

Newsletter October 2026



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The Exmoor Rut



**Get more smiles to the gallon
with TVMGOC**



Secretary's Report



Dear Motorneers

Our recent SNOG – Short Notice Organised Group – to Jolly Roger in Bovey - proved to be popular and a great success by all accounts, as you will read later. It's an unmissable gem of a place for any biker or lover of vehicle art and the figurative models are a delight for curiosity seekers.

We have got out of the habit of a good old SNOG and should pucker up and do it more often. Of course, now we are at the tail end of the season, there will be fewer opportunities to pop out on a whim when the sun shines for a pleasant drive in our MGs. A SNOG could be something as simple as a visit to a tea shop or some other attractive destination, or just a drive. So, let's put it into our New Year's resolutions to SNOG some more next season... and don't just leave it to me to organise!

Jan and I have another idea for a brunch SNOG but that needs to wait until the spring.

Recently Pam sent out a questionnaire asking for feedback from you about various club activities. She received just 11 replies and I received only 4 replies to my additional email. We have a committee meeting later in October but given the low number of responses to our questions this hardly gives us a mandate to make any significant changes.

Please contact me if there is anything particular you would like the committee to discuss.

Many thanks to Andrew H. for volunteering to be our new Event Secretary. He will take over from Andy soonish. This is a good time as it is quiet and that gives him a few months to get a handle on what is needed in the role.

In the meantime, Andrew has a new love in his life, a greyhound called Shadow. She should keep him fit!



Last weekend Jan and I went to see the new production of the musical RENT in the West End. It was utterly brilliant, so much so that 15yr old granddaughter Isabella couldn't stop sobbing with emotion and happiness. We had to queue outside the stage door for an hour afterwards so she could collect autographs on her programme and selfies with the stars. If you possibly can, go see.

Happy MGing!
Howard

To contact our club secretary,
call +44 7801 055128 or email
clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com



Chairman's Report



Greetings all! I hope that you have been able to make the most of the driving opportunities during the month as we have returned to more 'British' weather.

Firstly, I would like to offer a personal reflection on our friend John Naylor. He was just the kind of knowledgeable, thoughtful car enthusiast who makes clubs like ours worthwhile. His willingness to help behind the scenes made a real difference and the runs which he designed with B were meticulously planned. Above all he was a good man, and I will miss him, as will we all. His was a life well lived.

Turning to happier thoughts, I am looking forward to our next meeting, which you will recall is a First Aid demonstration, broadly termed '3 ways to save a life', from St John Ambulance. If you are wondering whether to attend, please do it, as you will learn how to save the life of a loved one, or indeed anyone you might come across. It's not difficult stuff - you just need to know what to do. As something of a highlight, I will be showing you the world's smallest defibrillator - which can literally be stored in your glove box - if you have one...

I look forward to seeing you!

Simon

2026 Upcoming events – for the most up to date and detailed information see: www.tvmgoc.org.uk SOME OTHER SHOWS YOU MAY WISH TO ENTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL ARE ALSO LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE		
October		
Club event	12	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge Simon's First Aid talk
Club event	NEW 25	John Hunt Tulip run – organised by Gavin. <u>Start</u> Saltash Travel lodge. Time to be decided. <u>End and lunch</u> at 1230 The Royal Horsebridge, Tavistock PL19 8PJ No need for menu choices beforehand.
November		
Club event	22 New	Sunday lunch run – organised by David & Teresa to The Moorland Hotel, Haytor, Newton Abbot, TQ13 9XT. Restricted to 25 places. Please make your menu choices in advance. The menu has been emailed to all
Club event	9	Club 2 nd Monday meeting at The Hunting Lodge. David Frost has a presentation about the Cinnamon trust
December		
Club event	18	Club Christmas lunch at Yelverton Golf Club organised by Janis (no meeting this month)

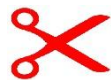


John Naylor

By now you will all have heard that our long-standing club member John died suddenly last month. John was more than a respected and active member; he was also our friend and very well-liked. In addition to being highly active in the club, John & B could always be relied upon to step in and organise a Sunday lunch run, sometimes at short notice. Little wonder then that last year they won our Enthusiasts of the Year award, not for the first time. They were very much looking forward once again to our club holiday at Llanerchindda next year.

B has already received many cards and bunches of flowers together with heart-felt condolences from you. We had a lot of good times with these two. They will be greatly missed.

