

# SPRIDGET NEWS

THE WORLDS ONLY RACING MIDGET & SPRITE NEWSPAPER

Est. 2023

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Price 6d

## Gentlemen (& Ladies) Start your Engines!

We are now just over one week away from the start of the new season which kicks off at Brands Hatch on April 1<sup>st</sup>. With nearly 30 drivers signed for 2023 season it promises to a feast of the usual competitive spridget racing from the off.

The 2023 championship follows the usual format of two 20 minutes races per meeting starting at Brands Hatch and then visiting Oulton Park, Silverstone GP, Cadwell and Castle Combe before finishing at Snetterton on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

More information can be found at [www.mgmidgetchallenge.club](http://www.mgmidgetchallenge.club)

•The MGCC has now funnelled the organisation of some their races through EQUIPE Classic Racing for the coming season, and MSVR will run the meetings, however racers still have to be a member of the MGCC and Register with the Championship to race. We feel this will add greatly to the Lackford Midget and Sprite Challenge as the whole event will have more of a historic race feel.

### 2023 Calendar

- 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> April- Brands Hatch Indy
- 13<sup>th</sup> May- Oulton Park
- 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> - June MG/Triumph Live Silverstone
- 30<sup>th</sup> July- Cadwell Park
- 28<sup>th</sup> August- Castle Combe
- 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> September- Snetterton



# Pippa Pips the Lot

Pippa Cow took overall victory in 2022 with her E Class Austin Healey for the second year running. Pippa's Sprite is prepared by magic dad Gil Duffy a former competitor in the Midget and Sprite Challenge.

Pippa will have a lot of competition in E Class this season with Tom Walker returning with his rebuilt Sprite, an ever-improving James Hughes, Richard Bridge racing his father's Johns car and the returning Jason Meredith to mention just a few.

•In Class D young racer Barney Collinson took the honours of the top step in a hotly contested class with Ian Burgin, Hugh Simpson, Ian Wright and Connor Kay. With newcomers joining the Class D action in 2023 we look forward to wheel to wheel racing.

In Fully Modified Class A Richard Bridge was the class of the field for the season.

## Class A Fully Modified

Richard Bridge 74

Paul Sibley 41

Steve Watkins 37

## Class D Road Going Modified

Barney Collinson 77

Ian Burgin 71

Hugh Simpson 66

## Class E Race Modified

Pippa Cow 103

James Hughes 71

Tom Walker 53



**Pippa Cow Overall Winner and First in class E**



**Barney Collinson Winner of Class D**



**Competitive Action at Donington**



**Richard Bridge Winner of Class A**

# Lackford Engineering 2023 Series Sponsor



We would like to thank Robin Lackford for his continued support and sponsorship of the Midget and Sprite Challenge for the 2023 season. Robin is not only a regular competitor with his E class Sprite but also competes in other historic series.

Lackford Engineering are a family business of two generations based in Horsham West Sussex, specialising in classic car restoration, and preparing historic race cars. In a later edition of this newsletter, you can look forward to an article about Robin and his company his amazing Lackford Engineering.

## New Historic Class for Midget & Sprite Challenge



Now in its 46<sup>th</sup> year, one of the longest running single make race championship has announced a new racing class for 2023. The championship co-ordinator, Mike Parker, said “Over the past few years at club level we have seen an uptake in interest in historic cars and the logical step for us was to bring in a class for those cars as up to now we have not catered for them. Whilst we have an invitation class where virtually any cars with a A Series engine can race , the new historic class will specifically cater for the historic”.

The class will follow the FIA requirements which many Midget and Sprite racers in other mixed series and championships will be familiar with. The cars will of course race on cross ply tyres which will make for the familiar sight of these lovely cars drifting through the corners.

The Midget and Sprite challenge is the only dedicated race championship for MG Midgets and Austin Healey Sprites and has seen healthy grids ever since its inception in 1977. Said Mike “We have seen many new race series come and go since we started but many drivers recognise that the Midgets and Sprites have a special place which is why we have seen healthy grids year on year.”

## Parkers Corner

Mike Parker is the hard-working race series coordinator who makes the whole thing happen. "Parkers Corner" will be a regular feature in the newsletter.

Mike would like to welcome newcomer Amelia Storer who will be racing in Class D at Brands, as well as others joining the championship later in the season Bruce Burrows and Jon Percy.

## Big Silverstone 100 Year Celebration!

This summer on the second weekend of June attention will be turned to the home of motor racing Silverstone whilst a minor event is taking place in La Sarthe at the same time. On the 10th and 11th two British Sports Car great will hold their 100-year-old anniversary at MG Triumph Live. An event that will wet the appetite of any sports car enthusiast.

To complement the occasion there will be Spridget racing across both days of the weekend, and we are looking to have bumper turnout for this historic occasion. The aim is having a bumper grid of cars from around the UK and possibly beyond the British shores.

## Spridget Newsletter

We hope to bring you this Newsletter on a regular basis which will have not only race reports from the Midget and Sprite Challenge but also articles on racing Spridgets outside the UK as well other interesting relevant historic motor racing news.

The newsletter is run voluntarily, and we rely on being given news and pictures to fill the pages. Please feel free to send anything newsworthy to me by e-mail at [andrew.caldwell@jf-di.co.uk](mailto:andrew.caldwell@jf-di.co.uk)

