

Marcus Chambers Collection Accession 2011-023 CHAM

Marcus Chambers was a significant figure in Mid-Century British motor sports. In his youthful years, during the 1930s, he was a seasoned racing and rally driver who placed highly in the 1938 24 Hours of LeMans and he was respected as an ace mechanic specializing in performance Bentleys and the HRG racing cars. In the Post-War era, he was the director of the BMC (British Motor Corporation) racing program. He managed a stable of skilled and often professional racing and rally car drivers and was instrumental in promoting women drivers in rally contest in Europe—notably Pat Moss, sister of Sir Stirling Moss. His stature is such that Chambers is sometimes compared to the great Mercedes-Benz “works” team manager, Alfred Neubauer. Chambers was an erudite personality and curiously was a survivor of the tragic Halifax, Nova Scotia harbor explosion in 1917 in which over 2000 citizens perished. Marcus Chambers died in 2009 at the age of 98. This is a collection of his photographic images that he made during rally competitions in Great Britain and Europe primarily in the 1950s.

This is a collection of 270 35 mm color transparencies taken by Mr. Chambers at rally events. This collection was acquired with the Ludvigsen Library in February 2011. Mr. Chambers and Karl Ludvigsen were personal friends. Some of the Chambers slides have been separated into other Ludvigsen photo files and these are occasionally identified as Chambers images.

The collection is arranged into sleeve holders and stored in a manuscript box.

Colour Slides held by Marcus Chambers for 1955 to 1961

Sheet 1.

1. 1955 Le Mans. Cars 41 and 42 at Pits
Dicky Green and another in front of cars.
2. 1955 Le Mans. Dicky Green on duty on pit counter, early morning.
- 2 1955 Sammy Davis and John Thornley standing on pit counter before race started.
4. MGA prototype on 1955 Alpine Rally proving trial at summit of Galibier Pass.
- 5 MGA Prototype at Montlhery during proving trial.
MGA sign in background was for a French organisation connected with Motul lubricating oil.
- 6 Pat Moss in MG TF at start of handicap race Goodwood, 1956
- 7 Hotel at Nordwijk an Zee which was patronised by BMC teams for many years.
- 8 Stirling Moss in Kieft 500 Silverstone.
- 9 MGA with the prototype hard-top at Development Dept Abingdon. 1956.
11. FitzPatrick Racing team from Baliol College Oxford with MGA and Ferodo rep in attendance.
12. 1956 Mille Miglia finishing line with Taruffi in distance.
- 13 The Piazza Vittoria, Brescia Scrutineering of Alfa Romeos.
14. Ken Best, Ann Hall. and Jack Sears at Sestrieres Rally. 1957.
15. General view of Sestrieres in winter 1957.
16. Taruffi at the finish of the Mille Miglia 1956.
- 17, 18. and 19. Giant score board at the Piazza Vittoria, Brescia.

Sheet 2.

Slide 74, First BMC team to go to the Liege-Rome-Liege 1955.

Slide 71. 1955 Liege-Rome-Liege. Parc Ferme at Liege.

Slide 65 Mercedes 300 SL in Parc Ferme. 1955 Liege-Rome-Liege.

Slide 72. Gendebien, Mercedes at Finish Liege-Rome-Liege.

Slide 70. Parc Ferme Liege -Rome-Liege 1955

Slide 67. Peugeot in Parc Ferme at Liege, 1955.

5 A, A90 Service car in Savoy Alps 1956 Alpine Rally.

B. MGA Team at the Hotel Galland, Lapalisse on way to Marseille for 1956 Alpine Rally.

C. Alpine Drivers at the summit of Mt. Ventoux, Alpine Rally 1956.

9 D. Nancy Mitchell and Pat Faichnay Alpine Cup Winners 1956.

E. Prizes at table for presentation , Alpine 1956.

Not F. Maurice Gatsonides and Ken Richardson. Triumph, Prize giving. Alpine 1956.

10 G. Mitchell receives Alpine Cup.

H. Faichnay drinking from Alpine Cup at Prize Giving.

I. Mitchell ditto.

J. Mitchell gets kissed by the president of the A.C.M.P.

K. 1956. MGA descending lacets to Bormio on Stelvio during gear ratio tests.

14 7 L. SOL 125 Austin A90 Barge on the Gavia.

M. SOL 125 Tulip Rallyt 1956.

This was my favourite for many thousand miles.

N. Another view of J.

1958 Alpine Rally.

- 13 ✓ A. Kat Brothers, Triumph, at the start.
- ✓ B. Moss and Wisdom in a crowd at the start.
- 12 ✓ C. Denis Jenkinson and Nancy Mitchell before the start.
- 55 ✓ D. Denis Jenkinson and the Kat brothers at the start.
- 14 ✓ E. Jack Sears and Sam Moore at the start.
- 30 ✓ F. Pat Moss and Ann Wisdom with Terry Mitchell, Development Engineer from Abingdon at Monza.
- 1959 ✓ G. Pat and Ann at Monza.
- 1959 H. Stelvio Control. Ann Wisdom watches Willy Cave clocking out.
- I. Team cars on arrival at Lyons rail station after night journey from Boulogne,
- J. Jack Sears talking to two navigators about the days recce run to Marseille.
- 11 ✓ K. Prize Giving. Pat and Ann Coupe des Dames winners.
- L. The AH. team at La Ciotat.