Howard



News snippets



Breakdown cover for historic vehicles

This letter recently appeared in Classic Car Weekly. The refusal to attend breakdowns on historic vehicles without a valid MOT may also apply to other breakdown insurance companies and not just the AA.

Check your cover and get your car MoT inspected annually.

Will AA aid my classic?

Further to the debate of whether or not you should put your 'Historic' vehicle in for an annual MoT inspection (a no-brainer really – of course you should) it may be of interest to readers that the AA won't attend a breakdown if your car has no MoT.

■ Andrew Lines, Reading

Thanks, Andrew. We put this to the AA and it responded: 'AA Breakdown Cover is available for eligible historic vehicles. Our terms require vehicles to have a valid MoT where one is legally required but recognise vehicles that are lawfully exempt from MoT testing. A historic vehicle that qualifies for the exemption will not be excluded simply because it does not have an annual MoT. As with any vehicle, it must be safe, roadworthy and meet the other terms of its breakdown cover.' – Ed.

Free car cover from Richard

I am disposing of a used car cover for a MGTF (not the 1950s version) that could be used as a dust cover within a garage or perhaps car port. It should not be considered as waterproof or even shower proof, but it is certainly permeable and within a covered or protected area should provide good cover. In other respects, it is in good condition (washed a month or so ago but has been in use since).

If anyone would like it, I would be happy to bring it to the next club meeting in Oct. Contact Howard who will pass on your interest to me.

MGA Register tour to the Palace Hotel, Paignton



It must have been two years ago when Roy & Sonia, Jan & I were asked to organise the MGCC MGA Register's Autumn Event in Devon. The above photo shows some of the 30 cars that took part. They had come from all over the UK and the furthest travelled 340 miles from York. These are people who are not afraid to put the miles beneath the wheels of their MGAs!

We were initially asked to plan for up to 50 cars and Sonia had to work hard to find a suitable mid-priced hotel with ample parking. This proved very difficult until a friend of mine who organised tours for the Gay Classic Car Club told me about the Palace Hotel in Paignton, situated right on the seafront. A former hotelier himself, he said, "If it's good enough for my guys, then it's good enough for anyone!" It was too.



First to arrive were our two TVMGOC cars

Previous Register events have indeed attracted 50 cars, in one case 70, but not now. Instead of taking over the whole hotel we were only able to fill half of it. A few weeks prior to the event, the hotel manager called me to say he could no longer keep 20 or more rooms on hold as he had people who wanted to make a firm booking for our dates. I had to admit that I saw no prospect of filling the remaining rooms with MGers and 33 (later 3 dropped out) was probably all there would be. This is just another example of how so many classic car events are seeing dwindling numbers of participants.

I took on the task of planning the two touring routes. Paignton would not have been my first choice to start from, especially as storms in the New Year had washed away the road along Slapton Ley. One route was easy – a tour of Dartmoor along roads very familiar to TVMGOC members.

The second route was from Paignton to Dartmouth via the Higher Ferry, then using parts of a previous P&P route through Dittisham and Tuckenhay, up to Totnes, then Teignmouth, over the bridge to Shaldon and onto the scenic coast road with lovely views from Ilsham Drive and Marine Drive, before heading back through Torquay to Paignton.



However, the planning of this was fraught with frustration because of numerous road closures. We ended up having to do it section by section, repeatedly zeroing our tripmeter and joining bits together into a coherent route hoping there were no gaps or mistakes. The Devon County Council roadworks website was far from up to date. We ended up having to re-check multiple times.

To give you an idea of the problem, we are all familiar with the left turning from Two Bridges towards Postbridge. But this time we were met with a newly placed sign saying the road to Moretonhampstead was closed. It turned out that the closure was about 10 miles further on and until that point the road was unencumbered! Some of us ignored this sign and were able to follow our route past Postbridge without hindrance but a few, not realising how far away Moretonhampstead is, turned around.

Many people took up the option of visiting one of the POIs we had highlighted including the Dartmouth Steam Railway, Brixham, Greenaway, home of Agathe Christie, and Coletton Fishacre, home of the D'Oyly Carte family.

This Art & Crafts Art Deco house is one of our favourite National Trust properties and well worth a visit.



Organising this tour was a big job and at times frustrating, but there was a fantastically jolly vibe across all three days, and the appreciation we received afterwards made the venture well worthwhile. Everyone was delighted that there were attractive choices available rather than just a prescribed driving itinerary. These biannual events have been run for many years and the MGA Register Chairman said ours was one of the best and could be a template for future similar events.

