgan's turned up at the Driving Test meeting held on the Rolls Royce Company car park at Crewe.

There were 21 entrants representing 4 clubs. The 4/4 Club members competing were **Allen Brough** (No 8) and **Ted Griffiths** (No 9) both driving +4's. **David Ibbotson**, of Altrincham, another 4/4 Club member has kindly offered his services and was timekeeping for some of the tests.

The competing cars ranged from a 'sit-up and beg' Ford Pop to an Alfa Romeo and included a 'New' Anglia, 'frog-eyed' Sprite, M.G. Midgets and M.G.B.'s, Fiat 124, not to mention 2 Mogs.

All competitors thoroughly enjoyed the tests which were difficult enough to remember let alone describe. However the gentleman in the Alfa Romeo, who retired after 'Test 2' saying that he could hear his Bank Manager shouting in his ear, was perhaps, exaggerating a little.

The word 'only' appears to describe the number of Morgan's at each of the above events – let us have your support, please! If you are not satisfied turn up anyway and let us have your comments and suggestions.

July 6th: The Meeting held at the Blue Cap had a good attendance, about 35 people turned up with 8 four wheeler and 1 three wheeler Mog.

28th September: **Allen Brough** will be organising a Noggin & Natters with Film Show on 28th September and it is hoped that a committee will be elected to run the Northern Centre. We wish for every support to be given, as Allen has put a lot of work into this.

The M.G. Car Club have again kindly invited us to their Film Shows (cum Noggin and Natters) at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Mollington, Chester, on the A540 about 4 miles out of Chester on the Hoylake Road. (Map Reference 109/379701½). Start approximately 8.00 p.m.

Dates. 27th August, 24th September.

Comments, suggestions, advice, assistance to C.A. Brough, 47, Upton Park Drive, Upton, Wirral, Cheshire,

C.A. Brough.

You can see from the way the report is written it must have been produced in May 1969 and is the last documented entry for that year from the 4/4 Club Newsletters or Miscellany.

Northern Centre Members known in 1969. (*list incomplete*)

Paul Haworth.

Ted Griffiths.

Allen Brough.

Dr. Harvey Postlethwaite.

David Ibbotson.

Mark McKenna.

Jeremy Gibbins.

David Higginson.

Member **Ted Griffiths** recalls,

Alan Brough then took it upon himself to organise meetings at the “Blue Cap” Sandiway, Cheshire. At the end of 1969 he did not turn up at the meeting and said that he had had enough.

Member **Midge Gibbins** allows us to look into her Diary for 1969:-

Sun 23 rd Feb 1969.	Went to 4/4 meeting in Chester (with Stuart)
Sun 1 st Jun 1969.	4/4 meeting at the Blue Cap at Sandiway film show.(lots of Morgan's, 2 x plus 8's)
Sun 6 th July 1969	4/4 meeting at Blue Cap. Film of historic racing cars.
Sun 16 th Oct 1969	4/4 meeting at Blue Cap, <u>not many there.</u>

Moving on now from 1969 into 1970.

Morgan 4/4 Club Miscellany.1970. Summer & Autumn.

Regional Centres in existence.

London Centre. Chairman. M. Rudd, Esq.

East Anglian. Secretary. I Miller, Esq.

Derby. Secretary. P Evans, Esq.

Northern. Secretary. **M. McKenna, Esq.**

The next documented entry for the Northern Centre does not appear to until March 1970. **Ted Griffiths** again comes to our help with the Northern Centre history before October, as he recalls,

Then in February [1970] I received a letter from **Mark and Shirley McKenna** inviting me to an evening meeting at their home in Lymm. The other people there were **Jeremy Gibbins** and **David Higginson**. To my mind this was when the Northern Centre became properly organised. We had minutes for our ‘committee meetings’. Mark and Shirley did most of the work and our first noggin was at the Millstone, Newton-le-Willows in May 1970 and the centre never looked back from then on. With such a shaky start it is not surprising

that there is doubt when the Northern Centre - Norcemog was recognised by the parent club.

Ted Griffiths.

Member **Jeremy Gibbins** also recalls,

My first recollection of a 'Centre' meeting is the one I mentioned at the Mollington Bannastre Hotel on the west side of Chester; it was early days for me [although I was already a member of the MTWC with a 1933 SS twin] and I don't recall who I met other than **Mark McKenna and Shirley**, but I do remember the name **Bob Wheat**. I remember going there no more than once or twice.

Ted's [Griffiths] letter is v interesting – I too remember the Blue Cap meetings at Sandiway and the fact that the organisation seemed to be falling apart – it was at this time that Mark and I with our respective partners decided to 'restart' the Centre as the 'North West Centre'. As Ted says we did have meetings at Mark's house, but the initial decision to restart was taken at my house in Stockton Heath during the previous autumn, I thought in 1968, rather than 1969, but I could well be mistaken – Ted's memory seems encyclopaedic!

Mark and Shirley [McKenna] did most of the work – but I went to a Central Committee meeting or two, at **Ray Meredith's** house as I recall Birmingham way, with Mark. We went in my +4+ since I found Mark's driving a bit hair raising!

Jeremy Gibbins.

Northern Centre on the point of collapse.

Below a letter from **Peter Hepworth**. Dated August 2008.

1970 January.

The Northern Centre was on the point of total collapse and the "organiser" at that time felt there was little point of carrying on.

The only members from the original Centre who became involved in the resurrected Centre were:

Jeremy Gibbins.

Ted Griffiths.

David Higginson.

It was **Mark McKenna** who took it upon himself to get the Northern Centre up and running on a proper basis and a committee was formed with this in mind. This [committee] comprised of the above three gentlemen, plus **Mark McKenna** as Centre Secretary and myself [**Peter Hepworth**] as Treasurer.

We all set about enlisting new members by accosting Morgan drivers that we came across, plus by writing to people who had purchased a car from Life's Motors.

1970 May.

The Inaugural Meeting of the reformed Centre was in May 1970 at the Millstone pub in Newton-le-Willows with an attendance of 35/40 persons with 16 Morgan's in the car park.

The "First Birthday Party", was held on 9th May 1971, so I can only suggest that the Centre in its present form was formed on or around 9th May 1970. Prior to Jan 1970 it does not appear that there was a proper Centre to speak of.

If there is a date prior to Jan 1970 when the Northern Centre can be said to have been properly inaugurated only one of Messer's, Gibbins, Griffiths or Higginson can know the answer. (Or know a man who does).

Peter Hepworth

The year ahead 1970 is best summarised again from the Diaries of **Midge Gibbins** to help put into perspective the changes to the Northern Centre that take place during 1970. The Newsletters from the 4/4 Club will then follow.

