



# MSCC Affiliated Overseas Clubs

## Part 2: 1973-1988

### ‘A brief of history of time’

by *Mike Pullen*



Continuing my look at our Affiliated Overseas Clubs, this section focuses on the 1973 to 1988 period which saw another 16 clubs form, and/or gain affiliated status with the MSCC. New clubs continue to be formed as Morgan enthusiasts across the world get together to enjoy both the cars and the social and competition scene associated with owning a Morgan.

(Correction: Repeated entry of Denmark to correct an error in Part1). 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

then 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. Founded in 1973, 2023 will be their 50th Anniversary and they will hold an international meeting on 9-11th June 2023; all Morgan clubs will be invited.

**The Morgan Club de France** was founded 49 years ago, in September 1973. Initially called the French Morgan Sports Car Club, it brought

together less than 10 members around its President and creator, Patrick Boisvieux. More a group of friends and enthusiasts; the FMSCC was renamed Morgan Club de France (MCF) in 1978, and it attracted around fifty members as the club began to take shape. The statutes were filed in 1980 and the MCF is now a member of the French Federation of Vintage Vehicles (FFVE). The first 'NEWS' came out in 1974 and was published in colour from 1994; two to three issues of News are sent out each year and an E-News started in 2021. In 1980 the MCF organized the first international MOG; 49 years later the MCF has 600 members and around 700 Morgans. Its President, Jean-Luc Maublanc, is surrounded by 11 regional delegations. More than 50 events are organized by the Club each year.

**MSCC Belgium.** In 1968 a couple of students in Belgium (Patrice Libier and Albert

De Mey) waved at each other whilst out in their Morgans; they eventually met and started leaving notes under the wipers of the other Morgans they saw. This developed into group meetings and the MSCC Belgium Club was born in 1974. The first President was Michel Schereschewsky. By 1981 there were about 20 members; through the 1980s more members were added and regular events took place. In this period, rallies were regularly organized, a club magazine was published for the first time and the club was regularly represented at old-timer fairs. Their very first show stand was in 1982 in the Bouwcentrum of Antwerp; the pioneers of this fair were the Dockx brothers (it has since grown into the largest company for rental of cars and light trucks). In 1987/1988 sad events took over and the club split, taking about 50% of the members to form Morgan Owners Group Belgium (see separate 1988

entry for MOG Belgium). MSCC Belgium continued to operate, although in recent years (2020-2021) there seems to have been little activity. Currently Jan Convents is Secretary of the club and his father is the President.

**The Morgan Motor Car Club - Texas** began in December 1974. After buying his 4/4 in 1970, Dallas owner Jim Woodyard started noting down the license plates of other Morgans he spotted. He eventually traced some of the owners to suggest forming a club; and after an initial meeting in June 1974, this was realised later that year with Jim, Bill Boyles, Chuck Harris and Bob Moses being at the centre of the club. Although a Texas based club, they aim to serve and support the needs of Morgan owners across the south west of the USA, and the present membership includes members from nine states and two foreign countries. Members have driven their





cars to southern destinations New Orleans and Galveston; north west to the Arctic Circle in Alaska, and to both Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

**MOGSouth**, the Morgan Owners Group South is a collection of Morgan enthusiasts mainly from the south eastern United States and east coast. The organization formally came into being in 1975 with the first MOGSouth Meet in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on April 23, 1976. The founder of MOGSouth was Charles King and the club then expanded when the Morgan Owners Group of Florida, GatorMOG, joined MOGSouth as a 'Chapter'. They are a very loose organization without a formal management structure. The group holds two annual meets, one in the Spring and one in the Fall, as well as an annual Holiday Party. All meets and parties are hosted by a volunteer member of the group; MOGSouth was founded on this principle of 'hosting'. "The cars brought us together, but the people and friendships keep us together." I think this phrase from the MOGSouth secretary is a brilliant comment that will resonate with most if not all Morgan owners.

The beginning of **Morgan Owners Group Northwest** was in the summer of 1975. Answering an advertisement in the Sunday Oregonian, Bob Hague was hoping to meet at least one other person at this advertised meeting in the Northwest who

spoke the 'Morgan language'. A friendly fellow approached and inquired if he was looking for 'Morgan people'. That was Gary Leikas, the fellow who had placed the advertisement and the orange Plus 8 outside was his. He would become MOG NW's first president. Morgan Owners Group Northwest has flourished since that early day and with the challenge of managing expansion and change they have grown to more than 125 members, operating in three regions: Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver BC.

In the year of 1976, the enthusiastic Swiss Morgan driver Linus Flüeli put an advert in the paper 'Automobil Revue', calling for interested Morganeers to start a Morgan club. On 17th June 1977, the founding assembly was held at Balmberg near Solothurn. 53 members registered, a number which - over the decades has developed into today's 300 members. In June 2017 Morgan Club Schweiz celebrated its 40th year of existence in the beautiful town of Stresa at Lake Maggiore, and many foreign Morgan friends came to celebrate with us. SwissMOG and **Morgan Club Schweiz** merged in 2019. They are all united in the fascination for a car which looks as if she had been built 60 years ago, but as a matter of fact is still being built like in grandfather's times.