Howard



Sunday Lunch Run to The Church House, Stokenham

On a very pleasant autumnal morning our club members met at the Yelverton golf club for pre-run coffees (and teas) It also gave us time to catch up, politics and religion excluded. There was the bonus of some entertainment courtesy of our youngest member, Zoe. At 11.30am the "off" was announced and the fourteen drivers headed to their vehicles whilst clutching their route instructions, some with navigators, some not. As we set off from the car park in the direction of the old airfield, Gavin chose this opportunity to test the efficiency of the MGC airbrake (tailgate). Eventually he decided against the idea and stopped to close it. As most of us are probably aware, these first four hundred yards are part of the old RAF Harrowbeer airfield, the old aircraft blast shelters remain.

We then continued down Meavy lane to cross over Cadover bridge, no time for ice creams today. Following our instructions we continued over the next crossroads and down to Colebrook where the route took us up Cot Hill and past the National Trust's Saltram House entrance and on to meet the A379 at Elburton where we made a left turn. We then basically followed the A379 for a further 23 miles, through Yealmpton and by Flete House which the club knows quite well due to our displays in aid of the St Luke's charity.

Next on the route was Modbury and then Kingsbridge followed by the long narrow bridge over the estuary, presumably this is how the town derived its name. Passing through West and East Charleton we encountered some of the infamous 20 mph speed limits but to be fair they were probably justified due to the narrow streets and proximity of some of the cottage doorsteps.

On the remainder of our journey there was a distinct deterioration of the road surfaces with many large potholes so "slalom" driving was the order of the day. As we approached Stoketon Cross there was a "road closed" sign, a sharp reminder of the damage caused by the winter storms to the A379 at Torcross and Slapton sands, as yet still unrepaired. Fortunately, we arrived at our destination the Church House only a few hundred yards further on.



The Church House, to give its correct title, was very pleasant, the staff were very accommodating and the Sunday roast was very good with plenty of fresh vegetables and as far as I am aware the drinks were pretty good too, what more could you ask for? After the lunch a presentation was made, a rare event. It was to Tim for allowing his dad Clive to navigate while he drove Clive's MGB. We're not sure who was more nervous as we think they may have taken an alternative route.

Many thanks to Nigel and Janis for organising the run and the excellent meal.



Andy had a loose battery connection



N.B.

NB

The Church House was built many centuries ago as a communal church house producing ales for local gatherings etc. Unfortunately, it suffered severe damage in 1945 due to shell blasts. At the time Slapton and the surrounding area was evacuated. The property was rebuilt after the war and restored as a pub offering accommodation hence the "Inn" in the title.

Fast forward to October 2025 the property changed hands and the new owners chose not to offer accommodation and so the official title changed once again to "Church House" no "Inn".

Unfortunately, this has caused some confusion with directions as there are several "Church House Inns" in the area and if you google the street view it still shows the property as "Church House Inn" on the front of the building. This was changed in October 2025 by the new owners; obviously Google maps are not updated that often.

Noel

Retro Tax Discs

One way to display the age of your car and add a little period-correct nostalgia to it is to display a tax disk for the year of your car's manufacture.

These can be ordered from Automotive Colouring for £9.99. They are available for the years 1925 until 2015 when they were phased out. Howard has had one for his MGA for a few years, but wisely kept the original one provided and made a scanned copy. This is because over time paper printed disks will fade in sunlight and, having kept the original, it can be replaced whenever needed. See:

<https://www.automotivecolouring.co.uk>



An enjoyable SNOG with motorbike art & funny figures



For over 30 years, Jolly Roger in Bovey Tracey have designed and manufactured striking, high-quality life-size models for attractions, retail environments, museums, theme parks, and commercial spaces. Every piece is expertly crafted in fibreglass with fine detail. They sell models all over the world. It is obviously good business as the adjoining Bike Shop contains owner Chris's astonishing private collection of motorbikes, most of which are works of art and together must be worth a million or more.

Our first Short Notice Outing Group (SNOG) meeting for some time. Kindly organised by Howard & Jan we met at our meeting point just past the new Strawberry Fields outlet on Dartmoor. The destination was a bit of a secret; all we knew was that it was in Bovey Tracey.



Alan had an issue with a fuel leak when he arrived at the meeting place, but his Dockyard apprenticeship proved handy as he swiftly resolved the problem with a shortened pipe (removing the leaking bit) and wrapping some insulating tape around it, a permanent fix I think (ha ha). Problem solved and we were on our way.

