

# NEWS

Happenings from the MG world

REGULARS EVENTS NEWS CONTENTS EDITORIAL

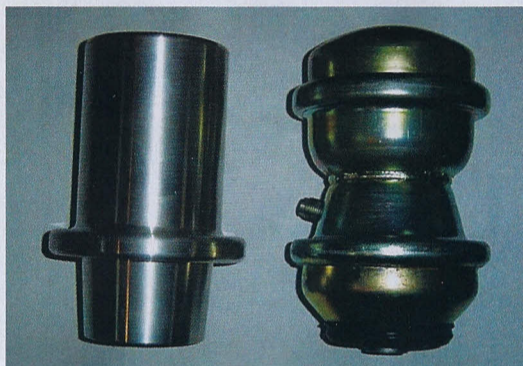
## An alternative to MGF Hydragas suspension

In a development that could help keep many MGFs on the road, Suplex UK have decided to go into volume production with the Hydragas alternative first mentioned in July's Q&A by Roger Parker. Developed by Dan White, two prototype sets have been produced, one on Suplex's own development car and another which we hope to use shortly in a feature detailing the fitting process and evaluating the ride.

'Essentially this conversion is designed to salvage a car when the Hydragas fails and no replacement can be found,' said White. 'Whilst the concept and construction lends itself to further tuning work, in its base form that is not the intention. It is designed to replicate as

nearly as possible the characteristics of a standard MGF. It was also intended that the completed design would require no modification work at all, and that the conversion could be fitted quickly with simple tools. This we have achieved.'

Until now, the barrier to further progress has been achieving realistic costs – a minimum production run of 1000 pieces is necessary to make the conversion affordable. The good news is that Suplex are now confident there is a demand, and they are putting their first volume pieces into production during August. They anticipate having the kit available in November, with a target retail price for the



Suplex's conversion canister (left) replaces Hydragas unit.

complete conversion of £850 (plus VAT). The kit will include front and rear conversion canisters, plus two front and two rear dampers. They should

be available from recognised MG specialists, while Suplex can be contacted via email on [uksales@suplex.com](mailto:uksales@suplex.com) or via phone on 01909 770660.

## Classic rally cars available for rent



The Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation (HERO) is offering for hire seven fully equipped classic rally cars – including this MGB roadster – through its new *Arrive & Drive* programme. Each car is owned

by HERO, and was recently renovated to rally specifications with a view to competing in classic and historic endurance rallying and classic car tours.

The *Arrive & Drive* programme is believed to be

the only scheme to offer classic rally-equipped cars for rent on road events, and is a cost-effective solution to those wanting access to the ever growing sport of classic and historic rallying, without having

to invest in ownership. All cars come equipped with fire extinguisher, Tripmeter, map lamps, Romer, Poti, spare fuel can, SOS/OK board, oil-impervious ground sheet, first-aid and recovery kits.

'We believe we are the first to offer our own classic rally cars, which are maintained by our retained professional mechanics,' said Peter Nedin, Events Director at HERO. 'This is the perfect answer to enthusiasts outside the UK who are looking for a way to compete on HERO events without having to ship cars, and also for newcomers who are looking to start classic rallying on a limited budget.'

HERO's next event will be the Scottish Malts scheduled for 6-10 September, and the detailed list of cars available on the *Arrive & Drive* scheme can be viewed on their website at [www.heroevents.eu](http://www.heroevents.eu).

## Engineers to the rescue with MG engine

After 10 years of faithful service and many life-saving rescues, the engine in Burnham-on-Sea's *Spirit of Lelaina* search and rescue hovercraft was beginning to feel the strain. Luckily the Somerset resort is a favourite holiday spot of Neil Butler, a Chief Engineer based at the SAIC Technical Centre at MG Birmingham. Neil said: 'I happened to be on the beach one day and saw that the

hovercraft's engine was really struggling. I knew that one of our new MG TF engines would not only fit in the craft, but also do a much better job.'

A new MG 135hp engine was subsequently donated by MG Motor UK, and Neil put in many hours of his own time to adapt it to salt water conditions. The MG engine will give the hovercraft a 40 knot capability, cutting down the time it takes to get to people in peril.



Mark Newman, Chairman of Burnham-on-Sea's hovercraft rescue charity, BARB, said: 'The new MG engine will be

crucial to our work in saving lives and we are extremely grateful to Neil and everyone at MG and the Technical Centre.'

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lecture on speed

The inaugural lecture in a newly announced series promoted by the MGCC's MGB Register and supported by Moss Europe will feature Andy Green, the current World Land Speed record holder in Thrust SSC. He will talk about Bloodhound SSC, one of the great British engineering projects of this new century and a serious attempt to break the 1000mph barrier on land.

Andy also holds the World Land Speed Record for diesel driven cars, and will tell his audience about Bloodhound SSC and the technical challenges to be faced. This is a unique opportunity to hear the inside story of this great engineering challenge, and to ask questions of the man at the sharp end of the project.

The event will be held in the Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, Abingdon on Thursday 7 October and seats cost £8. To book yours, visit the MGCC's virtual store at [www.kimberstores.co.uk](http://www.kimberstores.co.uk)

### XPart offers summer discounts on 5000 MG Rover parts

Parts specialist XPart is discounting the price of more than 5000 MG Rover parts in a bid to keep more MG Rover cars on the road by reducing the cost of ownership. The parts firm introduced substantial price reductions on selected components from all categories of their range of MG Rover parts from 1 August, including mechanical and body parts, trim and accessories. You can locate your nearest XPart parts wholesaler or AutoService centre via [www.xpartautoservicecentre.com](http://www.xpartautoservicecentre.com).

### MGCC Vintage Register turns 50

The Vintage Register – the oldest of the 12 MGCC Registers – celebrated its 50th anniversary with a celebratory lunch in Abingdon on 25 July. The Vintage Register represents the MGs made between 1924 and 1932, and 19 of the estimated 45 surviving cars (from a total production of around 700 vehicles) gathered for the celebrations with guest of honour, Cllr Duncan Brown, the Mayor of Abingdon.