

## The Mercedes-Benz Club

The candidates for the Club Director Roles, November 2022, in alphabetical order

# Mic Bennett

Forum name **MicB**

### Role in which I am interested

Chair

### Personal

I am 73 years old, married to Pam for 49 years; we have two daughters and five grandchildren. We have lived in the same house since May 1976...the summer of '76.

### Work Experience

I graduated in Civil Engineering from The University Surrey having completed a "thick" sandwich course. I worked as an engineer on the M3 from Lightwater to Sunbury from the summer of 1971 to the winter of 1973/4

In 1974 I was a founder member and chief executive of a specialist driven piling contractor (3M

Foundations) to the heavy civil engineering sector. In 1990 the business was turning over £7.5m and had 120 employees by which time I had become an 80% shareholder. My original co-founder having retired and sold 30% of his shares to me and 10% to each of two of our then co-directors. The business was taken over by Balfour Beatty; I retained the Oxfordshire premises and leased them to Balfour Beatty. I was consultant to the business for twelve months.

In 1992 I started doing some residential property development and in 1996 I took on a Partner to assume the "on site" role whilst I concentrated on all other aspects of the business. In addition to speculative residential development work we did selective contract work for known persons on a "cost plus open book" basis. My partner retired in 2013 and I continued to operate the business to closure in late 2015. Late 2015 to late 2019 I built some speculative industrial units independent from the recently closed Partnership. Since "retirement" in 2019 I have been managing our retained tenanted properties.

### What I have done for the club to date

I am, and have been, the Model Register Captain (MRC) for the R230 since February 2020. Throughout my time as a member of the club I have been a regular supporter of club events, nationwide and overseas, and in this regard I was awarded, in 2019, the Footman James Spirit of the Club Trophy.

I have been a frequent contributor to the Gazette, a regular on the club Forum and since becoming MRC for the R230 I have produced eleven R230 newsletters.

I have assisted at some club events and organised an R230 20th Anniversary Drive and Dine Tour across mainland Great Britain, over ten days (16 cars dipping in and out of the tour), in late October 2021.

However, I believe my main contribution to the club has been to assist members in bringing about the beginning of a change of culture at board level, and consequently at all levels of club administration, with effect from 31 July 2022. This was achieved with a lot of hard work, support and encouragement from colleagues and essentially a substantial number of engaged members. It became obvious some two to three years ago that change was needed but there were catalyst events in the period February-March 2022 that precipitated the necessity for action. Since 31 July it has become ever more obvious how inept the former administration had become. No regrets.



## My Cars

Currently we have an R230, collected new from Bremen 18 September 2003 and which has now covered 222,000 miles.



We also have a 2001 R170 purchased used in 2014 and which has now covered 48,000 miles

# Brian Ellis

Forum name **1PBE**

Born in 1948 I live just south of Preston in central Lancashire an area where I have lived all my life.

## My background

I have worked for myself since the age of 24 when I acquired my first petrol station. By the age of 39 I had 13 petrol stations and subsequently sold out to Esso. Two years later in 1989 I started my drinks dispense company eventually selling out to an American company in 1999. I then bought it back in 2001 expanding it to employing over 500 people with a turnover of almost £30m pa. I subsequently sold this business in 2014 and have been retired since.



## My Cars

I have been a serious petrol head all my life and I raced cars for over 10 years. Over my life I have owned virtually everything from a Morris Minor to a Ferrari F40 and most things in between. For many years starting with a W124, when they were introduced, I have always run Mercedes as my daily driver. I joined the club 13 years ago and currently have 6 Mercedes plus a couple of non Mercedes.

## My Involvement in the Club

Since joining the Club, me and Barbara have been extremely active in the Club both regionally and nationally as well as internationally. I have been the 129 captain and currently the Lancashire regional officer and the Concours Manager, having previously won the Concours on two separate occasions.

During lockdown I ran a virtual concours on the forum and for the last three years I've also run the Clubs photo competition.

Through 2021 I increasingly became aware that the old board were demonstrating a level of incompetency which was seriously damaging the Club. In 2022 I joined with three other members who became known as "the delegation" where we acted on behalf of the membership to bring about the change and the implementation of the current interim Board. I remained as a member of the Board Development Group up to completing my application to become a Director.