The **Hawaii Morgans Club** was started (it is believed) before 1976; the originator is unknown. The current club was restarted in 1998 by Paul Levitt when he moved from New

York and the presidency of the 3/4 Morgan Club; it was called 'HiMog'. Many of the cars have left the islands now and it is currently a small group with about a dozen Morgans on Oahu. There is a large active British Car Club in Hawaii and many of the members join in with their events.

After first meetings of Luxembourg Morgan enthusiasts starting in 1977, the Morgan Owners Club Luxembourg was officially founded on 2nd Jan 1984. The first international meeting MOGLUX 1984 was held the same year over the 30th June - 1st July. At the 7th meeting MOGLUX 1990 a beautiful group of 50 Morgans from all around Europe were put on display in the centre of Luxembourg City. The name was changed to **Morgan Club Letzebuerg** in 2002. Currently, they organize 3 tours per year where one includes another country. One of the traditions is the «Keistour», where cars drive through beautiful countryside in the morning to a special location for a cheese buffet with assorted wines. Also they organize informal gatherings where the members can exchange ideas and experiences. From time to time, other Morgan Clubs contact them for advice on visiting Luxembourg, and they are pleased to help and meet these Morganeers.

The founding year for **MSCC of Austria** was 1977, when Max Bulla (Austria's Morgan agent) expressed interest in starting a Morgan club among his customers. He invited those interested to the Hotel Krone; attending were: Max Bulla, Frederic Grager, Cornel Hörl, Karl Perkonig, Helmut Raschendorfer, Karl Rösler, Hanns Schmölzer, Karlheinz Stanek, Andre Steinmann, Peter Taucha, Hermann Tratnik, Othmar Tschofenig, and Dieter Volc. After breakfast, the founding meeting took place in the seminar room of the hotel, not only the Morgan owners but also the partners were there. The election of the board of directors was quickly completed. Max Bulla as the initiator became the deputy chairman; the lawyer Hanns Schmölzer was elected chairman and commissioned with the drafting of the statutes. It was decided to hold 2 meetings a year at different locations. For the Austrian Formula 1 1977 Grand Prix, Max Bulla had agreed with the organizers on a





demonstration lap at the Österreichring before the start of the race; he managed to gather 25 Morgans, and their bonnets had the names of the Grand Prix drivers attached on both sides. Sadly only a few drivers were willing to ride the open top Morgans. At the end of 1977 there were 17 club members; the club was still in its infancy and was busy drafting statutes, creating the club logo. The currently have 180 members, and over 70 of these members have cars older than 30 years.

The **Western New York Morgan Owners Group (WNYMOG)** was started in 1978 and has been continuously active since that time. It was founded by Alan Isselhard who is still a member today. Unlike the much bigger Morgan 3 / 4 Group in New York City and New England metropolitan area, they are a smaller group comprised of Morgan folks in the Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse area. Many of the members have been in the club since its early days. Their 'Morganotes' newsletter is published quarterly. Through the years they have steadily maintained about 40-50 memberships and hold about six official events a year, as well as joining in many events sponsored by other British and non-British car clubs.

The **Morgan Club Italia** was founded in 1981 but had to dissolve despite more than 12 years of activity carried out with passion and competence by the club President Dr. Ambrogio Macchi. This closure was deeply regretted by all the members; some of whom worked hard to re-start the club, which materialised in November 1995 after gaining approval from Peter Morgan. Since then, the Morgan Club Italia, a non-profit association neither direct nor indirect, has continued to bring together many fans of the Morgan brand in partnership, pursuing the social goals set out in its statute.

An informal group of Morgan owners in Auckland, New Zealand existed in the late 1970s, and this was led by Grahame Kyle who had a 4/4. Other early members are Marsden Robinson (Flat Rad +4) and Neil Bendall.

Also Derek Atkinson who had +4, and is still a panelbeater and painter, specializing in Morgans. The club had a team of five cars at all the NZ Le Mans Relay races from 1982 to 1988, in fact it ran three teams one year. The **Morgan Sports Car Club Of New Zealand Inc.** was incorporated on 27th October 1983. It has grown in numbers steadily since 1984 and currently totals 136. Cars, both new and used, continue to arrive in NZ with most owners joining the club. Over the preceding 10 years there have been three country wide tours organised with participants from UK, USA, and Australia. So much did he enjoy touring in NZ that one UK keen Morgan owner brought his car over to all three tours. In spite of Covid-19 restrictions, the club continues to be active with events taking place throughout the country.