1959 Alpine Rally.

- 27 ✓ M. View taken from Hotel de Ville of the Parc Ferme before the start..
- N Pat Moss and John Sprinzel larking about before the start with other drivers amused.
- 28 O. Waiting for the start in the shade.
- P. Team of Austin Healeys before going to scrutineering from La Ciotat, No Rally plates on the cars, only numbers.
- 31 Q. Bedoin Control. Ventoux timed climb. Gott/Tooley AH 3000. No 6
- R/ Pat at Monza with Group III Special Series, Farina A40 Austin.
- S. Bedoin Control, Triumph TR3, Possibly Ballisat,
- T. Renault at start of Stelvio timed climb,

1959

1958 Liege-Rome-Liege Rally.

- 16
- A. Gott/Brookes MGA Twin Cam Liege-Rome-Liege Rally.
 - B. Bourges Control. Gerry Burgess clocking in while Moss waits at table.
 - C. A call at a cafe for a drink causes a crowd to collect as Moss gets back to her car.
 - D. Claude Buchet retires out of time and explains why he went wrong.
 - E. John Gott and some of the BMC mechanics relax after the event is over. Monte Carlo Rally 1956.
 - F. Ditto.
 - G. Huw Thomas, B.B.C. interviewing Pat and Ann 1959 Monte.
 - H. Pat and Ann. A40 at the Concours of Comfort Competition.
 - I. A40 Farina Austin fitted tool kit.
 - J. Various A.H. Sprites at the Comfort judging.

1959 Acropolis Rally.

- 24 ✓
25 ✓
26 ✓
- K. En route by sea from Brindisi to Patras, Greece. John Sprinzel, Pat Moss and Ann Wisdom.
 - L. The secretary to the Clerk of the Course.
 - M. The Moss/Wisdom Austin Healey at the start of the Rally. (Creslo)
 - N. The Sprinzel/Bensted-Smith MGA at the start of the Rally.
 - P. The Healey being driven back from Kavalla to Athens after the accident over difficult road.
 - Q. Near mount Olympus using a half built motorway to Athens.
 - R. Pat Moss with a Greek giant at the final speed test at Tatoi.
 - S. Pat Moss being presented to H.R.H. King of Greece at prize giving.
 - T. Levy the winner getting his prize from the King.
 - U. Winners of the Coupe des Dames, Annie Soisbault and Gilberte Therion.

Page 5.

Sestrieres Rally 1959.

21 ✓

Not

20 ✓

23 ✓

- A. B.M.C. 'Barge' en route to the Dolomites.
- B. Ann Wisdom with some St Bernards at sestrieres.
- C. Tommy Wisdom with his Austin Healey Sprite.
- D. Pat Moss at the control at Sestrieres.
- E. Stewart Turner, John Sprinzel and Pat Moss, after the Rally.

Portugese Rally. 1959

PARADISE

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- F. Guest House, night stop on way home from Portugese Rally, Cuidad Roderigo.
- G. Nancy Mitchell, 850cc Mini Minor at Spanish filling station, Portugese Rally.

Circuit of Ireland Rally 1959.

H. Pat Moss, Morris Minor 1000. Ladies class winner and second in capacity class. 14th O/A

?

I. BMC Barge encounters a bear in Yugo Slavia on 1960 Liege-Sofia-Liege Rally.

35. J. P. Ozanne and Pat Allison. Morris Mini Minor 1960 Tulip Rally.

Monte Carlo Rally 1960.

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- K. Tommy Wisdom and Jack Hay, Austin Seven 1960 Monte.L. Alec
- L. Pitts and A. Ambrose, Morris Mini Minor.
- M. D. Morley and E. Morley. Morris Mini Minor
- N. Scenic view of Stelvio Pass. ✓
- O. Scenic view of Stelvio Pass. ✓
- P. Scenic view of Stelvio Pass.
- Q. Shot of the other side of the Stelvio going down to Bormio with MGA doing axle and gear box ratio trials with John Gott.

Assorted shots of well known motoring personalities.

- A. Raymond Baxter.
- B, Gregor Grant.
- C. Dennis Jenkinson, Motor Sport.
- D. Princess Grace and Prince Ranier standing for one of the national anthems at the Monte Carlo Prize giving.
- E. Eric Carlsson with some of his and Pat's trophies before the burglary.
- F. Stuart Turner at Abingdon.
- G. Lofty England.
- H. Miss Jane Derrington, the secretary to at least four of the Competition Managers at Abingdon.
- I. H. von Hanstein, one time Porsche Competition Manager.
- J. Mrs Joan Johns, now Mrs Sam Moore, Works driver with Austin and Austin Healey, 1955 to 1960.
- K and L. SOL 125 in the Alps.
- M. T.H. Wisdom. Motoring correspondent.
- R. DAVID HODKIN DIED 1980 DESIGNER ROOTS + FORD
- S. DOUCHET 1964
- T. DAN GREEN 1981

Acropolis Rally. 1960

36 *45* A. Race at Tatoi. M.Sutcliffe and D.Astle, Austin Seven.