Here are a couple of my cars...



## Satinder S Grewal

Forum name **SatinderSG**

### My background

Following my post-grad Degree in Information Systems & Technology, worked largely in transport networks developing & commissioning vehicle location and passenger information specifically for 13 years. Seeking a new challenge and skillset as well as working for myself, I have been managing small and (some very) large scale property insurance claims since 2014 as an Appointed Representative or Loss Assessor on behalf of Policyholders for domestic and commercial buildings. This involves comprehensive understanding of damages caused, policy cover & liability/ Contract, settlement negotiations, reinstatement works and project management. In parallel and as a personal development interest I have studied Public Relations which extends to my various roles as local small businesses co-ordinator/ events planner and Charity spokesperson. I enjoy keeping fit, volunteering, history & current affairs, socialising and DIY.

### Me and my Mercedes

I've been fortunate to have had a broad variety including earlier W123 and W124 coupes, the iconic R129 SL and more recently W212 E-Class and W204 C-Class coupe. My daily driver is a rather striking W09 CLK cabriolet. Always keen to research and learn towards resolving any issues or general maintenance myself.



### My involvement in the Club

In almost 20 years as a Member, I have engaged where ever possible locally and at larger events including Olympic Park, Ace Café, Duxford, London Classic Car Show and even the 125th Anniversary Berlin representation. Whilst perhaps not directly involved in organising it is often the presence and visibility in support of others such as MRC & RO that itself can add value to their energy and efforts. I did recently offer to support both the S-Class Day as a Valuer and to 'shadow' Judges at Gaydon. As a Valuer, itself very much a 'client facing' Role, the opportunity to have more detailed technical and practical dialog right from the initial call and even beyond the Valuation appointment(s) has always been very well received. This always provides sound reassurances and adds comfort to Members who may feel to some extent concerned about the valuation process and potential outcomes. This has helped me to form and retain positive relations and balances with both my valuation 'clients' and the Chief Valuer. Typically valuations have involved vehicles I have been fortunate to own or have related experiences, which as a mutual benefit has thus further enhanced my working knowledge and understanding. Also within the Gazette, I have contributed with a very special 'Feature' article published during the difficult 'lockdown' period reflecting on charitable and community support efforts using Mercedes-Benz commercial vehicles. Further items have been included in the same for ULEZ matters including a 'Letter of the Month' too.

Here are my two...



## Clive Henderson

Forum Name **CliveH**

### **My Background**

I was born in St. Asaph, North Wales and lived and worked in the area all of my life, I am married with two grown up daughters.

I started as an Apprentice Vehicle Technician in a local BMC dealership after competing my "O levels" and spent my whole working life in the motor trade until my retirement in July 2019. I progressed "through the ranks" to become Service Manager in the late seventies in what had now become an Austin Rover dealership, I ran my own successful A-R franchise workshop in the eighties - a unique arrangement with the manufacturer. On selling the business I returned to Service Management with another company where I was appointed Dealer Principal when the franchise changed to Peugeot in the late nineties, a position I held until my retirement.



### **Club and Events**

I have always had a passion for Mercedes-Benz and on buying a SL320 in 2005 I decided to join the Club, mainly to attempt to increase our social circle as I seemed to be spending an increasing amount of time at work or working on our house!

I joined the Club in February 2006 and was appointed to the vacant position of Regional Officer Wales - North+Borders in July 2008, I retired from this role in August of this year.

In my role as Regional Officer I hosted approximately 120 Pubmeets and organised and hosted in the order of 50 - 60 Regional Events, my most successful (numerically) have been the four Mercedes on the Prom events, held from 2018 - 2022.

In December 2019 I was awarded the Scott-Moncreiff Trophy, the premier Club award, for my work in organising Club events both Regional and Model Register.

At the 2022 Official's Study Day I was presented with The Shakeshaft Trophy in recognition of my work as a Regional Officer.

As a Model Register Captain I have organised and officiated at nine Model Register Events which included R129 events at Cheshire Oaks and Sywell, including the 40th Anniversary at RAF Cosford, V-Day at RAF Cosford, a number of Coupe Days, again at Cosford and two very successful all model SL + SLK Days at Hatton in 2021 and 2022, which respectively attracted 162 and 138 Member's cars. In February 2017 I was awarded the Model Register Captain of the Year award in recognition for my work with the W215 CL Model Register.

