



MSCC Affiliated Overseas Clubs Part 1:1950-1973 'a brief of history of time'

by *Mike Pullen*

In the recent MSCC70 articles published in 2021, I wrote about our UK centres and when they came into existence. This article on the overseas clubs was always planned as the natural extension to the UK Centre history, and is the final article of my MSCC70 contributions. We have a large network of affiliated clubs across the world with many passionate Morgan owners who are MSCC members, it is only fair that our overseas clubs are given some column inches in *Miscellany*.

We currently have 45 affiliated clubs, and most of these are very active with full committees and well populated web pages. Occasionally we will see articles in *Miscellany* from one of our affiliated clubs; and our annual MOG gatherings in the UK regularly attract members from the overseas clubs, and long may that continue. The MSCC officer maintaining the connection with these clubs is John Donovan, who himself is very well travelled in his trusty Plus 8; an interesting article from John was included in one of the *Miscellany* MSCC70 compilations in August 2021. The information below provided by the overseas clubs varied in length a lot, and in some cases I have had to summarise what I received; however, I make no

apologies for printing in full the contribution from the Mousequaire Club (in Part 3), it is such a good read – enjoy! The USA, which has the largest number of affiliated Morgan clubs spread across a large number of states, has 14 active groups.

The MSCC affiliated clubs started forming from the 1950s. Like the UK

centres, most clubs would have started as a group of owner friends who chatted about their cars, and then decided that they should form a club some time after. Just four years after the 4/4 Club (MSCC) itself was started in June 1951, a group of American owners founded The Morgan Plus Four Club. This was in Los Angeles



around February of 1955 led by Curt Warshawsky. On Oct 27 1955, the Club was incorporated in the State of California thus becoming the oldest official Morgan Club outside of the UK. The first location of the Club meeting was the Blarney Castle, until 1960 when the club moved to the Grand Prix Restaurant; and in 1962, meetings moved to the Cameo Room on Sunset Blvd. The Club meeting moved again in 1963, to the Kelbos Restaurant on Fairfax Avenue across the street from the Farmers Market. In 1964, the meetings were held at the Cockney Red Lion in Burbank, and July 1964 Pike's Glen Oaks in Glendale. The 'Format' Newsletter covers were hand drawn sketches of various Morgans as well as pictures of particular driving events or seasonal holidays; the first 'Morgan Plus 4 Format' was published in October 1955. It was and is a very active club with a lot of history.

The Morgan Plus Four Club of Northern California was started on 20th March 1957;

Wilson Cosby was the first President, Clate Meredith was the Secretary and Cle Murphy the Treasurer. The club was officially Incorporated on 1 July 1960, and the name was later changed to the Morgan Sports Car Club of Northern California on 14

August 2017. The club's newsletter, 'The Morgazette', currently published bi-monthly, was once published each month, and has had several name changes during the past, each depending upon who the Editor was at the time. One of the interesting titles was "Morgasm" in 1963, however that title didn't last very long!

The Morgan Owner's Club of Australia was created on the 3rd of July 1958, by a



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small group of enthusiasts at the instigation of the late Ken Ward. MOCA was founded to promote and foster the mutual interest of Morgan car owners and enthusiasts throughout Australia, and to provide a centre of technical information about the Morgan motor car. MOCA promotes meetings of both a social and competitive nature, with an average of 30 events held each year. The club produces a monthly magazine 'The Morgan Ear' which is sent out to all members; and at present they have over 280 members."

Morgan Car Club, Washington DC was founded 1959 in Washington DC by a small group of Morgan owners and club racers who raced under the 'Team Rebel' banner at Marlboro MD, Cumberland MD, Lime Rock CT and other SCCA sanctioned race venues. It was incorporated in 1965 and an active member in Washington Council SCCA events. They initiated the MOG annual series in 1971 (Morgan Owners' Gathering) and will be celebrating 50 years of these gatherings in 2022; delayed from 2020 by Covid 19.

The Morgan Register of Sweden was founded by Anders Engström and Arne Homström in 1966; and the name quickly changed to Morgan Owners Group - Register of Sweden, in 1967. It was more normally known as Morgan Owners Group of Sweden and this name was officially adopted in 1973. They are an active club with very passionate owners who seem to spend their long winters keeping their cars looking in 'tip top' concours condition.

The Morgan Owners -Victoria (Australia) started in September 1967 after two owners - Neville Crawford and John White, met and decided to form a club. The first meeting was in the town of Ormond, nr Melbourne. Initially this was an area group within Morgan Owners Club of Australia, but later in June 1994 this division of MOCA broke away to form an independent club. The first president was Derek Allen. A committee was formed and early meetings were very casual and rotated monthly amongst members houses. This practice still continues to this day. On the 16th June 1994 the present independent club VICMOG was formed and incorporated to

meet changing legislative requirements.

