

## **The Original British Car Day 2008**

### **A Message from the Chairman**

Dear Original British Car Day Participants,

On behalf of The Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MG "T" Register, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the participants and supporters of OBCD 2008! It was a very successful show and I congratulate this year's winners and thank them for making our show one of the highest quality events of its kind. We always appreciate the care and preparation our entrants take to ensure that their British cars make a fine showing.

A few issues have been brought to my attention since the show and I would like to clarify them as best as possible:

#### **Criteria for Receiving Awards**

Since the first British Car Day held in 1977, we have always tried to make the show a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all those in attendance. Each year, we make a special effort to format, produce and distribute a flyer/registration form that describes the show activities, summarizes the show schedule, and most importantly, defines the rules and fees. This very familiar registration flyer goes out to those on our mailing list and is also posted on our website.

In order to receive an award, there must be a minimum of three cars registered in a class. This represents a total number of cars, including those cars pre-registered plus those cars that are registered the day of the show. Due to late arrivals and early departures, it is virtually impossible to determine the exact number of cars that may be on the show field at any given time, so the above criteria for award eligibility was established, and has been accepted and followed for many years. In the end, the fun and satisfaction of winning a trophy is in the competition. We encourage people to promote the show among fellow British car owners to ensure that there are adequate numbers of representative cars at the show to make a class. This way, more awards will be presented.

#### **Late Announcement of Award Results**

We cannot control the weather during an open air car show. We just do the best we can to produce an enjoyable event for the benefit of our fellow British car enthusiasts under whatever circumstances are presented. This year we were faced with a very sudden and unexpected thunderstorm that caused havoc on the show field. To make matters worst, this storm occurred during the most critical part of our show: BALLOT COUNTING! The bad weather forced the shut-down of the balloting computer in the middle of the tabulating process. We worked frantically to recover the results in the timeliest manner possible. We were finally faced with only one choice: re-enter over 3000 votes in order to determine the winners. We understood that this measure would cause a delay, but we were confident that it was the right thing to do. Our

efforts were successful, all votes were counted and, after a proofreading error was resolved at the beginning of the awards ceremony, the awards were assigned correctly.

We thank those award winners who made the decision to stick with us while we sorted out the problems and receive their trophies. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience that this situation may have caused any of our patrons.

### **Mailing Awards to Recipients**

It has been our normal policy for car owners to be present to receive awards. Taking into consideration the unforeseen delay that resulted in the very late determination of the winners and needs of those who may have some distance to travel home, a decision was announced to mail out the awards to any recipients who could not remain longer for the award presentation this year. This short notice decision was made on-the-spot because we realized that the extra time involved in our data recovery efforts was presenting a great inconvenience to those owners still present. We believe that this was a fair course of action and we greatly appreciate those winners and dedicated enthusiasts who decided to remain until the award results were known. Those winners who would prefer may contact me on 410-775-0500 to arrange to pick up their award.

### **Field Safety**

Each year we make a special effort to survey the show field in advance for hazards that might endanger the cars on the field and/or the safety of those in attendance. However, a hazard that is innocently introduced on the day of the show was revealed this year: Picnic tents and sun shelters erected by individuals and groups on the show field. During the height of the same storm that crippled our ballot counting process one such sun shelter was overturned and carried away, damaging several cars in its path. Thankfully, nobody was reported injured in the incident. Never the less, we will have to insist that all such shelters erected on the grounds at future events are anchored securely, then be inspected and approved, for the safety of all concerned.

### **In Closing**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that OBCD is run by a committee of members of The Chesapeake Chapter which, like most car clubs, is a volunteer organization. In addition to our club members, we are pleased to acknowledge with great appreciation the efforts of other British car clubs, friends, family and co-workers. These people work hard and dedicate time because they believe that their efforts are worthwhile and will benefit many. If it were not for all these people, there would be no car show. We are deeply indebted to them for their service and commend them for a job well done.

Many thanks again for all your support and look forward to seeing everyone next year on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> for OBCD 2009!

Sincerely

John M. Tokar, Chairman  
The Chesapeake Chapter of New England MG "T" Register