- Sun 15th Feb 1970. 4/4 meeting at the Blue Cap. Only 7 of us there. We formed ourselves into a sub committee to try to get a more enthusiastic group going, Mark McKenna was there and he is helping.
- Tues 17th Feb 1970. Mark called to discuss 4/4 club.
- Thurs 26th Feb 1970. Mark and Shirley called round.
- Sun 1st March 1970. Mark came.
- Fri 13th March 1970. Jeremy to Marks for 4/4 meeting.
- Fri 3rd April 1970. 4/4 club meeting (thinking of places around the Wigan area for meetings)
- Thurs 23rd April 1970. 4/4 meeting for committee in Newton le Willows found a great pub for meetings((Diary didn't say which pub!)) (**Mark and Shirley [McKenna]** gave us a lift.)
- Sun 17th May 1970. 4/4 meeting, 16 Morgan's there. (Mark had had accident and only just out of hospital.)
- Tues 26th May 1970. 4/4 meeting for committee, **us[Jeremy Gibbins], Mark & Shirley [McKenna], Dave [Higginson] and Ted [Griffiths].**
- Sun 14th June 1970. 4/4 meeting, 23 people, 9 or 10 Morgan's, had a wheelbase film on Morgan's.
- Sat 25th June 1970. Vintage meeting at Oulton, arranged a Morgan compound, 28 altogether, three wheelers were racing.
- Sun 12th July 1970. 4/4 meeting, 10 Morgan's there.
- Fri 25th Sept 1970. Trip to Morgan factory in Malvern.
- Sun 4th Oct 1970. 4/4 meeting, 40 people there, **Harvey Postlethwaite** gave a talk on racing.
- Tues 27th Oct 1970. 4/4 committee. (our house)
- Sun 8th Nov 1970. 4/4 committee meeting in Sutton Coldfield

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – March 1970 Northern Centre report;

Northern Centre.

It has just been suggested that the Northern Centre should move a little further north, now that the Derbyshire Centre is getting under way this would probably be a good idea. A spot near the Yorkshire/Lancashire border or nearer Preston has been proposed. What are your thoughts on the subject? Remember it is your Club, support it!!

The meeting held at Sandiway on the 15th February was unfortunately not very well supported. There will be no fixed meeting this month, but we hope to have a meeting at the new venue in April, see note above.

The M.G. Car Club have again kindly invited us to their Film Shows (cum Noggin and Natters) at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Mollington, Chester, on the A540 about 4 miles out of Chester on the Hoylake Road. (Map Reference 109/379701½). Start approximately 8.00 p.m.

Dates: 25th March, 1970.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – April 1970 Northern Centre report;

Northern Centre.

As you no doubt know, the Northern Centre as was folded up through lack of support. Now **Mark McKenna** and friends are trying hard to re-establish it a little further North or wherever you the members want it. So far they have circulated a letter to members in the area, but without a great deal of success, please support it. We hope to be able to hold a meeting next month, so please, please get in touch with **Mark McKenna**, 21, Whitefield Grove, Lymm, Cheshire. Tel: Lymm 2301.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – May 1970 Northern Centre report;

Northern Centre.

The response to the letters sent out recently to members in the North was very good and the “revival” meeting is all set.

Do go – The Millstone at Newton-le-Willows on Sunday 17th May, 7.30.p.m.-ish.

Let **Mark McKenna** know you are going by writing to him at 21, Whitefield Grove, Lymm or telephone Lymm 2301. The Acting Organising Committee will then know how many to cater for. If you forget – never mind. Still go – it is YOU they hope to see.

Access to the Millstone is easy from the M6 or the East Lancashire Road (whatever direction you are travelling). You want the A572 into Newton-le-Willows, turning left onto the A49 for Warrington and – there you are – on the left just before the railway bridge. Map Reference- Sheet 100 (Liverpool) 593 954

See you Sunday 17th May – 7.30,p.m. at the Millstone in Newton-le-Willows.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – June 1970 Northern Centre report;

Northern Centre.

This months meeting will take the form of an informal Noggin & Natters at the Blue Cap Hotel, Sandiway (usual place) following the Vintage Sports car Club's Race Meeting at Oulton Park on 20th June. Let us hope that members from all over the Country will be able to attend both events. (Blue Cap Hotel, Chester Road, Sandiway, Cheshire which is situated on the A556 approximately ½ mile from the A49/A556 crossroads in the Manchester direction.)

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – July 1970 Northern Centre report;

Northern Centre News.

News from the North is great!!! There have been two meetings since the 'committee' got together and both have been a great success. The first – on May 17th – was tremendous with between 35/40 people there and no less that 16 Morgan's outside the pub. The second – on 14th June – was great too, since it clashed with the England v West Germany match in the World Cup. Happily, it was possible to entice 25 people away from their television sets and 11 Mogs decorated the car park.

Now that progress is being made in getting the Centre going, it is unlikely that personal letters will be sent to members giving the date of the next meeting (economics you know) but there will be announcements in this news letter. Please note, therefore, that the next meeting is on Sunday, 12th July at the Millstone, Newton-le-Willows at 7.30 p.m. Do try to go – the more the merrier; after the success of the first two meetings, don't let the side down eh!!

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – October 1970 Northern Centre report;

Northern Centre.

The meeting in September was very enjoyable though the attendance could have been better. Let us hope that those who didn't come were on holiday – they missed a very interesting chat about the oil industry. Vote of thanks to Mike Holder of Fina.

The next meeting is Sunday, 4th October at the Millstone. Come on, you competitive types – **Harvey Postlethwaite** will be there to tell you how to prepare your car for competition work. Don't forget – 7.30 p.m. at the Millstone, Newton-le-Willows, on Sunday, 4th October.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – November 1970 carries this report;

Northern Centre.

Next meeting – Bonfire on Saturday 7th November at 7.30 p.m. onwards.

Dairy Farm, High Legh – Sheet 101, Map Reference 698 833.

2½ miles from Mere (A50 – A556) Crossroads.

2½ miles M6 – A50 Interchange.

Follow the Dunlop Arrows!!!

The last meeting was a great success and our thanks are due to **Harvey Postlethwaite** for a most interesting and entertaining talk on motor racing. It was a terrific evening.

Look out for the announcement of the December meeting, when we are joining up with the Derbyshire Centre somewhere on the Derbyshire/Cheshire border. Full details in the next Newsletter.

See you at the Bonfire – don't forget the fireworks and the kids. Hope to have some beer and food laid on and shelter if it rains.

The Morgan 4/4 Club Newsletter – December 1970 carries this report;

Northern Centre.

The bonfire on 7th November was a resounding success. It was a little too dark (and crowded) to actually count the heads but it was estimated that between 60/70 people came. Our thanks are due to everyone who supported the event and our sympathy to those who couldn't manage to get there; it was certainly an enjoyable affair.

Remember there is no meeting at the Millstone in December. Instead we are having a joint meeting with the Derbyshire Centre on Sunday the 13th (see the Derbyshire announcement in this Newsletter for full details). Come on – we keep telling everyone what an enthusiastic crowd we are and now we have chance to prove it. Let's have a good turnout to get us off to an early start for Christmas.

It would be great to see a convoy of Moggies to cross the border so it is suggested that those who can should meet in Knutsford at the Meeting House (This is opposite the Civic Hall and has a large car park) at 5.30/6.00 p.m. Look forward to seeing as many as possible there but, if you cannot make it, we'll see you at the Barrel Inn, Bretton, near Great Hucklow (map reference – OS111 – 201 799½) anytime after opening time.

Advance Information; We return to the Millstone at Newton-le-Willows on Sunday 9th January – full details in the next newsletter but remember the date so that we see in the New Year in, in Grand style.

The last communication of 1970 is a letter to all members from **Mark McKenna**.

MORGAN 4/4 CLUB

Tel : LYMM 2301

21 Whitefield Grove,
LYMM,
Cheshire.

17th December 1970

Dear *Mr & Mrs McKenna*,

The Northern Centre of the 4/4 Club have a number of activities planned for the first six months of 1971 and this letter is to remind you that the programme has been planned for YOU. We hope you will find time to come to most - if not all - the events. Dates of additional activities will be given in the Newsletter each month but, for your diary, our normal monthly meetings are :

Sunday, 10th January
Sunday, 7th February
Sunday, 7th March
Sunday, 11th April
Sunday, 9th May
Sunday, 6th June

We try to hold our meetings on the first Sunday each month but this depends on the publication of the Newsletter which normally appears around the first three days; you will see from the list, therefore, that the meetings are scheduled for the first Sunday after the 4th of each month.