The formation of the Toronto Morgan Owners Group occurred in 1967 when Doug Price (an ex pat Englishman) almost 'ran into' two Morgan enthusiasts – Ken Miles and Ian Campbell near his Toronto home. The timing seemed right and a meeting was arranged at Alan Sands' farm, attended by 12 Morgans. Other founding members were Al Sands, Stu Harvey and Dave Smith. By 1982 the club was known as the 'Morgan Owners Group Toronto' and a third badge was produced indicating this. A lot of owners had moved out of Toronto by this time to neighbouring towns not that far away. In 1994 the club was renamed the Morgan Sports Car Club of Canada.

The South African Morgan Owners Group (SAMOG) was launched on 5 December 1970 by Angela Heinz in Johannesburg, initially as a provincial club for the then Transvaal Province (now Gauteng). Angela, who was the official Morgan agent in South Africa, drove a pink 1969 +8. Soon after they invited owners from other SA provinces and adjoining countries to join and expand their coverage, and there are currently about 120 Morgans in South Africa, the oldest being a 1913 Runabout. The 70th anniversary of the Morgan was celebrated with a dinner in the ballroom of the Sunnyside Park Hotel (originally the residence of the British Governor-General in South Africa), with seventeen Morgans in the ballroom and the British Consul as guest speaker. MSCC affiliation came in 1988, and in 2009 some members created the Western Cape Register (regional center) of the SA club, known as CapeMog; this was shortly after July/August 2009 when a contingent of SAMOG members attended the centenary celebrations in Cheltenham UK.

The 3 / 4 Morgan Group (USA) began to form in 1970 and the initial instigators were Ken Gross and John Erickson. One year later, they were joined by Butch Strunk,

Jim Nichol, Art Lange, Chet Paleski, Allen Kone, Lee Gaskins, Bob Schmidt, and Dave Bondon. It was an unofficial group until incorporated in New York State in 1974. They produce a newsletter called The 'Morganeer.' The club's distinctive yellow and green triangular badge with traditional Morgan wings, designed by Art Lange highlights the 3 and the 4 of the club's name, which honours the marque's three and four wheeled vehicles. The club's first annual AutumnMog held at Lime Rock Race Track in October 1979 was instigated by Spider Bulyk.

In 1971 on October 9, a small number of enthusiastic Morgan owners met in the Intercontinental Hotel in Frankfurt; the result of this was the founding of Morgan Club Deutschland (MCD). Nik Bösch became the first chairman and other founding members were Manfred Monkos, Uwe Schuck, Thomas Schäfer and Pius Kuhlmann. On

January 3, 1975, Morgan-Club Deutschland e.V. was formerly registered at the district court in Essen. The club started with about 30 Morgan enthusiasts spread all

over Germany. To enforce friendship and contacts, four sections, Berlin Nord, Mitte und Süd, were established. MCD now has 9 sections (centers) across Germany - Nord, Ost, Mitte Nord, Mitte, unMOglich, Rhein-Main, Ländle, Franke & Bayern.



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Currently with 1150 members, they issue a 6 monthly 'Morgan Post' magazine. The main events during a 'normal' year without Corona virus restrictions are the big



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Morgan Club Meetings in spring and fall. The Morgan Owners of Philadelphia is better known in the States as 'MOPS'. It was formed in March 1971 by Bob Schmidt and John Moffatt, and was made official in 1977. It has been active ever since with monthly breakfast gathering, rallies, tours and seasonal parties. Their signature event is the 'Moggie Miglia', a complex series of challenges including a car show, TSD rally, autocross, with formal dinner and awards breakfast. They try to support events of the MCCDC and the 3/4 Club of New York. They average about 40 active members with Morgans in and around south east Pennsylvania.

MSCC Holland followed next in 1972 after owner Fokke van Tuikwerd wrote a letter to the company that imported Morgans into The Netherlands, as well as to thirteen potentially interested owners to establish a Dutch Morgan club. This was achieved on 9th April 1972 at Doortwerth (The Netherlands). From the beginning the club is called Morgan Sports Car Club Holland. Their club magazine was originally called Fata Morgana, the spelling of which was later changed to FataMorgana. In 2022 they plan to celebrate their 50th anniversary, and the club committee are working hard to organise a special event; this will be held in Elspeet, Gelderland, The Netherlands in August.