My roles past and present within our Club  
2008 - 2022. Regional Officer - Wales North + Borders  
2015 - 2019 W215 CL Model Register Captain  
2017 - 2019 R129 SL Model Register Captain  
2019 - 2022 Assistant to the Regional Development Director  
2021 - 2022 Regalia Manager  
2019 - Present W212 A/C207 E-Class Model Register Captain  
2019 - 2022 Mercedes-Benz U.K Liaison  
2012 - Present Club Valuer - North Wales + Cheshire  
2021 - Present NEC Stand Organiser  
2022 - Present Club Services Manager  
2022 - Present Interim Director and Vice-Chairman

During the lockdown I was able to create numerous Gazette articles to assist with providing sufficient “copy” to ensure our magazine was viable during this period.

I used Mailchimp to maintain regular (monthly as a minimum) contact with my Regional Members, in the first lockdown I sent eighteen separate newsletters to our Regional Members to maintain contact during this difficult period.

As a result of the outcome of the General Meeting called by the former Board on July 31st of this year I have been performing the role of Interim Director - Regions, Events and Model Registers.

I have recently represented our Club at the International President’s Meeting in Stuttgart which provided a wealth of information which will be advantageous should my application to serve on the substantive Board be successful.

There have been frequent instances of frustration in my relationship with the former Board and the manner in which our Club was governed during the last couple of years which came to a head earlier this year and so I accepted the invitation to join the “delegation” to hopefully meet with the Board to discuss Members concerns. I must place on record that I respected the work of some of the group of Directors and had successfully worked with them for a good number of years, there was ample opportunity for them to engage in productive dialogue.

### **My Cars**

I presently own a 1992 W124 300TE, a Japanese import which I have owned for almost five years and a 2012 E350 Sport CDi Cabriolet which I have owned for the past four years. My other cars owned during my Club Membership are another seven W124 (mostly estates) two R129 SL320, CL55 AMG and a W123 280CE



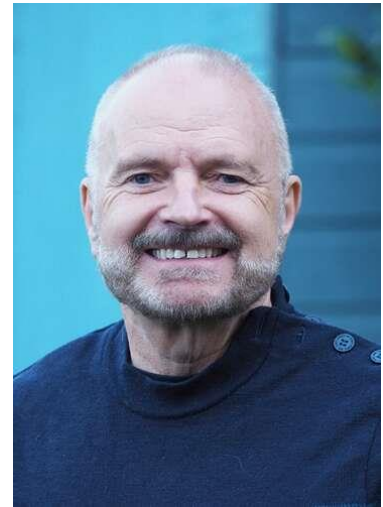
# Stuart Mathieson

Forum name **Stuart\_Mathieson**

I live in London, but was born in Yorkshire and some can still detect a twang...

## My background

I was a clinician in the NHS for 27 years, starting as a Radiographer and eventually becoming a board director in two Foundation Trusts Hospital for the last 8 years of my NHS career. I then left to start my own business measuring Health Outcomes which I have run for 12 years and still work at part-time. Data is the heart of my business and I am experienced in developing systems as well as the corporate tasks of running a limited company. I got an MBA from Oxford which has been of little use running my company if I am honest, but it did teach me how to safely take risks.



## My Cars & Mercedes

I had various new Mercedes before but when I started working from home, I realised I could now have a classic as a daily driver and bought my 500SL R107 nearly 10 years ago. It is parked on the street and needs constant love. I joined the Club soon after to be able to meet others and get help when needed. I have been a "spannerer" since my early youth and do all the maintenance myself.

## My involvement in the Club

I have always been keen to gain and share knowledge and soon after joining I found myself helping others with what was then "the New Forum", writing articles and user guides still in use today. I am a regular Forum user and I wrote a bi-monthly forum report to promote the forum for several years and I write the occasional Gazette article.

I organised several informal events and meet-ups for 107 owners via social media and in 2021, I was asked to be the Model Register Captain for the 107, a role I had wanted to do for some time. I take this role seriously committing several hours per month answering members queries on a daily basis, providing advice and writing a regular illustrated newsletter which is well received by 107 owners.