When we started the Centre again, and began to hold our meetings at the Millstone in Newton-le-Willows, we had a great response from Club members in the North and, since then, we seem to have gained a member or two at each meeting. For those of you who haven't been to the Millstone yet, everyone is very friendly and, contrary to what you might think, the wives and girlfriends who come along seem to enjoy it too. We haven't had a grumble about boredom yet and there always seems plenty to talk about.

Especially during the summer months, numbers of us get together to go to the various sprint meetings, etc., to cheer on those of our members who compete and I must say that the highlight this year was the 60th Anniversary Meeting at Prescott for the AGM and the Hill Climb. It was a great occasion and about 20 of us from the North met up for the celebrations. This year, we hope the highlight will be our own First Birthday Party - on 9th May.

I repeat, we would be delighted to see YOU at the Millstone if you can manage to come along. Someone will know who you are within minutes of arrival and it won't take many more to get into the swing of things.

One thing I must do now is say a very sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the Centre during the past few months. Those of us involved in re-establishing the Centre, and in sorting out our activities, have been greatly encouraged by your support so - THANK YOU.

All that remains is to wish you a very happy Christmas on behalf of the Acting Committee - Jeremy, David, Ted and Peter - and myself and a very happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you very often during the coming twelve months.

Yours sincerely,

Mark McKenna
Mark McKenna
Secretary

We have purchased an adjustable roomer, out of Club funds, for 'rent'

Moving on again now from 1970 into 1971.

The Morgan 4/4 Club
from 1st Jan 1971 became
The Morgan Sports Car Club. (MSCC)



Morgan Sports Car Club Miscellany. March 1971.

(Regional Centres in existence.)

London Centre.	Chairman.	M. Rudd, Esq.
East Anglian.	Secretary.	I Miller, Esq.
Derby.	Secretary.	P Evans, Esq.
Northern.	Secretary.	M. McKenna , Esq.
Reading.	Secretary.	P. R. Douglas-Jones.

Again the year ahead, 1971 is best summarised from the Diaries of **Midge Gibbins**.
The Newsletters from the MSCC will then follow.

Sun 10th Jan 1971. Morgan SCC at Millstone, 40 there, 15 Morgan's.
Sat 30th Jan 1971. Morgan dinner dance at Malvern.
Sun 7th Feb 1971. MSCC at Newton le Willows.
Sun 7th March 1971. MSCC about 22 there, several new faces
Thurs 14th Mar 1971. Morgan committee meeting (our house)
Sun 4th April 1971. MSCC Peter Boyce talk on Navigation.
Tues 29th April 1971. Morgan committee meeting (our house).
Sun 9th May 1971. MSCC It was the birthday party and we all had cake before we left.
Thurs 17th June 1971. Morgan committee meeting. (**Andy [Smith]** turned up in the Bentley)
Sat 19th Jun 1971. Vintage [VSCC] day at Oulton.
Sun 22 Aug 1971. Morgan run to Derbyshire, 7 Morgan's through Buxton!, **Peter and Doreen [Hepworth]** took **Mark [McKenna]**,
Sun 10th Oct 1971. MSCC meeting at the new pub, Pied Bull in Newton le Willows,
Wed 20th Oct 1971. Morgan committee meeting, **us [Jeremy Gibbins], Mark [McKenna], Peter [Hepworth], Doreen & David [Higginson]**.

Image taken from...

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 11th March 1971 at 8.00 p.m.
at 5 Victoria Avenue, Grappenhall.

Present: **Mr. J. Gibbins.**
Mr. E. Griffiths.
Mr. P. Hepworth. (Treasurer.)
Mr. D. Higginson.
Mr M. McKenna. (Secretary)

2. ELECTION of Committee for the Northern Centre

The Secretary reported that, although the Northern Centre will not be recognised as a separate body (along with the other Centres) until 1972, on the completion of one year in operation it had been recommended by the main Club that a 'formal' Committee be elected to replace the 'acting' body.

It was agreed that the Election should be held on the occasion of the Centre's first birthday - 9th May - and that it should take the following lines :

A letter should be sent to Centre members at the beginning of April to advise them that the election would be held on 9th May and that the present 'Acting Committee' would be prepared to carry on for a further twelve months if this was the wish of the majority. In the event of there being alternative nominations, a form would be appended to the letter for return to the Secretary before the end of April so that voting could be arranged.

MM

The Secretary advised that he had been informed that until such time as the various Centres are recognised as separate entities (and perhaps after they had been) the Club Chairman would remain the Centre Chairman. In view of this, the positions needed for the Centre would be as thought necessary by the 'acting committee'. It was agreed that the formal Committee should be made up as follows :

Secretary	(Mark McKenna agreed to continue)
Competitions/Spares	
Secretary	(Jeremy Gibbins accepted this position)
Treasurer	(Peter Hepworth agreed to continue)
Committee (say 3)	(Ted Griffiths and David Higginson agreed to continue - possible election of one other if anyone willing to stand).

Copy of letter to be sent to members is attached to these Minutes. (Appendix I).

The Morgan Sports Car Club Newsletter Number 1. – Jan 1971 report;

Northern Centre.

9th January, Meeting at the Millstone at Newton-le-Willows.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Newsletter Number 2. – Feb 1971 report;

Northern Centre.

Having missed the last edition of the Newsletter (sorry folks) we have to report on a couple of meetings in this issue.

First, the joint meeting with the Derbyshire Centre in December. This was a very enjoyable affair and our thanks to due to Ron Brown for finding us a good pub and making friends with the Landlord. (Must admit, Ron, he seemed somewhat staggered by the number of Mogs in his car park – was it 14? He did know we were a Motor Club didn't he.) Anyway about 40 people turned up, each Centre equally represented I think. We are agreed that a similar joint meeting might be held in the summer. Apart from those who went direct to Great Hucklow, we had a small convoy of five Mogs from Knutsford into Derbyshire and on a lighter evening such a procession (longer if possible) could cause quite a stir. Think of the advertising value!!

Our January meeting was a huge success. Thanks to everyone for turning out for our New year noggin and natters. As someone said – perhaps we should have the Albert Hall for the next meeting! Must admit that 40 people in that room at the Millstone seems a bit like 140 but still. Vote of thanks to Stuart Wild for the very entertaining film show; the last five-hour relay event in which Morgan's took part at Oulton Park, the Richard Seamans Memorial Trophies meeting last year at Oulton, and the 1970 Scottish. All very enjoyable (Who was the girl at Oulton Park, Stuart?) Glad to see so many Morgan's outside the Millstone – 18 at the last count – and did I see a hood or two down!

Next meeting – 7th February – we're having a talk on rallying (club, national and international) by Tom Egerton who came 24th (or was it 42nd) in the R.A.C. and 7th in his class; anyway, he was the first unsponsored entrant to finish. He's very enthusiastic about coming down, so let's have a good turn out.

To follow this up, on 7th March we hope to have a talk on navigation and a table-top rally. Don't worry – it won't be too adventurous and, if you don't win, you won't forfeit your bonnet straps or anything. Full details in next newsletter.

