

# Ian Wade

## Driver Profile

Ian Wade as a lad, I had always had an interest in cars, though it would be many years before I got to really have a play. Looking back, I have fond memories of a 1953 Ford Customline. Sadly this cars relationship with me came to an end when called up for National Service in 1969. Life wandered on as it inevitably does after my short-lived relationship with the military, with me surfacing from day to day life with the purchase of an MGB in 1978. This was a 1963 MGB Mk 1, which was essentially purchased for road use. Shortly after buying it and subsequently joining the MG Car Club, the nostrils flared with the desire to go motor racing. I already knew people like Matt Depaoli, & Brent Willing, plus there were other MG Car Club members at the time already racing, such as the late Kit Ellis.



Chasing Kit Ellis 11/10/1981 at Baskerville

The new street car category was just starting at the time, and I figured the MGB would be a suitable car to have a crack at racing. Initially there were reservations from the organisers as it was an open car, however fruitful discussions with them eventually freed up my car to run.



Baskerville 28/11/1982

My first race meeting was at Baskerville on the 26th November 1978, in a pretty much standard car (still on wire wheels). This ended up being the first of many meetings, and as is the way when seeking extra speed, the car over the next few years received a heart and gearbox transplant, improved suspension, better brakes and lots of other bolt on bits. I occasionally shared the car at meetings with Ken Dobbie or Dave Moir, and looking back we had a great finishing record, It was novel racing such a car amongst far more powerful and modern machinery.



Baskerville 10/10/1982

Sometimes we strayed from the street car category, one such example was at Baskerville in April 1979, when I ran in the sports car scratch race, amongst such race cars as Geoff Munyard's Trowbridge, Geoff Jacobs in the Turnham and Johnnie Walker in the Lotus 23B. Needless to say, I had no chance of scoring a place in that sort of company.



Baskerville 11/10/1982

Racing in Tasmania during the late 1970's to the early 1980's was very popular, with big fields containing a wide variety of race cars. There was a good sense of camaraderie and was a great period in the history of Tasmanian motorsport.

One memory I have in our search to gain extra grunt and good bits was to fly in a Cessna piloted by Terry Thompson to Victoria to deliver a gearbox to John Needham who was racing at Winton that given weekend, with the intention being for John to adapt my gearbox into a close ration straight cut model. (Indestructible) We set off with the gearbox in the plane, a couple of cartons of beer and a good time was had by all.

One factor set my car aside from a number of others in the street car category during the time I was running, in that like the others, my car was registered, however unlike many others, my car was driven to the track and then home again after the racing had finished. I concede we did not do this when racing at Symmons Plains as there was heaps of gear we had to take with us; however, at Baskerville, I drove it there, and back home afterwards.

Life moves on and the car was sold in 1984 upon moving into a house that needed a lot of money spent on it. This by no means ended my involvement in motorsport, over the years since I have had much to do with the MG Car Club, attaining life membership in 1984. My family has had an MG of some model in our garage continuously since 1977, the very first one being my wife Victoria's MGB Mk11, which is still in the garage today after 37 years.

**Editor:** I wish to express my appreciation to Bruce Smart on behalf of Ian and Grant Twining, for providing the digital images displayed in this article from his collection of old motor racing photos. Visit the Kingston Camera Centre via [www.kingstoncamera.com.au](http://www.kingstoncamera.com.au), to visit Bruce's vast array of old motor racing photos. Or ring Bruce on 62 297759, or via email [mail@kingstoncamera.com.au](mailto:mail@kingstoncamera.com.au)