B. Parnas Hill Climb, Athens.

C. Lunch stop at Serre.

L to R. Den Green, Peter Riley, Eric Carlsson, Pat Moss, Ann Wisdom, A.Ambrose.

D. Trattoria on the way to Venice to ship cars to Greece.

Liege-Sofia-Liege, or Marathon, 1961

45 E. John Gott after retiring with split sump,
The morning after a night in the car,

46 F. Bill Shepherd has an encounter with a 'Bandit' after the breakdown.

G. A Yugo Slav Road house, relic of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in N. Yugo Slavia.

44 H. The support crew stops for lunch and demonstrates that " An Army marches on its stomach." for sure.

I. Quite a banquet.

J. A quick stop near Zagreb on the way south.

44 K and L Two shots of the Abingdon competition workshop taken in 1962.

49 Jane Derrup
50 Camps

Alpinr Rally 1961.

- 40 A. Malucene. The first Healey arrives from the Mont Ventoux Special Stage.
- 41 B. Moss/Wisdom Austin Healey for service at Malucene.
- C. Hans Walter, Porsche at chamonix.
- D. Riley/Ambrose Austin Healey 3000 Chamonix.
- 43 E. Gott/Shepherd Austin Healey 3000 Chamonix
- 42 F. Morley/Morley Austin Healey 3000 Chamonix.
- G. Morleys change tyres at Dunlop Service, Chamonix.

Acropolis Rally 1961.

- A. The team take a drink in the Piazzo S. Marco Venice
Vic Elfors, Brian Moylan and derek Astle.
- B. Drivers and mechanics, Venice.
- C. On the bridge of the Turkish boat to Athens.
- D. Brian Moylan, Barbara Ambrose and Doug Hamblin.
- E. Tatoi, Mrs J.Hiam, D.Seigle-Morris, Mrs S.M.? and Mrs
Ambrose.
- F. Oliver Speight, Dunlop, and his improvised service transport
at Lamia.
- G. Tatio Races.
- H. Tatoi start of small capacity race.
- I. Riley/Ambrose arrive at the Prize Giving Ceremony.
- J. David Hiam and Mike Hughes, Morris Mini Minor arrive for the
prize giving. 2nd in Touring 700-850cc.
- K. Crown Prince and Princess of Greece.
- L. Riley/Ambrose collect prizes. 1st GT and 3rd O.A.

Sebring 12 hour Race 1959.

- A. Avon Park Workshop.
- B. Pit Marshall briefing.
- C. Race Control Office.
- D. One of the bands with a Drummajorette.
- E. The Le Mans type start.
- F. Sunset over the wet track, from the MG pit.
- G. Stan Nicholls, time keeper par excellence.
- H. The Back up boys and some management at Avon Park.
- I. Peter Millard, Service Manager BMC Ontario.
- J. Bird Cage Maserati at scrutineering.
- K. MGA at Avon Park.
- L. Miss Sebring Sports Car.
- N. Jack Flaherty and Ray Pickering.
- P. Driver unidentified 1961 possibly Escott.
- Q. The medical inspection bus.
- O. C. Escott with Miss Orange Grove. MGA
- M. Before the start 1960. MGA Twin Cam No:40 J. Parkinson and Jack Flaherty.
- R. Before start, 1960 MGA Twin Cam No:38. E. Lund and Colin Escott.
- S. West Palm Beach, No:40 on show at West Palm Beach Dealer after the race.

Sebring 12 hour race 1961.

- A. Cypress Gardens, ladies in show costumes.
- B. Water Ballet.
- C. Drivers chatting-up the costumed ladies.
- D. Drivers chatting up the Vickars daughter from Norfolk.
- E. Water ballet. Cypress Gardens.
- F. Water ballet, Cypress Gardens.
- G. D.Watts with a big fish.
after fishing off West Parm Beach.
- H. Costumes at Cypress Gardens.
- I. Costumes at Cypress Gardens.
- M. Riley/Sears AH 3000 on start line 1960
- N. Jack Sears poses with Miss Orange Grove at Avon Park, 1960.

Sebring 12 Hour Race 1961.

- A. Pat Moss and Eric Carlsson on the upper deck of game fishing craft.
- B. Fishing off West Palm Beach, Pat in centre.
- C. D.Watts, J.Whitmore, P.Riley at the landing place.
- D. No:43 MGA 1600 Coupe being driven very carefully to the start due to intense police activity.
- E. No 43 and 44 MGA 1600 Coupes at Scrutineering.
- F. Pat and Eric at Avon Park.
- G. Stirling and Pat at track for practice.
- H. Brother gives some advice to his sister.
- I. Sprite No: 2 at practice.
- J. Sprite No:65 in practice, drivers John Colgate, Jnr and Ed Levens.