Don't forget- Sunday 7th February at the Millstone, Newton-le-Willows, at 7.30 p.m. (The door won't be locked if you arrive later! Chat on Rallying.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Newsletter Number 3. – March 1971 report;

Northern Centre.

Date of Noggin believed to be 7th March with a talk on Navigation and a Table-Top Rally. Venue unknown at present. Centre Sec: M.McKenna. Tel Lymm 2301.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Newsletter Number 4. – April 1971 report;

Northern Centre.

After the unnatural break in communications, we have to report on the last two meetings (I think the report of the January meeting beat the postal strike). Both the February and March Meetings were very successful – despite the last minute alteration in plans for the talk on rallying. You will remember that Ted Egerton couldn't come on the 7th February for various personal reasons (nonetheless it was an enjoyable meeting) but he did arrive on 7th march and gave us quite an interesting chat on his experiences of rallying. Many thanks for the good attendance at those meetings – 32 and 26 respectively – and it was good to see such a good turnout of Moggies.

The next meeting was scheduled for 11th April, but after telling everyone this we discovered it is in fact Easter Sunday and no doubt many of you have wild plans for that weekend. Because of this, the date is changed – the meeting will be held a week earlier on Sunday 4th April at Millstone. We hope to have someone there to tell us briefly the “ins and outs” of navigation for rallying (not too ambitious) and for those who want to take part there will be a short “table top rally”. Try and bring with you Sheet 101 which we plan to use – spare copies should be available if you forget. In the near future we hope to organise a “treasure hunt” or some-such to put theory into practice.

Looking further ahead, don't forget our Birthday Party on 9th May. We have been in operation for a year then and a successful and enjoyable one it has been too. We have plans for an entertaining evening; so we've ordered the Birthday cake and hope to show a film taken at the “Prescott Hill Climb” last year. Also we hope to have the election for a ‘proper’ rather than ‘acting’ Committee. More details in the next Newsletter.

Incidentally, on Sunday 18th April, there is a festival in Glossop. Dinting Railway Museum are very much involved and there will be a parade and various exhibitions and a fair (I think). At 10.30a.m. there will be a Concours d' Elegance involving 28 Vintage Cars and 1 Motor Bike (!) and judging is scheduled at 11.00 a.m. I understand that there will be traction engines and all sorts of delights and entrance is 3/- for adults and 1/6d for kids. A number of us have decided to go and we'll look out for familiar faces – including Derbyshire members who feel like joining the fun.

Remember – The April meeting will be on Sunday, the 4th (and not 11th) at the Millstone Hotel, Newton-le-Willows, from 7.30 p.m. onwards. Look forward to seeing you.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Newsletter Number 5 – May 1971 report;

Northern Centre News.

The Meeting on 4th April was an enjoyable one and our thanks are due to **Jeremy [Gibbins]** for co-opting one of his colleagues from the Knutsford and District Car Club to give us a talk on navigation and to organise a short table-top Rally. With the last minute change of date, it was thought that attendance wouldn't be very good, but it was – 34 members and 14 Mogs. Welcome to our new members who attended for the first time.

As you know, the next meeting is our first anniversary – Birthday party / Committee Election / etc., etc. There will be a short Film Show too – the London Centre are kindly letting us borrow the film they took at Prescott last year. The meeting is on Sunday 9th May at the Millstone in Newton-le-Willows – 7.30 p.m. onwards. We'll have to make a fairly prompt start to get through all the business but, if you cannot manage to get to the Millstone until later, still come.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Miscellany. May 1971.

(Regional Centres in existence.)

London Centre. Chairman.	M. Rudd, Esq.
East Anglian. Secretary.	I Miller, Esq.
Derby. Secretary.	P Evans, Esq.
Northern. Secretary.	M. McKenna , Esq.
Reading. Secretary.	P. R. Douglas-Jones.
Real Northern Centre. Secretary.	A. Garlick, Esq.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Newsletter Number 6 – June 1971 report;

Northern Centre.

We have quite a lot to report this time, particularly concerning the meeting on 9th May. The Election was held for our first 'formal' committee which is made up as follows:-

Mark McKenna.	(Secretary)
Jeremy Gibbins.	(Competition/Spares Secretary)
Ted Griffiths.	
Peter Hepworth.	(Treasurer)
David Higginson.	
Andrew Smith.	
Shirley McKenna.	

I have been asked to thank everyone who attended the meeting for helping make our **“First Birthday Party”** a great success; it was a bit difficult to count heads but we know that at least 44 people were there and the significant total of 20 Morgan’s. Our thanks are due also to the London Centre for allowing us to borrow their Prescott and Silverstone films, to **Stuart Wild** for his projection work, and to **Neil Harvey** for arranging the cake.

For those who did not attend the meeting, we announced the introduction of an ‘Enthusiast Award’ for the Northern Centre and details are attached to this Newsletter. It is only through the enthusiasm of members that we have achieved a successful first year and it is agreed that some recognition is due for future support of the Centre and the Club itself.

So far as the future is concerned, our next meeting is to be held on Sunday 6th June at the Millstone Hotel, Newton-le-Willows. This will be a Noggin and Natters - it is about time everyone had an opportunity just to chat and we hope to have a good turnout.

Incidentally, the Richard Seaman Memorial Trophies Meeting at Oulton Park is on Saturday, 19th June, and we are hoping it will be possible to arrange a Morgan compound again like last year. This is not definite but watch for the Signs.

A provisional programme of dates for future meetings is as follows:-

Sunday, 11th July. (We have avoided 4th July since it is the date of the Prescott Hill Climb which a number of Northern Centre members have said they are attending. Points. Points. Points.)

Sunday, 8th August

Sunday. 5th September.

Sunday. 10th October.

Saturday. 6th November. (Bonfire Meeting)

Sunday. 5th December.

Watch the Newsletter for possible changes and certainly for details of the additional activities that are planned for the next few months.

NEXT MEETING – SUNDAY 6th JUNE – MILLSTONE, NEWTON-le-WILLOWS – 7.30 p.m. (Map Ref: Sheet 100 (Liverpool) 549 951)

Extract from a letter by **Peter Hepworth**. Dated August 2008.

The **“First Birthday Party”**, was held on 9th May 1971, so I can only suggest that the Centre in its present form was formed on or around 9th May 1970. Prior to Jan 1970 it does not appear that there was a proper Centre to speak of.

It would seem that Norcemog accepted the 1970 date as they celebrated 30 years of the Northern Centre in 2000 with a Plinth Mounted Model +8 to commemorate this anniversary.

Peter Hepworth.

Jeremy Gibbins sent this additional letter having proof read the draft, so far, of The Northern Centre – Norcemog. The Early Years.

Hi Bryan [Hobson],

Quite a read that, for me – nostalgia pouring from every page!

Apart from **Ted Griffiths** and **Bob Wheat** I'm afraid I still can't put faces to any of the 1968 members.

I now understand how I came to my first encounter with the 4/4 Club [must have been 26 March 1969]. I was invited to go with a friend of mine in his MGB GT [I remember particularly because I was shoehorned into the back and I'm 6' 3"! I didn't buy my +4+ until sometime in 1970 I think. It's possible that I was the three-wheeler owner on July 6 1969.

I now recall one of the things **Mark [McKenna]** & I were most concerned about [probably the February 23 & Sept 28 meets] was the interminable film shows which, while interesting in themselves, tended to get in the way of socialising and making new friends over a pint.

