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Dear MG Car Club Members,

I am sorry not to be with you today due to a previous commitment to be at the TT on the Isle of Man. I do want, however, to congratulate the MG Car Club on reaching its 95th anniversary.

Many of you will know that almost a century ago, in 1931 to be prescribe, my Grandfather the Earl of March, who was better known to the racing fraternity as Freddie March, put together the first MG racing team.

His passion for racing cemented his connection with Cecil Kimber's Morris Garages cars and he bought the very first Type C MGs to be built. He formed his own team which ran three of these cars, and this later became the works racing team.

In early 1931 Cecil Kimber announced that the Abingdon factory would build a new racing car, the Type C, and that my Grandfather would field a team of three cars in the Double 12 race at Brooklands in May.

Against all odds, and some tough competition from bigger, more powerful cars, he and team-mate Chris Staniland won this gruelling race, adding their names to the pages of British motorsport history.

Some of you may remember that last year's Festival of Speed at Goodwood was a timely reminder that MG is very much alive and well as we celebrated the marque's first 100 years. As I write this letter for your 95th anniversary it is reassuring to know that the MG Car Club is continuing to preserve the heritage so enthusiastically.

Meanwhile.....I hope you are all enjoying a very good lunch!

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, CBE DL