The **MSCC España** was founded in June 1984 by Maribel Puig Velasco. She became the first President; at that time there were 8 founding members and all of them from the

Catalonia region. By 1994 the club had 50 members, reaching a maximum figure above 100; they currently have 75 members (2022). An interesting story is that in October 1984 the Club offered membership to the King of Spain, who had a Morgan in those days. He unfortunately declined the invitation, but the story remains with them...

**Morgans on the Gulf Morgan Owners' Group (MOGMOG)**, was formed in January 1985. Most of the members were residents in the greater Houston, Texas metro area and were originally members of the Morgan Motor Car Club, in Dallas, Texas. Considering the long distance between Houston and Dallas, and the enthusiastic cluster of about 20 Morgan enthusiasts in Houston, MOGMOG became an independent club. Merry Fletcher was the first President of MOGMOG and she designed a beautiful new badge ordered from Jim Baker. The 'Mogazine' was created and edited by Tony Frederick. Bob Chamberlain has served continuously as Secretary. An





interest in a Florida Morgan Club had also failed. Later, some 138 letters were sent to Morgan enthusiasts in Florida to suggest interested owners met at the Moroso Race Track in West Palm Beach on 1st December 1990. Eight Morgans showed up, they watched the races and discussed the feasibility of establishing the Florida Club. All were in favour, and so the club was founded. Frank Arthur came up with the original GATOR MOG badge. Frank also procured and sold tee shirts and hats for club members. In this manner, the GATOR MOGs became a recognized Morgan Club and eventually a regional division of MOGSouth.

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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, Germany 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) and I will update the records.

**Photo captions:**

1. Morgan Club de France in Megève, 2021
2. MOG Belgium's Président's Day Octobre 2021 – Château Hubertus à RENAIX, Flemish Ardennes
3. Plus 4 Plus and 4/4 4 seater representing MMCC Texas at the SWA Classic Car Show in 2017
4. The 2008 edition of MOG North West's annual 3-day event, the "Punchbowl Run". This time it was based at the Alpine Chalets, Otter Rock, Oregon
5. 10th anniversary celebrations of Morgan Club Schweiz in 1986.
6. Paul Levitt's early cowled 4/4 in the Hawaii sunshine
7. At the first meeting of MSCC Austria in 1977
8. Western New York MOG members at an event in the 1980s
9. A group of Morgan Club Italia's Mogs on the ferry across Lake Lucerne, June 2019
10. MSCC New Zealand badge on the front of this flatrad Plus 4
- II. MSCC España members posing with Peter Morgan, during a visit to the Factory in 1995.

annual all-Texas gathering was shared by both clubs and was referred to as TEXMOG. In the beginning, most Morgans were Plus Fours from the 1950s and 1960s; and Arch McNeill was the only bonafide racer. Membership expanded over the years to include members in San Antonio, Austin and other south Texas locations.

**Morgan Owners Group Belgium.** Formed in 1987/1988 after the membership split within the MSCC Belgium club; Gaetan de Ghellink became the first President. Through the 1990s the membership grew to 130, and in 1992 they organised the first International MOG Belgium Rally in the Durbuy region. Under President Roland Polijn (2008) the structure of the club was much improved, as was the accounting under the leadership of Johan Van den Heuvel. The printing of magazine - 'MOG Belgium' was also given more support. With Roland's chairmanship, the 25th anniversary of the club was celebrated in 2012. The club continues to be very active with many events and regular attendance at meetings. The current contact is Jacques Gallien.

**The Gator MOGs - Morgans of Florida** started in 1988, Alan Aker sponsored a gathering of Morgan Owners in South Florida at a park in Boca Raton. About ten couples showed up and seemed to favour the idea, but in the months afterward interest dropped off. A previous attempt by Ron Ray to generate

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

MORGAN SPORTS CAR CLUB (FROM 1971)	1973	Ohio Morgan Owners Group. Morgan Club Denmark. Morgan Club de France (originally named French MSCC).
	1974	MSCC Belgium. Morgan Motor Car Club of Texas.
	1975	Morgan Owners Group South (USA). Morgan Owners Group North West (USA).
	1976	Morgan Club Schweiz, merged with SwissMOG in 2019. Hawaii Morgans
	1977	Morgan Owners Club Luxembourg (changed to Morgan Club Letzebuerg in 2002). MSCC of Austria.
	1978	Western New York Morgan Owners Group.
	1979	
	1980	
	1981	Morgan Club Italia starts, but dissolves 12 years later, and re-starts in 1995.
	1982	
	1983	Morgan Owners New Zealand (changed to Morgan Car Club of NZ in 2017, and to MSCC New Zealand in 2020).
	1984	MSCC España.
	1985	Morgans on the Gulf Morgan Owners Group (USA).
	1986	
	1987	Morgan Owners Group Belgium (after a split from MSCC Belgium).
1988	The Gator Mogs Morgans of Florida.	