Midge's [Gibbins] 1970 diary entries of 17 & 26 February and 1 March indicate the work we were doing towards setting up the alternative Centre, even though I was sitting my professional exams that month – probably helped to keep me sane! Midge and I arranged all the Oulton Park Mog compounds referred to.

The early 1970 4/4 Club newsletters - interesting and show rather more of the apparent split between the two groups than I remember – March's must have been written by **Allen Brough**, April and May's by **Mark [McKenna]**, and June by **Allen [Brough]** again, and the rest by **Mark [McKenna]**, as the geographical separation became complete.

The bonfire meeting Sat. 7 Nov was at **Midge's [Gibbins]** father's farm [Dairy Farm] High LEGH as certainly was well attended.

Meeting 4th April 1971 - Peter Boyce was one of my friends from Knutsford & Dist Motor Club, with whom I was fairly busy on the Committee.

I remember the 'raid' on the Derbyshire Centre, driving from Knutsford to Buxton in convoy.

Midge reminded me that Mark's wife **Shirley [McKenna]** sadly died in August 1971, a sad moment for us all



Period picture attached leaving Warrington in 1975 to live in N Wales, towing the 3 wheeler behind our +4+.

So, 9th May 2010 should be Norcemogs 40th Anniversary!! – if only we could find out where the name came from!

Jeremy Gibbins.

**Moving on a couple of months to August 1971.
“What’s in a NAME??**

The Morgan Sports Car Club Newsletter Number 8 – August 1971. Two very interesting reports;

First from the **Northern Centre.**

Second from the **Real Northern Centre?** (*Now Durham & North East???*)

Northern Centre.

Whilst the meeting on Sunday, 11th July, did not go exactly [*to programme.*] – talk on Bentleys), nonetheless it was very successful and, we hope enjoyable. Our thanks are due to Jim Howarth, not only for the films he provided but also for the fact that he came bearing gift’s from Shell (his Company). He handed over to us an air pump, a cigarette lighter, and a tankard, which could well save the Centre a bob or two when the prizes are required for the Treasure Hunts, etc.

In view of the numbers at the meeting – we lost count at 48 because folk wouldn't stand still – we are looking round for a new pub for our monthly meetings. It will be in the same area (since it seems accessible for almost everyone) and obviously we must give a lot of thought to the ale available and how clever the licensee is at making elastic sandwiches. Having ordered 20 on Sunday (thinking holidays would have diminished the numbers) we had to do a “loaves and fishes” bit. The search has commenced, so watch the Newsletter for details.

Our next meeting will be a Noggin and Natters affair – usual time, usual place, on Sunday 8th August.

Also in August, we have a joint meeting with the Derbyshire Centre. This is on Sunday 22nd August, and we are meeting at the Devonshire Arms, Ashford-in-the-Water (just off the A6 - 1½ miles north of Bakewell). The licensee will provide sandwiches on request. As in December last year, it would be nice to have a convoy of Moggies entering Derbyshire and it is proposed that we should foregather at the Civic Hall, Knutsford (as before) at about 6.00 p.m., moving off as soon as possible after that (if the Mog is off the road, never mind – still meet there). For those who can't make it, see you at the Devonshire Arms. Perhaps we could collect the Macclesfield contingent somewhere on route.

See you before then however – Sunday 8th August at the Millstone, Newton-le-Willows.

Also on the following page of the same newsletter...

Real Northern Centre? (*Now Durham & North East???*)

The centre is getting off to a flying start on the 3rd August, when a Noggin and Natters is being held at the local Morgan Agent, I. & J. MacDonald, followed by a few drinks in the adjacent hostelry, Map. Ref: 85/173497 on the A6076 road from Lanchester to Anfield Plain.

This action will start at around 8.00.p.m. so let's see at least 30 Mogs. Congregating outside Maiden Law Garage.

23rd October: This the date to remember, all you competitor motorists, the date of the Croft 3 hour Relay Race. We are hoping to enter at least one full team, why not also a team of Southerners? Good news, it is a Restricted Meeting, so you don't have to worry about such things as National Competition Licences, Accommodation on the floor for a reasonable number can be arranged.

Andy Garlick can be found at the Bentley Drivers Club Meeting at Silverstone, so if you have any suggestions for this Centre, you can corner him in the bar, don't forget to buy him a drink though!!

The Morgan Sports Car Club Newsletter Number 9 – September 1971 carries two more reports;

First from the **Northern Centre**.

Second from the **Real Northern Centre?** (*Now Durham & North East???*)

Northern Centre.

The skid pan was well supported on 1st August – many thanks to all who turned out. It was certainly enjoyable and perhaps we can make it an annual event. It is agreed that, after turning off the lane leading to the skid pan, we might have had another sign saying ‘Yes – this really is the way!’

The Meeting on 8th August was successful to. 38 people and 15 Mogs (5 of them Series I’s.)

No new venue has been arranged as yet so – it is the usual place for the next Noggin and Natters on Sunday 5th September. Nothing organised so plenty of time for chat.

Don’t forget the Treasure Hunt/Barbeque on Sunday 19th Sept. The arrangements are:

Assemble 3.30 p.m. OSS No 101 Ref 718 797

Start 4.00 p.m. As above.

Finish 7.00 p.m. OSS No 101 Ref 859 722

The Barbeque will be held at **Andy Smith’s** home –

You don’t have to enter the Treasure Hunt, of course, to come to the Barbeque. Incidentally, there will be a charge to cover the cost of food so it would help if you could say whether you propose to come (though it isn’t essential). If you cannot attend the Noggin & Natters on 5th Sept, perhaps you could give **Mark McKenna** a ring at Lymm 2301, so that we have an idea of how many to cater for. Hope to have a good turnout for this event – the committee have organised themselves out of existence to arrange it so help make it worthwhile. This Means YOU!!

Meanwhile see you on 5th September at the Millstone – usual time. **Rickie Breerton** should be back from his trip to America to dazzle us with tales of his experiences with the Plus 4 Club. (Nothing official, Rickie – don’t worry!)

Again on the following page of the same newsletter...

Real Northern Centre? (*Now Durham & North East???*)

Canoes would have been the most efficient form of transport at the inaugural meeting last month. Nevertheless several stalwarts of the clan turned up for an evening’s chat. Brian Alderson even came with the hood down, pity he was a day late!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th September. Congregate (in your Morgan's this time) at John MacDonald's garage (Map Reference 85: 173497) on the A6076 from Lanchester to Anfield Plain.

The **Real Northern Centre** continued to December 1971. Then added (Durham) to the title until the MSCC Newsletter No 14. Feb 1972, to become, "Durham & N.E. Centre.". Then the Miscellany July 1972 edition "Durham Centre.". See below.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Miscellany. July 1971.

(Regional Centres in existence.)

London Centre. Chairman.	M. Rudd, Esq.
East Anglian. Secretary.	L Miller, Esq.
Derby. Secretary.	D. Walters.
Northern. Secretary.	M. McKenna, Esq.
Reading. Secretary.	P. R. Douglas-Jones.
Real Northern Centre. Secretary.	A. Garlick, Esq.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Miscellany. October 1971.

(Regional Centres in existence.)

London Centre. Chairman.	M. Rudd, Esq.
East Anglian Centre. Secretary.	L Miller, Esq.
Derby Centre. Secretary.	D. Walters.
Northern Centre. Secretary.	M. McKenna, Esq.
Reading Centre. Secretary.	P. R. Douglas-Jones.
Real Northern Centre. Secretary.	A. Garlick, Esq.
Southern Centre. Secretary.	C. Starbuck.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Miscellany. December 1971.