In 2022 when problems with the "old board" started to become apparent, I joined 3 other members to form what was then called "the delegation". Our aim was to represent the members in challenging the old board and putting in place an Interim board. We were asked to stay on as a Board Development Group to design and run a new process for the appointment of future directors.

The rest as they say is history!

My 107



# Dennis Parker

Forum Name **DRPinC63**

I am 71 years old and have moved about the country for different jobs a number of times but am now retired and call Devon home, having lived here permanently now for 12 years.

## My background

I have almost always worked in the export trade and trade finance sector of industry and insurance and was, some 40 years ago, the Sales Finance Manager for the Truck division of British Leyland (now there's a blast from the past!). I left them to become an export credit insurance underwriter with a major international insurance company, leaving them to take up a position with a credit and political risk insurance broker where I was a director and a divisional managing director. We parted ways in 2004 when I set up my own insurance broking company. The financial crash of 2008 also crashed my business at which time I re-invented as a consultant and expert witness in credit and political risk insurance, retiring in 2015.



I have reasonable computer skills and having been responsible for divisional financial performance as well as running my own company, I am familiar with budgeting, cash flow and accounting.

## My Cars & Mercedes

I've had some true clunkers in my young days, as well as some great cars in my older days. My early aspirations were towards Jaguar and I later had a succession of XJ6s, an XK and then some XKR's. My first Mercedes was a very high-mileage 2003 E270cdi Avantgarde estate I bought off eBay in 2009 when I needed a larger car very quickly.

I enjoyed that car so much I have stayed with Mercedes ever since. That estate was replaced by a CLK 350 Sport cabriolet, then an E500 cabriolet, then an AMG C63 cabriolet, giving way to an AMG C63S cabriolet in 2021 which always gives me a great pleasure to drive.

## My involvement in the Club

My C63 was a new purchase in early 2017 and I joined the Club in late 2017 in what was then the West County region. The regional officers stepped down in the summer of 2018 and rather than see the regional membership wither, my wife Sarah and I joined up with another couple to become regional officers in mid-2019, creating the Two Coasts region in the process.

Our region has put on around 30 events since June 2019, aiming to do about 10 per year, when permitted by Covid. I enjoy the event planning and social interaction with our members and intend to stay on as regional officer. I write and produce our monthly Gazette reports as well as a monthly newsletter which goes out by email.



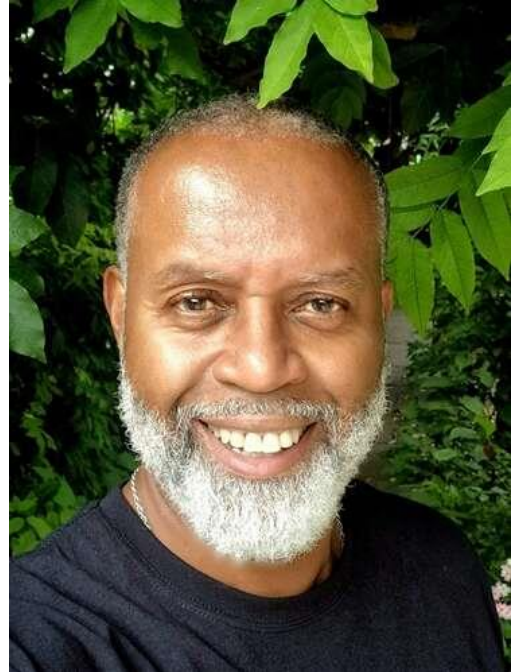
# Clive Ricketts

Forum name **cr1ckett**

## My Background

Technically minded serial collector and purveyor of an aspirational lifestyle. Driven by creation and social awareness. My passion for Mercedes started at the ripe old age of 12 after accompanying my father to classic car shows and visiting car dealerships for fun. I knew the first time I ran my hand over the body of a classic Mercedes that this would always be my journey, my passion but little did I know that it would literally become a joyous lifestyle brimming with fellow enthusiasts and people I now call 'Dear Friends'

Career wise, I've been a Financial/ Banking Software Developer with over 20yrs commercial experience in the design, coding, and implementation of Tactical and Enterprise solutions primarily in the Investment banking space. Held several senior/lead positions throughout my career and now looking for too fresh challenges



