



MG CAR CLUB
South Cape Centre
Established February, 2007
P O Box 732,
Knysna,
6570.

NEWSLETTER NO. 01: 09 JAN 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairman:	Ross Lawson	082 550 6473	antart@mweb.co.za
Vice –Chairman & Interclub Liaison:	Ricky Cooper	082 822 2146	ricky@cyberperk.co.za
Secretary:	Tony Lyons-Lewis	083 419 6566	lionsden@netactive.co.za
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Newsletter Editor:	Bruce Henderson	082 568 7976	brucehenderson@gmail.com
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MG Registrar for S. Cape:	Keith Burton	083 733 7749	keiella@telkomsa.net

EDITORIAL:

With the festive season now behind us, I hope that you have all had an enjoyable, peaceful and happy time, and that you are looking forward to a healthy and successful new year. We wish you everything of the best with not too much pain as the inevitable weight reduction programs grind into gear. It is not easy to come to the realization that it is once again newsletter time and that almost half of the first month has flown by.

The few members who missed the Club's Christmas event missed a treat. The weather did its best for us and a balmy summer evening allowed the four energetic chefs to rustle up 800 prawns which, with the rice and salads, disappeared with remarkable alacrity. Thanks to Ricky for arranging the evening and the prawns and to the two Jennifers and the Angling Club for their catering. The turnout was excellent, all the more so because the weather encouraged most to come in their MGs.



Enjoying the prawns!

A big thank you is due to the Hollis family for hosting our first (hopefully of many) "at home", tyre-kicking and braai evening. I do not think that Dee had anticipated or even contemplated the size of the crowd that arrived at relatively short notice at the

beginning of the busy festive season. The weather gods smiled on us once again and a relaxed and most enjoyable evening was spent in the garden admiring the display of eleven MGs and four Minis. Well done to Ron for bringing the 'C' home from Joh'burg in one piece despite not having a working clutch. Thank you very much Dee for your superb catering.



The line up in Hollis garden

The committee with Norman in charge of the events program have put together an entertaining calendar for the year starting with the run to Saasveld as guests of the Garden Route Motor Club followed by the George Old Car Show. The latter requires registration as soon as possible and we are hoping for a good attendance to promote both our club and the marque. Please see below for details.

Our AGM is booked for March 3rd at the Angling Club. Please make every effort to attend. There have been widely publicised rumours about various forms of legislation against left hand drive cars. The AA have recently issued a press release entitled "New Law no threat to LHD – AA". It would seem that confusion has arisen because the documentation in relation to amendments to the law has been incorrectly interpreted. The final opinion of the AA is that "the amendment poses no threat to the ability of owners of LHD vehicles to use, sell or license their vehicles". Further details are available for interested members.

It has been great to receive contributions for the newsletter from several members but I know there are more of you out there with an MG story to tell or picture to share. Please keep them rolling in as the editor's writing is bound to become stale without "outside input". This month we feature another article from Tony who, despite his own considerable expertise, is needing and receiving valuable assistance from the MG community with his TC rebuild. Norman has been in the glossy press recently and his story is précised.

Bruce

FROM THE HIGH CHAIR:

Apologies on the Chairman's behalf. He is still in festive season mode and has missed the extended deadline. Ross, we look forward to a bumper story next month.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday 18th January: Run – Bring and Braai at Saasveld: Meet at the Quays at 09h15 for 09h30 departure; Sedgefield members will join the convoy from the Engen Garage.

The Garden Route Motor Club has challenged the MGCC to a golf competition. This is very much a fun day and non-golfers/novices are welcomed and expected to participate with success as they will be allocated a generous handicap. The event will take place at the Nelson Mandela University Saasveld Campus mashie course outside George and will include a BYO lunch braai. Only three clubs and a putter per golfer are allowed. Bring sufficient balls and pegs and a pencil for scoring.

Sunday 25th January: – informal breakfast/coffee run to Old Nick's at Plett – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there. Note: This is not an official club event and is open to all motoring enthusiasts.

Saturday 31st January and Sunday 1st February – George Motor Show; Saturday is the formal club run. Please meet at the Quays at 08h15 for 08h30 departure - Sedgefield contingent to join at Engen. Your car should remain on show at least until 15h00. The MGCC will be allocated a specific area and all MGs should park there. This show is one of, if not the biggest car event in the country and it is hoped that our members sporting our new shirts will turn up en masse to support the event, promote our club and show that MG is the dominant marque.

N.B. The following message comes from the organisers:

If you wish to exhibit your vehicles at the show, we urge you to please register as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Registration can be done on line on our website at www.scooc.co.za (preferred) or by e-mail to info@scooc.co.za or by faxing the information to 086 642 6535. The following information is required for registration:

Name, Surname; Contact tel no; Postal address; E-mail address; Club; Car Make, Model, Year; Country of origin; Car registration no.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Frans and Ellen van den Borg (MGB) have recently joined and the Club welcomes them and wishes them a long and happy association with us. We are delighted to again welcome Marilyn and Dennis Houseman who have re-joined with Marilyn's pristine TC. The Club remains optimistic that the following MG owners will join:

Ken Hirschberg – A

Gordon Hood – B

Mandy Lombard – B

David Brown – B GT

Adrian and Jennifer Wilson-Forbes – B

Doug and Anne Murray – B GT

Members are urged to encourage all MG-owning non-members to join the Club.