Also founded in 1972, Morgan Owners Club of Japan was established by Masahiro Naito (the first President) and 16 other founding members. 1979, saw the club name changed to Morgan Sports Car Club of Japan whilst at the Lake Yamanaka Hill Climb meeting. Their magazine called 'Sliding Pillars' was launched in 1980, and in 1982 their 10th Anniversary was held at the British Embassy in Tokyo with a Concours d'Elegance. Events came regularly each year with a visit in 1988 from Mr and Mrs Peter Morgan at the Hakone Hill Climb. This was followed in 1992 by a visit from

Mr and Mrs Charles Morgan; and in 1994 Mr and Mrs Derek Day attended their annual event. 2007 brought their 35th Anniversary at Kamakura, and in 2009 13 members joined the MMC Centenary event at Cheltenham. As 2022 arrives they are planning their 50th Anniversary event in June, and the club currently has 133 club members.

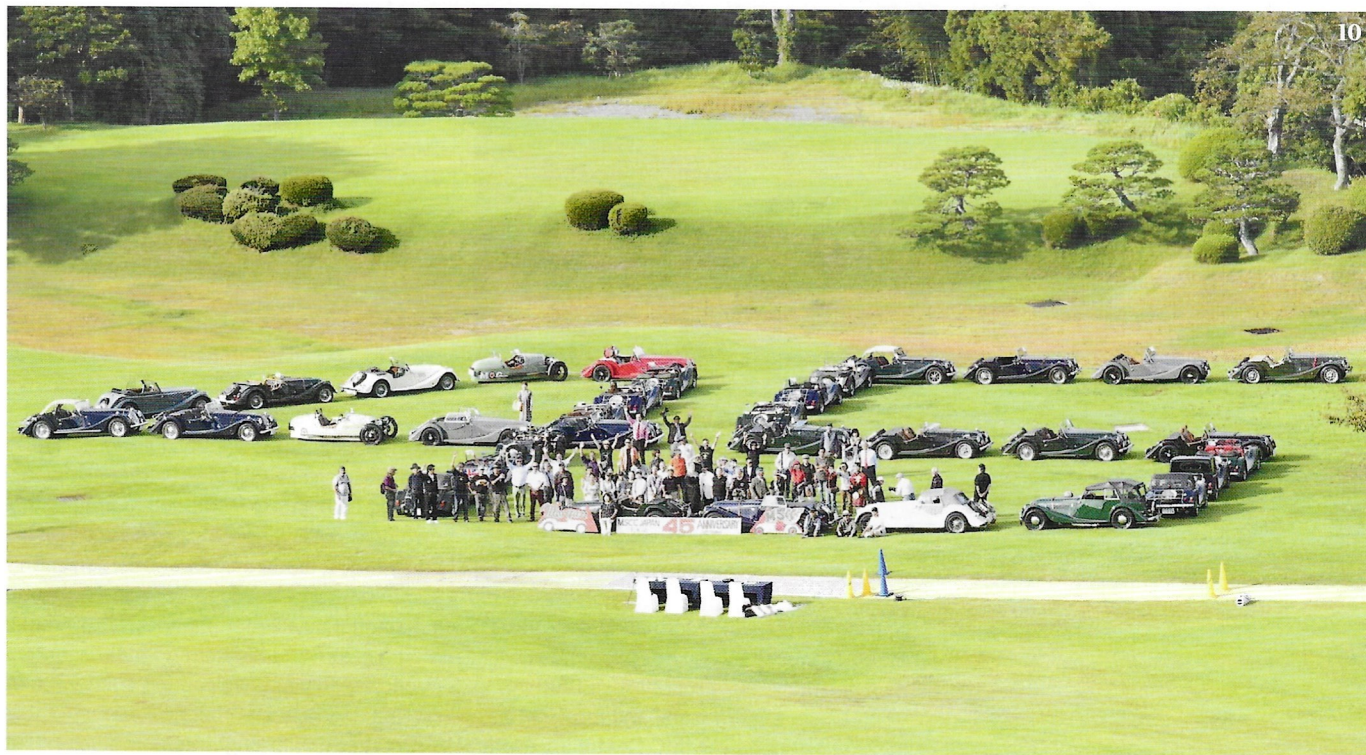
Ohio Morgan Owners was started in 1973 by Bob Burrows who invited 17 known Morgan owners to an initial picnic meeting in Columbus, Ohio. From that, membership grew and the group was re-organized in the late 1980's as the Ohio Morgan Owners Group with Chas Wasser as the first president of the refreshed club. The group was officially incorporated as OhMog in May of 1991. The club evolved using small local 'get-togethers' and occasional larger meetings throughout each year. In 1984 the first annual meet was organized in Dayton, OH. These autumn meets are called OHMOGs and over 35 have been a joy for the members to attend. They've