About 15 cars took part with 20 or so members attending. The weather was glorious; the drive took us across the Moor through Princetown and Dartmeet eventually ending up in Bovey Tracey where there was a handy car park close to where we were visiting.

Upon arrival Janis also had a fuel leak problem which was underneath the car near the fuel pump. Attempts to get at it safely were unsuccessful so the breakdown company were called and the wait commenced.

We left the car park, and the surprise location came into sight around the corner - it was Jolly Roger Life Size Model centre that also holds a very large collection of custom motorcycles. The building it is held in is a large 2 storey warehouse; the ground floor holds the motorcycles, and the first floor holds all the life size models.

Most of the motorcycles looked unrideable for any distance but the quality of the builds and the paint on them was unbelievably good. There were trikes, bikes, scooters and standard classic motorcycles with interesting histories.



This one is just right for going to the shops. Apparently, they all run. This one looks really comfortable, doesn't it? I couldn't work out how you could see over the tank if you were sat on that seat and I don't think my arms would be long enough.



When we finished looking around the ground floor, we went upstairs to see the amazing 3D models of everything from caricatures of The Rolling Stones to a shark that looked like the one in the film Jaws. These are what the business is all about, they are sold all around the world and are used on TV and film sets. They are so lifelike it is unbelievable.

Any Bristol Rovers fans?

This is the one for you.

The Stones, Elvis and Freddy, all on one stage.



To infinity and beyond.



These animals looked so real, the models are unbelievably lifelike. The warehouse is full of exhibits like this.

As a bonus to our trip the owners opened up another warehouse just over the road where they were preparing the Christmas Grotto. This was full of more 3D models with a Christmas theme, an excellent place to bring the little ones at Christmas (and as a bonus you can look at the bikes again). Santa will be there to greet you in his grotto.



This is just a small example of what they have on show. All these attractions are completely free to view, and they have a donation box for local charities. It is well worth a visit if you are in or around Bovey Tracey, you won't be disappointed.

After viewing the exhibits it was time for a bite to eat. They have good food freshly cooked to order, and I can recommend the egg and bacon bap. The coffee was good too. For dessert there are a large selection of ice-creams.

Once we had finished looking around here some of us went to the Bovey Tracey Heritage centre which is about 100 yards away housed in the old railway station ticket office and waiting room. In here they have a potted history of both Bovey Tracey and the railway that served it, they have old railway memorabilia and cannon balls dug up in people's gardens.

When we got back to the car park, within minutes the breakdown man turned up for Janis's car. He had a larger jack than we had and within minutes had the car up and diagnosed the problem - a loose jubilee clip which once tightened solved the problem.

One thing I learnt from the trip was that I need to carry some tools and spares to fix any small problem that might arise, currently I don't carry anything.

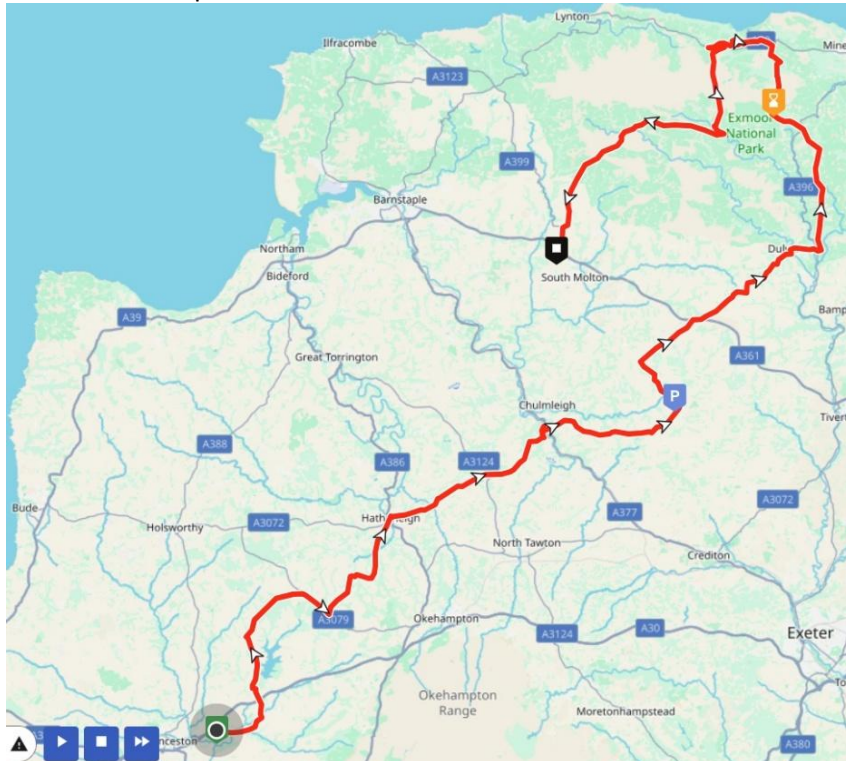
This SNOG was very enjoyable, the weather was brilliant, the drive was beautiful and the venue was unbelievable, many of us didn't even know that it existed. Like I said, well worth a visit if you are in the area. Thank you to Howard & Jan for coming up with the idea of visiting here and a big thank you for organising the drive etc.