(Regional Centres in existence.)

London Centre. Chairman.	A. Neal, Esq.
East Anglian Centre. Secretary.	L Miller, Esq.
Derby Centre. Secretary.	D. Walters.
Northern Centre. Secretary.	M. McKenna, Esq.
Reading Centre. Secretary.	P. R. Douglas-Jones.
Real Northern Centre. (Durham). Secretary.	A. Garlick, Esq.
Southern Centre. Secretary.	C. Starbuck.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Miscellany. March 1972.

(Regional Centres in existence.)

London Centre. Chairman.	A. Neal, Esq.
East Anglian Centre. Secretary.	Miss M. Smith.
Derby Centre. Secretary.	D. Walters.
Northern Centre. Secretary.	M. McKenna, Esq.
Reading Centre. Secretary.	M. O'Neil.
Real Northern Centre. (Durham). Secretary.	A. Garlick, Esq.
Southern Centre. Secretary.	C. Starbuck.
South Eastern Social Sub-Centre.	M. Norman.

The Morgan Sports Car Club Miscellany. July 1972.

(Regional Centres in existence.)

London Centre. Chairman.

East Anglian Centre. Secretary.

Derby Centre. Secretary.

Northern Centre. Secretary.

Reading Centre. Secretary.

Durham Centre. Secretary.

Southern Centre. Secretary.

South Eastern Social Sub-Centre.

South West Centre.

J. F. Brown.

Miss M. Smith.

G. Turner.

M. McKenna, Esq.

M. O'Neil.

A. Garlick, Esq.

C. Starbuck.

M. Norman.

D. Walters.

The Northern Centre. "Norcemog".

The "Norcemog" name.

Mike Robson had taken over as Northern Centre Secretary from **Mark McKenna** on 13th June 1973. His name first appears in the MSCC Miscellany, Issue 3, 1973. The same edition that our friends in the "Real North" introduced "Team NORMOG".

*(**Mark McKenna** reappears as MSCC Vice Chairman in March 76 Miscellany.)*

INTRODUCING TEAM NORMOG

by Brian Alderson.

Reading from left to right:

Dick Smith with tartan flat cap and silver Lawrencetune +4. Dick the Duelling Dentist is on this occasion keeping his mouth firmly closed, although he can at times be induced to add a few words about Morgans, Frazer Nashes and other subjects.

Aubrey Brocklebank adjusts his plus fours as the +4 Super Sports looks on. At the time of writing Aubrey is a student and could become a stock-broker. Note the twin aero screens so that he can vary his driving position.

Andy Garlick grins nonchalantly and although hailing originally from Malvern (where the Mogs come from) he is now almost immune to the Northern climate; an immunity gained by the adoption of Northern characteristics, e.g. Beard, ganzee (pullover), Broon ale (Brown ale). The yellow Mog is not as you may think the old black +4 painted yellow. It is in fact a different car and is ex Mike Duncan. He does still own the black +4 which is of course the old brown one painted black. Is that clear? Andy sells pollution for ICI and if the clarity of the sky in the background is any testimony, he fails miserably.

John MacDonald, North East Morgan Agent and Squire of Maiden Law, Co. Durham, hides behind his Canary Islands tan and his new +8 Super Mog. Note the width and height of this car compared with the others. At present bog standard but engine developments are on the way.

There are of course other members of the team who could not be induced to appear in front of the camera but after all the bar was open.



Team Normog

Further extract from a letter by **Peter Hepworth**. Dated August 2008.

First mention of “**Norcemog**” I can find is in newsletter No 34 (supplement to) dated October 1973. This refers to “team Norcemog” competing at Lydden on 22nd Sept 1973. (*See below*)

MORGAN SPORTS CAR CLUB.

NORTHERN CENTRE. SUPPLEMENT TO NEWSLETTER No. 34

OCTOBER 1973.

SEPTEMBER was a busy month starting with the Driving Tests at Plessey Car Park. The heavy rain didn't spoil a very enjoyable day with Jeremy Gibbins taking first place in the only glass fibre Mog entered. Our thanks to Phil and Judy for a well organised event.

On the 9th September we held our Noggin at the Pied Bull. A good turn out with a total I am told of 14 mogs and untold quantities of alcohol consumed.

The Treasure Hunt held on the 16th September was very much enjoyed by those who entered but it was suggested that a few of our members suffered from a fear of the unknown and were hesitant at taking part in an event actually crossing into :- dare I say it 'Yorkshire'. The winners of this meeting were Phil and Judy Fay.

One social event I haven't mentioned in the newsletter was the Boat Trip, at the end of August. The reason for the omission no doubt being due to the amount of beer consumed outside the 3 mile limit. A really great event Jeremy, thanks for all your organisation.

On Saturday 22nd September we took a team (could it be NORCEMOG) down to Lydden to compete in the London Centre Circuit Sprint. The team being Terry Dodd 4/4, Paul Cull 4/4 Ser.1., Phil Fay + 8 and myself (would you believe CITROEN SAFARI + ROOF RACK). We came home with the awards for:-

Fastest + 8 on handicap.

" 4/4 Series 1. handicap.

2nd fastest team on handicap.

The silver-ware will be on display at The Noggin 7th October, Pied Bull.

BONFIRE

The annual Guy Fawkes celebration will take place on the 3rd November, in the field behind Neil and Pauline Harveys house at Mawdesley which is situated due North of Farbold. The best way to approach the area is Helicopter but failing that, look out for the M.S.C.C. Signs and if you get lost ring MAWDESLEY 296 and ask for the 'Pie man'. Hope to see you all there.

The Noggin for November will be on the 11th at the usual venue.

No mention of “**Norcemog**” in the newsletter No 28 of April 1973. Unfortunately those for May, June, July, Aug and Sept 1973 are missing.

By:-

August, 1974 – Cranfield Centre were using the Cranmog name.

April, 1975 – Yormog.

July, 1975 – Grogmog.

Miscellany of April 1976 contains list of Centre Secretaries with most of the centres having alternative nicknames.

Peter G. Hepworth.

NorceMog Marauders Go South

Lydden Hill, Saturday, 27th September

by Geoff Stewart

Photos - Graham Murrell

NorceMog sent down their scratch team (Marauders) to contest this annual sprint run jointly by the Alfa-Romeo Owners Club and the M.S.C.C.

Dave Birch	4/4/4 1600
Phil Grundy	4/4 1600
Nick Howell	+ 8
Geoff Stewart	4/4 1600

Lydden is in Kent, midway between Canterbury and Dover; names that conjure up an image of rural England at its best. Hazy mornings, warm shades of autumn browns, clear starlight nights. We had heard these rumours too.

We travelled to the deep south on Friday, adjusting our watches in Birmingham, and spent the night in Canterbury. We got up at dawn and sat down to a traditional breakfast. However we ate not to the cheerful singing of larks on a crisp dewy morn, but to the pounding of rain lashing against the windows. There was no light mist disappearing to reveal the sun rising in a clean sky. Visibility was negligible and windscreen wipers were screaming for mercy as we filed out of the garage. They'd never told us this was what it was really like down here. No wonder salaries are higher. I'd better return to the main theme of this report, some of you may be thinking this is a "Sunday Express" car test!

Inevitably we hadn't gone very far before we became separated. Nick managed to detach himself from the convoy by following a yellow 4/4, thinking it was Phil. Fortunately it was a Smogmog (yes, there are still some around in Autumn) on its way to Lydden so we were all assembled in the paddock in good time.