## Role Experience

Stumbled into social media over 5yrs ago due an unusual encounter with my now 25yr old daughter. Both of us went out shopping, well she was shopping, and I was the walking wallet, when an opportune moment arose to take the obligatory Father Daughter selfie. Talk about feeling awkward, however she whipped out her phone, posed, snapped the picture, immediately posted the experience on social media. It felt more natural than I could imagine. At that very point I saw the benefits of using the medium to capture experiences, but not only that, but to use the platforms as a social diary. Yep.... That was the turning point

So alongside being a software professional, I slowly realised that my passion for capturing and documenting special moments in my life journey grew immensely. Taking pictures at events, videos and slicing them together to create engaging online content. Did this mainly for myself but nearly 40k followers later, I realised other people also wanted to see what I was up too.

## My Cars & Mercedes

Been a petrolhead since being a teenager, had a few rooters when I was younger ranging from an Astra GTE (please don't judge me) to a Vauxhall Calibra (the ladies loved that car) however Mercedes was the only marque I truly lusted after, the pinnacle being a W111 Coupe. So, one very late, sober night on eBay, yep eBay, after a few clicks I found myself the owner of my first Mercedes, a lovely blue 280CE W111 Coupe. Ever since that point, it's been a terrible addiction that I literally can't seem to shake

Alongside maintaining and owning my W111 for over 15yrs now, currently also own

- SL55 AMG (R230) – F1 Pack
- 450SLC (C107) – aka 'My chunk of chocolate'
- 280CE (W114 Coupe)
- GR Yaris – basically a homologation rally special for the road.
- Volvo P1800S – Simon Templar, eat your heart out
- 280CE (W111 Coupe) – fondly known as Jaspa in the household

Also, a former Porsche 911 owner until the engine gave way



## My Involvement in the Club

Currently hold two positions, one being LRO (London Regional Officer) and the other as an MRC (Model Register Captain) for the W111 register which I've held for over 8yrs now

Over the last 3yrs being a London Regional Officer, alongside two colleagues, has given me tremendous experience in venue sourcing, liaising, creating, and running medium to large scale events for the Club, with all its pains but mostly all its pleasures. There's nothing better than seeing an event come to fruition and putting smiles on my fellow club members faces. These range from Breakfast meets in the north, Evening events at the 'Aces Café' and 'Duke of London' to large scale events like Syon Park and having my cars on the stand at London Classic Car Show.

If anyone who knows me, they know I'm the one talking constant picture, videos, doing weird things with Smartphone at events, helping to document my club journey. Written several articles in the Gazette for my model alongside event write-ups on events hosted by the London Region and a regular contributor on the club forum.



## David Thompson

Forum name **DT128**

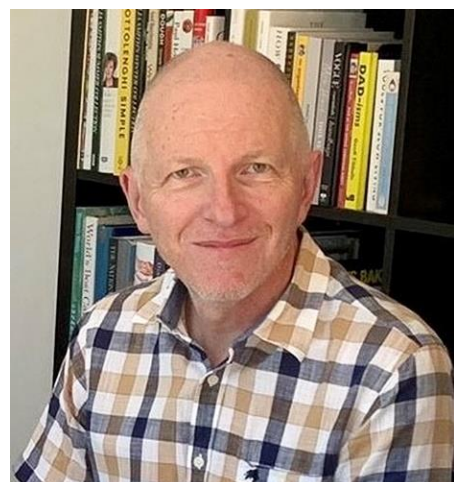
I was born in East London, raised in North West London and I now live in Surrey, about 20 minutes from Mercedes-Benz World.

### My background

I worked in London Market Aerospace insurance for 35+ years before taking early retirement in 2017. With experience in Underwriting, Claims, Operations, Finance and IT. Having decided to focus on Operations I spent some time in New York as Director of US Operations before returning to London and assuming responsibilities for Group Operations worldwide.

### My Cars & Mercedes

I had many Saab models before getting my first Mercedes, a R171 SLK55 in 2015 (which I still have). With more free time, following my retirement, in 2019 I got my W126 500SE and this year have added an A209 CLK500 and C209 CLK500 to my



'fleet'. Together with two Mercedes daily drivers I now have, to quote my wife 'too many cars' however I enjoy driving them all and like the variety of being able to swap between them.