Peter A.



Exmoor Rut 2026

This year the Exmoor Rut, organised by the MGCC Devon & Cornwall Centre, took place on Sunday the 4th October. It was a most enjoyable day out and the organisers deserve a big thank you. For 2026 the start changed from the previous departure point of Betty Cottles to the Strawberry Fields Farm Shop at Lifton.



The finish was at the recently opened Strawberry Fields Farm Shop at South Molton which for those of us living in and around South Devon made the ride home shorter. It was a great day out, the sun shone for much of the day with some mist over the top of Exmoor, the route passed through some wonderful countryside and included two passages of Exmoor in the proximity of Dunkery Beacon (one heading North and the other heading South).

As we set off across Dartmoor to meet our touring partners at Lifton we had one of the most amazing views from Rundlestone where the mist lay gently across the valley below showing, raised spots appearing like islands in an ocean.



Once at the start we soon met up with Alan, Alison and Gavin, and I have to say that it was great shame that more of the club could not share in the experience that was to follow. Of course, you can never guarantee the weather but on this occasion it was beautiful. Yes, over the top of Exmoor the distant views were not as sharp as you might wish for but the experience was just as rewarding. The organisers had planned a very attractive route along quiet country roads with many tree-lined avenues, passages with extended views across open countryside, Exmoor, and an option to take the toll road at Porlock before the return across the moor to the finish at South Molton. We set off in an

Easterly direction running more or less parallel to the A30 before crossing over it and passing through Broadwider and close to Roadford Lake. Not long after the start of the run we were taking in views.



For much of the morning we travelled through very attractive countryside and everything that what one might have hoped for was delivered - and as you might expect the sunshine makes it special. In previous Exmoor Rut runs we had passed through many attractive villages and this year's run appeared to concentrate on the scenery, which is one of best natural features in a run of this nature.

From Roadford we headed for Hatherleigh with its own particular charm of narrow streets, shops, houses, and of course being Devon it comes with the obligatory "road closed" just to make the route that little bit more challenging to follow. As we passed through the open countryside it is notable that the camera can never quite take in what the eye can appreciate, although the views to the distance were as good as any you might experience.

From Hatherleigh we headed in the general direction of Ingleigh Green, Winkleigh, Wembworthy, Chawleigh, and on towards Witheridge where we stopped for lunch. As it was Sunday and half the world was adopting what now seems to be a ritual i.e. "Sunday Lunch", the option for something ASAP was closer to 3PM - a wait of a mere two hours!

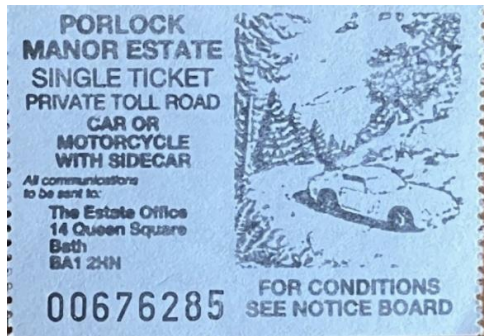


So sandwiches is what we had, and we were grateful!



We then travelled on into Somerset passing through Dulverton on the Devon & Somerset border. (The name Dulverton was first recorded in 1084 as dieglaford-tun meaning "the settlement at the hidden ford"). From Dulverton we headed in the direction of Dunkery Beacon (the summit of Dunkery Hill is the highest point in Exmoor and rises to 519 metres) and Exmoor in general. We paused briefly to take in the views.