been big enough that international notables such as Maurice Owen, Chris Lawrence, Bill Fink, and "Road & Track" writer Dennis Simanaitis were guests at their "Morgans at Mid-Ohio" in 1991. Richard Shepherd-Barron was the guest for the celebration of Morgan's 100th anniversary when we returned to the ACD museum in 2009, where he showed a film of his Morgan racing exploits. They also hosted a number of OHMOGs including one with blues legend H-Bomb Ferguson and his Medicine Men at their home and classic car barn. Members, Steve (treasurer) & Katie Stierman, have hosted the Holiday Party for over 20 years. OH Mog is an active and thriving club with a membership around 65, owning a wide variety of Morgan models and years; it holds a number of organized and impromptu 'get-togethers' and has a substantial newsletter (OHMOGGIE). OH Mog has striven to foster and maintain a strong friendly and welcoming culture for current and new members alike.

October 1973 brought the formation of the Morgan Club Denmark after a first meeting at the home of an owner; six Morgans arrived for the meeting. In 1977 Nils-Erik Norsker and Larse Pettersson were touring England and entered the Yorkshire Centre Weekend in Sheffield. The evening party was much enjoyed, and on the Sunday Autotest they had a lot of fun sliding their 4/4s around the bollards. Nils-Erik achieved a Class 3rd in the Concours. Currently the club has 250 members and they issue a regular magazine. Seven 'official' events are held through the year, and often the club travels into Europe. 1974 will be their 50th Anniversary and will hold an international meeting on 9-11th June 2023; all Morgan clubs will be invited.

Acknowledgments: Most of the information given above has been provided by the listed overseas contacts, and I thank





them all. My thanks go to all who took the trouble to help; and particular thanks to John Donovan (MSCC Overseas Liaison Officer), Hermen Pol, Paul Christie, Chas Wasser and Annabelle Tescione.

Note #1: It should be noted that these clubs may have been operating months or years before gaining 4/4 Club or MSCC affiliated status.

Note #2: Where countries cover a large area (USA, Australia, etc.), some overseas clubs may have several regional groups (Chapters) operating very much like the MSCC Centres. If readers identify errors or are able to provide more clarity to the data given, then please do contact me by email (mscc70@morgansportscarclub.com).

Photo captions:

1. MSCC Northern California's recent Oyster Run
2. Morgan Owners Club Australia's 1959 Christmas party
3. MOG Sweden's first meeting at Gränna in 1967
4. VicMog (Morgan Owners - Victoria) during their "3 Day High Country Wander"
5. MSCC Canada, at the British Car Day, Burlington, Ontario in 2019
6. Rally plaque from South African Morgan Owners Group's November 2021 tour
7. Morgan Club Deutschland's gathering at the Schloss Dyck "Classic Days" event
8. Morgan Owners of Philadelphia masked up for a tour during the pandemic
9. A few of the cars at MSCC Holland's annual event in 2018

10. MSCC Japan's 45th Anniversary at Nihondaira (near Mt. Fuji) in 2017. The Morgans are arranged to form the number 45

11. OhMog (Ohio Morgan Owners Group) members pass through a historic bridge during a country drive

12. A winter Garage Meeting of Morgan Club Denmark in 2019



MORGAN 4/4 CLUB / MSCC TIME LINE
OVERSEAS AFFILIATED CLUB CREATION



MORGAN 4 - 4 CLUB (FIRST MEETING 30TH JUNE 1951)	1951	Morgan 4/4 Club (UK) founded.
	1952	
	1953	
	1954	
	1955	Morgan Plus Four Club (USA).
	1956	
	1957	MSCC of Northern California (originally Morgan Plus 4 Club of N California).
	1958	Morgan Owners Club of Australia.
	1959	Morgan Car Club Washington DC.
	1960	
	1961	
	1962	
	1963	
	1964	
	1965	
	1966	Morgan Owners Group of Sweden (originally Morgan Register of Sweden).
	1967	Victorian Morgan Owners Group (Australia), MSCC Canada (originally Morgan Owners Group Toronto).
MSCC (FROM 1971)	1968	
	1969	
	1970	South African Morgan Owners Group (incl. CapeMog - started in 2009), 3/4 Morgan Group (USA).
	1971	Morgan Club Deutschland. Morgan Owners Group Philadelphia.
	1972	MSCC Holland. MSCC of Japan. Morgan Owners Group Great Lakes (USA) - now inactive.
	1973	Ohio Morgan Owners Group. Morgan Club Denmark. Morgan Club de France (originally named French MSCC).