This event is different from most in that competitors enter in teams of three or four and rather than being divided into classes the cars are given handicaps based on practice times. The team line up at the start together and each complete three laps of the circuit. Starting at 10 second intervals. In addition to a practice session there are two proper runs of three laps each with teams (and their individual members) competing for scratch and handicap awards.

Almost unbelievably only 4 other Mogs entered (and only 2 of these turned up). This compares with 26 entries last year. It really was surprising as it's an extremely interesting circuit and competing as a team makes a welcome change and certainly adds to the fun.

In addition to the drivers listed above the Marauders team included, Jim, Andrea, Caroline and Jean - the "mechanics". We were hoping to bring

down the 'B' team (Norcemog Pensioners) but unfortunately they were committed to a Hill Climb at Harewood owing to a mix-up over the dates.

Once at the circuit the first job was, under cover of umbrellas, the removal of certain appendages such as hub-caps and spare wheels and the affixing of numbers. There were no problems at scrutineering so having some to spare we had a game of "Spot the Smogmog"!

It was still raining as we set off for our 3 practice laps so we all went round very gingerly. NORCEMOG offer a correspondence course in "rain dancing" if NORMOG are interested. The track was not as slippery as we had feared so we all hoped for big improvements in our times later on. Those of you who have competed at the "silver Blades", Curborough will know what a really slippery surface is like.

The circuit remained wet throughout the day although a stiff breeze did dry it appreciably during the brief periods when the rain stopped. This meant that conditions did vary slightly so it would be unfair to compare the times of different teams too critically.

The Mogs were all running sweetly apart from a slight exhaust leak on the +8 and Phil needing to replace a new fanbelt. We eagerly awaited the first proper run. Meanwhile we convinced ourselves of our professional approach by discussing the optimum tyre pressures as the weather varied. A lengthy discourse on suspension settings and gear ratios resulted in the not altogether surprising decision to leave them as they were. Phil did however change his plugs. Not to put racing plugs in as you may be thinking, but simply because the Mog was due for a service!



DAVID BIRCH 4/4 1600

The hour had arrived and we trundled onto the circuit with determined expressions under the steady drizzle. Two of our team, who shall remain nameless (but see photos) had their hoods up. No comment. We all completed the 3 laps without incident and with substantially improved times. This could be put down almost entirely to our increased confidence. The Mogs were behaving themselves extremely well in the wet. Their smoothness through the bends making them look deceptively slow. At the end of everyone's first run we were looking in a very promising 1st position on handicap and we still felt there was plenty of room for improvement. It was even rumoured that "Red-Line Dave" was considering brief usage of 3rd gear on the final run.

We queued up in the paddock for our final 3 laps with high hopes but as we waited the heavens opened and the rain bucketed down. The Alfa team immediately in front of us got the worst of it and unfortunately one of them spun sustaining some damage. This was the only incident throughout the day which says a lot for the quality of the driving in appalling conditions. It was all the more unfortunate as the cause of the spin was wet leaves on one side of the track. The rain eased as we began our run so at least we could see properly but we only managed to fractionally improve our times.

At the end of the day we finished up a very satisfactory 3rd on handicap and pretty wet. Both the Smogmen went very well and it was unfortunate that they were ineligible for the team awards as the teams must contain 3 or 4 cars.

In spite of the weather we can honestly say that we had a thoroughly enjoyable day and we hope to see many of you there next year. We would like to thank the Organisers for a very efficiently run event and to give a special mention to the Marshals for unselfishly braving the elements. Also thanks to Graham for the excellent photographs.



NICK HOWELL +8

PICTORIAL ROUND UP



Photo: David Birch.

Graham Powell with Mike Robson's ex Ray Meredith Lawrencetune +4 at Woodvale, near Liverpool. Graham enjoys constantly breaking and rebuilding this Mog.

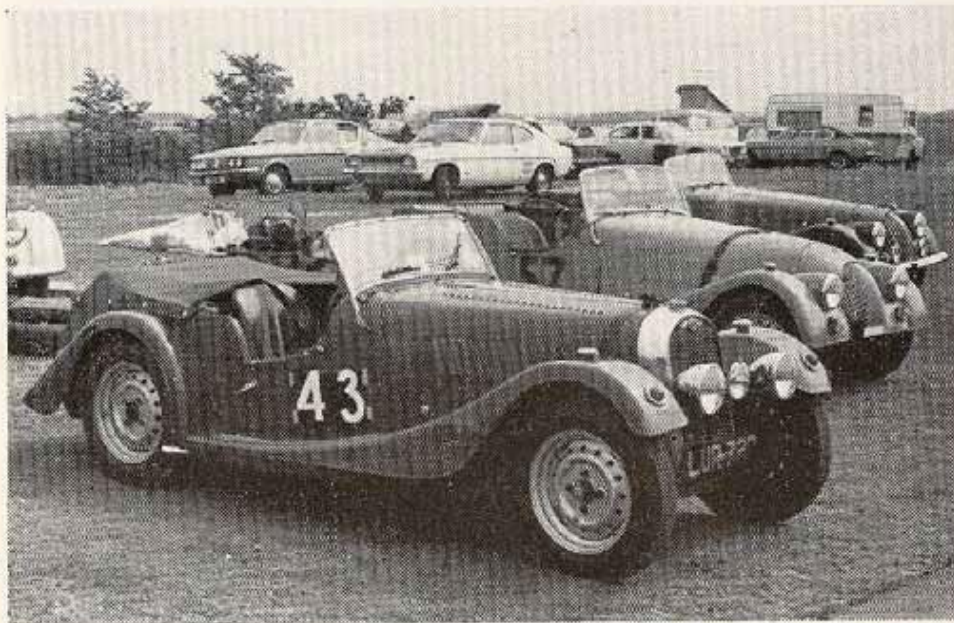


Photo: David Birch.

The famous Flat Rad of Paul Cull, holder of the Charlesworth Trophy (Flat Rad)
— seen at Woodvale



Photo: David Birch.

A group of Northern Centre Morganeers at the L.A.C. Woodvale (Nr. Liverpool) Sprint.

Feb 1974.

Northern Centre. 10th February – Noggin at The Pied Bull, at Newton-le-Willows.

Challenge Shield	7 th C. Cooper & P Fay , 18 th P Cull .
Chairman's Cup +4.	5 th E (Ted) Griffiths .
Pickersleigh Cup +8.	4 th P Fay .
Series I Charlesworth Trophy.	1 st P Cull .

**What follows next can only be called,
“More than a Storm in a Teacup.”**

The Northern Centre “**Norcemog**” extract from Miscellany Oct 1976.

Open Letter to members of the Morgan S.C.C.

We are members of the Morgan S.C.C. and for geographical reasons we attend the Northern Centre meetings. We have decided to write and explain to those who have been unable to attend national committee meetings and possibly some who have attended, the unbelievable fuss created by our registration of the Northern Centre with the R.A.C.

The saga began last year when our Secretary suggested to the National Secretary that we would like to register the Centre, for competition purposes only. Mr. C. J. Smith was enthusiastic about the idea and considered that as it did not affect other centres there was no need to consult the national committee, and so early in the 1976 season we filed a registration with the R.A.C. It seemed to cause some consternation at the A.G.M., some members going away with the idea that we had registered as a separate club, despite a definite statement that we had registered only as a centre of M.S.C.C. A result of the meeting was that a discussion on the subject should be held at the next national committee meeting.