After descending from the moor, we turned left on to the A39 to pass through Porlock. Now Porlock has three routes to make progress towards Lynmouth. The main road is the option we took in 2025, the very old toll road in a less than perfect state of repair is the route we took in 2023. On this occasion we opted for the more reasonable toll road (start point shown here) and were not disappointed.



It was a very pleasant drive up the hill through the trees with glimpses towards Hurlstone Point. At the toll gate we paused for a moment for a photo or two.



Once at the top of the toll road Gavin reminded us of the noteworthy grade 2 listed AA callbox number 137 - a piece of history that we have perhaps had cause to use in the past, and if not this particular one perhaps one like it.

From this point we turned East again for a short distance before heading back over the moor passing the Fortesque Monument - a stone cairn and a 20th century monument to John William Fortesque a statesman and military historian amongst other things - whilst on our way to Exford (some may remember the Crown Hotel in Exford where we stopped for refreshment on previous occasions). Once over the River Exe and bearing right we headed for Simonsbath as we made our way towards the finish at South Molton and the welcome cream tea.

Thank you to The MG Car Club Devon & Cornwall Centre and in particular Sheila & Colin for their organization. A great run and one that older cars should be capable of taking in their stride. It is what they were built for.

On a note of sadness our chosen route home was blocked and subsequently closed by the police following a fatality after a motorcyclist ran into a farm tractor. These incidents are not something to celebrate but are a reminder that we should all take care whilst "out and about".

Richard



Received entries	From
"Clive, this is the way to approach the wife if you arrive home drunk"	John I.
"I'm sorry Gavin I can't see the 10p you dropped either"	John I.
Famous duo... Ben doon and Phil McCracken.	Chris L.
"Well Clive it's like this.....the big key goes in here to wind it up"	Richard M.
"It's the same problem when I'm on all fours"	Andrew H.
Ahh, I've finally found somewhere to park my bike.	Howard
Do you think my "bum"per looks big?	Janis
There's a noise on the bottom end!	Janis
Once again two grown men are brought to their knees by the pressure of owning an MGC...	Peter S.
"I told you we should have used Autosol to polish the front bumper. That Anusol stuff is rubbish!"	Peter S.
"If you get right down here you can see the eclipse reflected in my stainless bumper"	Simon

And the winner chosen by Gavin is John I. Well done! He will choose next month's winning caption.

This is a bit of a mess. Please send your explanations/solutions by the end of the month and title your email Caption Competition to: clubsecretarytvmgoc@gmail.com





And finally...



Two elderly lifelong friends who loved football made a pact that whoever died first would let the other know if there is football in heaven.

A few days after passing away, Joe appears in a blinding flash of light to his friend Mike.

"Joe! Is that really you?" Mike asks in amazement.

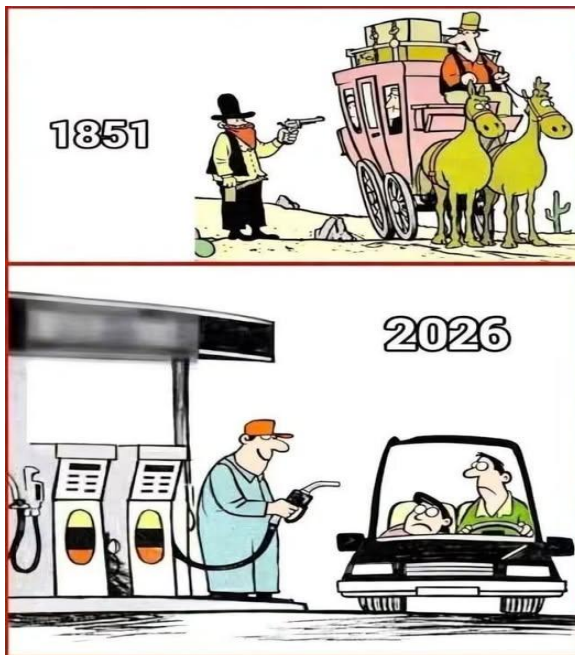
"It is," Joe replies. "I have some good news and some bad news for you."

"Give me the good news first," Mike says.

"Well, the good news is that there is definitely football in heaven. All of our old friends are here, we're young again, we can play as much as we want, and we never get tired."

"That's incredible!" Mike exclaims. "So, what could possibly be the bad news?"

Joe sighs, "You're starting in the match this coming Saturday."



Cars come with so many modern gadgets these days... when I put mine in reverse it even showed me a movie of a person getting run over. What will they think of next?