MAINTAINING THE BREED

Thanks to Tony Lyons-Lewis for the following:

THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN MG CLUB MEMBER:

We live in a relatively small community in Knysna and finding someone who has gone down the same route as you are trying to negotiate is not always that easy, from the perspective of rebuilding a 60 year old MG, that is!! I have owned my 1948 TC since 1973, but it was not the greatest example when I bought it for R1500, but it was the best I could afford. The car was a runner, but only just, and it was always going to be the subject of a total rebuild one day, "when I had the time"!

The decision was finally reached to start the project and I immediately went to the Internet and found the T-Type register and one John James in the UK. He is an absolute dedicated MG nut and one of the most helpful people I have not met having only communicated through e-mail! His advice was to get Australian specialist Mike Sherrell's book, TC's Forever. I got onto our local MG Clubs, again via the Internet, offering a number of TD spares I had got along with my TC when I bought it. Lo and behold, I get a hit from Joan Parker in Cape Town, with the offer of a swap of my bits for her copy of the book. Deal done and the exchange takes place with Jane and John Wessels, Sedgfield members, taking my bits to Joan as they were going to Cape Town to stay with her, and bringing the much-needed book back for me!

Sherrell's book is an absolute must if you are going to restore a TC and work has progressed slowly but steadily since its acquisition.

Next major event is the Port Elizabeth Indaba. The guest of honour is Mike Allison, with his wife, Anne. Accommodation is needed for a number of the overseas visitors who are planning a visit to Knysna

after the Indaba, so we volunteer to have Mike and Anne stay with us. We have never met them before so are a bit apprehensive about their stay, but they are such a super couple and fit in like family! Of course, Mike is dragged into the workshop to view the TC in bits. Some very valuable advice follows, from his many years experience with the marque, and he offers to try and locate a casting for my chassis that was destroyed in a head-on accident during a previous ownership! I have been totally unable to locate a replacement and the car is never going to get back on the road without one! Mike has an idea and, sure enough, a short while after he has returned to the UK, a replacement casting is obtained for me.

I have also been advised by other TC owners that a steering box modification by Johannesburg Club member Bob Bayliss is a must to make the car useable in modern-day traffic. Bob obliges and the box returns fully uprated and ready to install. He invites a visit if ever I am in Jo'burg, which happens in early December.

Our Goodwood visitors tried to find some bits for me when they went to the Auto Jumble at Beaulieu but without success. I have had ads on the Internet for a while with no success, but the visit to Bob results in him supplying me with both the brake union and the tool box latch, both in very good condition!

I am very busy with making the replacement timber frame for the car, using Sherrell's dimensions and directions, but this does not preclude one from making errors! The dashboard backing is a 24mm thick marine ply board that fits inside the scuttle and ties the two door pillars in place. When I offered mine up to the body, I discovered a gap of 10mm on each



side! This means a new dash, I can only get a full sheet of marine ply, but I only need a piece 250mm wide!

Without all these contacts, I would still be floundering along so long live the MG Clubs and all their marvellously helpful members!

Along comes Roger Davis to the rescue. He replaced a transom on a small sailing dinghy years ago and still has the remainder of the marine ply board he used at the time. The result is I now have a new piece to fit into the car!

Tony Lyons-Lewis

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH:

The storm has arrived, it is more fierce than anyone could have imagined and its course cannot be predicted. But, Madam Speaker, we saw the signs early, and we took appropriate action. We can say to our people: *Liduduma lidlule!* The thunder will pass."

~ Trevor Manuel, Mid Term Budget Speech October 2008 ~

(Let's hope the floods do not last too long – Ed)

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING:

www.mgcc.co.za	MGCC Combined Southern African Centres
www.mgcc-north.co.za	MGCC Northern Centre – a site recently opened and where one will find the Northern Centre (Pretoria etc.) Newsletter.
www.autoexpress.co.uk	For a picture of the anticipated new MG TF.
www.formula1.com	The official Formula 1 Website
http://mg-uk.co.uk/	The new MG website
www.mgcars.org.uk/	MG Cars Enthusiasts' Club
www.mgownersclub.co.uk/	MG Owners Club (biggest single marquee club in the world)

THE MILLIGAN RALLY:

Those with cars older than 1960 are reminded that this prestigious Eastern Cape rally will take place in and around Port Elizabeth from 8th to 11th June next year. Lionel Hewitt is gathering a Knysna group and all interested should contact him on 044 382 1986.