At that meeting the committee agreed that the registration should be investigated with the R.A.C. merely to determine the effects, if any, on other centres, and on the club as a whole. However, after the meeting the National Secretary decided not to do as was agreed, but lodged a protest with the R.A.C. and insisted that our registration be withdrawn.

Why the fuss you might ask. The reason is that a lot of people in our centre have worked hard to put the Morgan S.C.C. on the map, in the north of England. This season we will have attended nine restricted events, five nationals and co-promoted two events. As you can imagine to achieve this in an area where two years ago requests for invitations were met with either no or who? I, has required a lot of negotiations which would have been made considerably easier by having our name in the 'Blue Book'.

How does it affect you? Firstly, whether you attend our centre or not you are of course welcome to enter the events that we are invited to, and secondly if the development of the club and in this instance our centre is retarded by the obstructive measures already detailed, how will your centre fare if you decide upon a similar course of action. Finally and most important, we have been told by Mr. E. C. B. F. Belton, Co-ordinator Motor Sport Division of the R.A.C. that our registration would have no adverse affects whatsoever on any other centre.

Once again we would like to stress that we are not trying to split up the club but to advance it. Many national clubs have individual centres registered, two of the most active in our area being B.A.R.C. and M.G.C.C.

May we suggest to you that in the light of the above statement, you ask your national committee representatives to enquire why the Club Secretary chose to deliberately ignore and in fact take a course of action contrary to, a national committee decision, or are they wasting their time attending the committee meetings at all.

NORTHERN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Chairman comments

First of all I would like to congratulate the Northern Centre on building up the enthusiasm for competition events in their area and it would be an advantage if all other centres did the same.

Unfortunately they have also built up an obsession with getting their name in print in the R.A.C. Blue Book.

The first I knew about the matter was when Phil Fay signed his name in the Competition Secretary's space in the attendance book for the A.G.M. Something of a rumpus ensued because not unnaturally our Competition Secretary Martin Wyatt objected. In the heated discussion that followed, the Northern Centre agreed that they had no complaint in the way that Martin was doing his job.

The matter was raised at the following National Committee meeting, when the Committee was informed by Mike Robson, at his most diplomatic, that the Northern Centre had registered with the R.A.C. and what was the Committee going to do about it. The National Committee almost to a man (or should I say person) was against the registration and angry at the way it had been done. At no time did the Committee approve or ratify the registration.

After the meeting Charles Smith wrote to the R.A.C. to check the position as he had received no notification of the Registration from the R.A.C. nor had the matter been gazetted in Motor Sport Club News which we expected would have been done by the R.A.C. The R.A.C. replied to Charles that they were under the impression that the Registration had the approval of the Committee but as it did not the R.A.C. were cancelling it.

The Northern Centre then wrote a misleading letter to the R.A.C. implying that the Registration had been approved by the Committee but that Charles was refusing to put the decision into effect.

I am pleased that the Northern Centre are not trying to split the Club or form their own club but the matter is more than a storm in a teacup as they suggest.

Our club set-up is not the same as the BARC or M.G. Car Club as we work on a club basis rather than a Centre basis. Anyone who has, or does belong to either of these clubs will know that members belong to a centre rather than the club. Competition events are organized, co promoted as invitations accepted by the individual centres not by the club on a whole.

In our club, members belong to the club and go to whichever of the social events as they like. There is no way of telling which centre members belong to.

Further, invitations to events sent to a particular centre could only be used by members of that centre rather than the whole club as at present.

So there is much more to it than the Northern Centre letter tells you and considering the extra cost it is difficult to see any benefit to either the Northern Centre or the Club as a whole. I am particularly disappointed at the way that the Northern Centre have tried to attack Chas Smith because he will not do what they want. Those of you who know him will be able to judge for yourselves who you believe.

Please let your Local National Committee representative have your views on the whole matter and ask him to put them forward at the next National Committee meeting as it is important that we have as many members points of view as possible.

ARTHUR NEAL, Chairman

The Secretary comments

The first I knew of this matter was at a National Committee meeting last year. Whilst at the bar during the lunch break I was asked by Messrs. M. Robson and M. McKenna whether I thought there would be any resistance to the Northern Centre registering with the R.A.C. as a centre. I replied that if this would aid the Club and the members in that area I could see no problems, the matter would of course have to go before the committee.

I heard nothing further until the A.G.M. this year, indeed as the Northern Centre had not even bothered to maintain their membership to the Northern Association of Car Clubs I assumed the whole idea had been forgotten.

At the A.G.M. the book was sent around those attending to be signed, spaces being marked for club officers, centre delegates and members. When the book reached Mr. M. Wyatt he found that the space for Competition Secretary had already been filled in by Mr. P. Fays signature. He of course questioned this, the meeting was informed that the Northern Centre had registered with the R.A.C. as a Club, an uproar followed, and we were more or less told, we've done it and there is nothing you can do.

It came up again at the N.C.M. which shortly followed and we were told that the registration was for a centre not a club. Not one of the assembled Officers or Centre Delegates were in any way happy with this arrangement, and not being given definite directions, I took the matter up with the R.A.C., the outcome of which was the withdrawing of the registration, this it turned out should not have been accepted without the Clubs approval, for which the R.A.C. apologised.

I am investigating further the effects of such a registration on the running of the Club, an internal matter has already been brought to my attention with regard to the awards.

Two of the points made by the Northern Centre are that they cannot get invitations to events or co-promote events without being registered. I suggest they read their Miscellany a little more closely, this month our London centre (Unregistered) are co-promoting a sprint, also our East Anglian centre (Also unregistered) do not seem to have any problems getting invitations.

This matter will be discussed fully at our next National Committee Meeting to be held on October 17th, you are reminded that the committee consists of the Club officers and two delegates from each centre all of whom have a vote. If you, the club members, have any thoughts on this (or in fact any other matter) please contact your local Sec., and make sure your centre is represented, failing this you can always contact myself, in writing please if it is to do with committee business.

Chas. Smith, Hon. Secretary

The Northern Centre “Norcemog” extract from Miscellany Dec 1976.

The Chairman comments

on NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING held on the 17th OCTOBER, 1976

If you haven't seen your Centre Representative since the last National Committee meeting you are probably wondering what happened.

The most constructive thing was that the Committee voted to put forward to the Club that Club Officers should be elected by postal ballot. Before the next N.C.M. there will be an extra-ordinary General Meeting to which all members are welcome to attend and vote on this proposal.

But what about the Northern Centre Registration you ask? Well, we managed to clarify some basics, such as the Northern Centre reluctantly agreed that they should have obtained the National Committee's approval and they hadn't got it before they applied. Discussion followed about the effect the registration would have (if it is ever approved) on the Club and in particular on the competition scene and the points for the Club Trophies.

I formed the impression, that apart from the Northern Centre, and the Yorkshire Centre, (partly represented by Mike Robson), the majority of those present at the meeting were unconvinced that the Registration was in the best interests of the Club and were disturbed at the way in which the Northern Centre had gone about the matter.

The Northern Centre continued to complain about our esteemed Secretary, Chas Smith. The matter of Registration was not decided either way and the only conclusion reached was that Andrew Duncan, my predecessor, would further investigate the implications with the R.A.C. On that note the matter ended, to be talked about at the next National Committee Meeting.

It only remains for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and to warn you to look out for men in blue bearing plastic bags !!

Arthur Neal.

The End.