### **My involvement in the Club**

Having enjoyed attending Club events and using the Forum since joining in 2015, I decided in January 2022 that it was time to volunteer and get more involved. I took on the role of Trophy Manager & Mercedes-Benz World liaison just as the issues with the 'old board' came to a head. I did wonder for a while if I had made a wise move!

However the Interim Board has done a superb job and when it came to looking for members to form a New Board I started to think that I could use my experience to evaluate how the Club operates then develop strategies, implement guidelines and business processes with fellow directors to ensure the Club membership experience continues to develop positively.

Establishing an enhanced cohesive and practical basis on which the Club can operate will reduce the dependency on specific individuals and minimise disruption in the event that anyone steps down from their role.

I really started to view the Forum regularly during Covid and quickly realised the positive benefits it offers by bringing together such a diverse membership. I hope to see the Forum develop further with an increasing number of users and contributors going forward as it is unique in allowing members to communicate in real time with many interesting topics which complement the monthly Gazette.

Here's my two coupes:



# Lucy Wylde

Forum name **LWylde**

I live in West Sussex, but grew up in North Wales and still enjoy speaking Welsh when the occasion presents itself.

## **My background**

I began my working life in Slaughter and May, one of the big City commercial law firms, where I became a partner in 1993. In 2011 I moved at director level to an agency of HM Treasury dealing with the taxpayer underpinning of Royal Bank of Scotland that had to be put in place in the aftermath of the banking crisis and from there to the Cabinet Office to become the first General Counsel for commercial law in the Civil Service working to Francis Maude. I left the Civil Service in 2017 after 3 years in UK Export Finance as General Counsel and Head of Compliance.



Since then I have had a number of director roles as a trustee of local charities and of a start-up company that is developing the next generation of passive security screening scanners for use at airports, ports, prisons etc. I am still a solicitor but now confine my legal work to our family scientific instrument and engineering business, where I'm also the ISO:9001 internal auditor, for companies of which I'm a director and other voluntary work, including over recent months for the Club.

## **My Mercedes**

I have a 1963 220 SEb coupe, which my mother-in-law bought in 1970 and of which she was immensely fond. After her death in 1985 I didn't want to part with it and it became our second car, ferrying our first-born around in a carry cot strapped to the back seat. I well remember my first significant drive as on the way home I had to stop at a petrol station to fill up. After drawing up at the pump, I got out only to be hugely puzzled as the fuel cap was nowhere to be found. Thankfully after what felt like ages, the words "I think I know what your problem is" rescued me from my increasingly desperate and embarrassed circlings with the revelation that it was hidden behind the rear spring-loaded number plate. Great design, I thought, but you definitely need to be in the know.

For many years the car was held together with the equivalent of string and rubber bands. MOTs invariably resulted in apologetic news that yet more welding was needed to the chassis. But eventually I reached the point where I realised this couldn't go on for ever .....

## **My involvement in the Club**

And that was where the Club came in. I joined 18 years ago in the hope it would be a place where I could find the necessary expertise to help. And I wasn't disappointed.

A personal introduction by Ian Keers to fellow member, Doug Burton, led to a total rebuild. Panel beaters made new bodywork where rust had taken metal beyond the point of rescue; the "innards" were completely overhauled; and the whole of the interior refurbished but with everything salvageable retained. The result was exactly what I'd hoped for – a car fit for its next 50 years but with all its much-loved character preserved. As a now grown-up first-born observed on the car's return home, it now ran properly and looked fantastic but its familiar smell remained exactly the same.

In 2018 the launch of a new Sussex Region co-incided with my ditching the pressures of full-time work in London and I started being able to focus on the other things the Club offers. I really enjoy the Club events I've been to: it's fascinating to be able to see how Mercedes design has evolved over the years but it's also a good way to meet a great and varied bunch of people. I was therefore dismayed when over the summer all this was threatened and so after making contact again with Ian to find out exactly what was going on I made it my business to appear at the general meeting in July. Since then, I've been working with the Interim Board and the Business Development Group to develop updated articles of association and Rules for the Club, which I now hope members will approve at the upcoming AGM in January.

My 220 SEB