PAST EVENTS:

Tony writes:

Our club has 50 fully paid-up members of which a few are foreigners, situated in the UK, Pretoria and elsewhere that precludes them from attending regular gatherings, yet we could still muster 27 members signing the attendance register at our Christmas Prawn Braai at the Knysna Angling Club on Friday 12 December.

The weather was perfect, with a hot day settling down into a warm evening with the lightest of breezes off the lagoon.

Ricky, with the help of Peter Vadas, had organised the supply of a huge quantity of prawns from Sea Food Safari. They had been prepared and deveined beforehand and all we had to do was to marinade them in a suitable lemon/olive oil sauce and get the four skottels heated. Bruce, Norman, Ricky and Tony were the designated chefs, and soon all four were heavily involved in slaving over the hot plates, turning prawns, dishing up cooked

examples and calling for more beer to slake desperate thirsts!

The Angling Club had laid on fresh salads, rice and pasta dishes and soon the noise subsided as the assembled throng tucked into the most succulent prawns I have enjoyed in a long time - hot off the cooking pans! Ice cream and hot chocolate sauce followed and our members subsided into a lethargic after-dinner chat.

It would appear that the event was most successful, judging by all the positive comment by those present and it seems like we will need to repeat the event next year! To all those that attended, thank you for making the effort to join us - especially in light of the number who turned up in their MGs!

Tony Lyons-Lewis

PERSONALITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT: NORMAN FROST

FINE CARS FOR THE SWALLOWS

If one could package the essence of the love of fine motor cars there would be plenty of buyers all over the world. Norman Frost of Knysna has been proving this for more than 16 years – without actually bottling the fragrance.

Norman Frost seeks out fascinating cars (or they find him!), finds those who want to own and nurture them and then puts the two together. These processes frequently span the globe. Around a third of the classic motoring treasures sold by Frost Brothers, are exported. Jennie, Norman's wife and a stalwart in the business, has become a specialist in the paperwork and paraphernalia

required to ship the cherished models in containers out of Port Elizabeth or Cape Town to almost any corner of the world.

For this simple business plan to work, Norman and Jennie add three key ingredients – there has to be their own patent enthusiasm and love of the cars; there must be impeccable trust between the parties; and there is a constantly re-generating worldwide network of contacts 'in the know'. The success of Frost Brothers is built on these pillars.

'I do what I love and I love what I do; my hobby is my business; my work is my pleasure,' he says as he shows you a long wall solidly papered with



postcard-sized pictures of cars. 'I can tell you the story of each one – where we found it, who it went to, and why.'

Trust is an enormously important element in the classic car sector. 'We frequently sell to people whom we never meet face to face. From start to finish they must rely entirely on our judgement on the condition and the value – and what it needs for full restoration. 'We don't refurbish cars; largely that's something our customers prefer to do themselves as collectors. When we get a car, normally on consignment, we subject it to a meticulous examination and evaluation. We also verify its history where possible and give potential buyers a detailed report.'

Norman grew up on the Garden Route (his father was MD of the Searle's organisation based at Great Brak River) and gained a lasting love for the area and its lifestyle. He is still an active kayaker paddling at least twice a week, takes part in time trials and does a lot of body-surfing, which is an enduring passion. ('The waves at Buffels Bay must be some of the best in the world...')

Norman's father gave him his early craze for cars, and his first recall of "the yen" was to own a Triumph TR3. 'It's still one of my favourites now, especially the 1960 model ...' He learnt to drive in his father's Toyota Corona GLS, and took his driving test immediately he turned 18 in his mother's Ford Escort 1600 after the family had moved to

Johannesburg. Since then, he muses, he must have driven thousands of different cars. "We've sold 2 150 out of Frost Brothers, and I was a car salesman from the age of 23, so it certainly is into the four-figure bracket..."

'I learnt two invaluable lessons from the hurly-burly of 16 years ago. One was about the "Swallows". The other was the enormous global attraction of the older classic and interesting motor vehicles. 'The Swallows'?: This stunning area attracts large numbers of overseas visitors mainly from the UK and Europe, and many South Africans. Generally these are well-to-do business people and they come south in the summer to relax and switch off. Locals fondly call them "The Swallows". In the heart of paradise, with time on their hands they browse, and the true motoring enthusiasts emerge ... and the rest is up to what we have on display, or what we can go out and find for them.'

For publicity and attraction, he has turned to the Internet. He advertises his website (www.frostbrothers.co.za) in a UK specialist magazine and in a handful of selected local publications. Although the majority of enquiries are from the UK and Europe, and many from South Africa, the phone can ring, as he puts it, 'from anywhere' – Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, South America.

Robin Emslie

MG QUIZ

(From last month and the month before!) Still not a single response; come on guys! Clearly nobody has a clue. Going through Tony's "Triple-M Yearbook", the nearest looks to be an M-Type, although the sweeping front fenders and the tail are incorrect. Sorry you all lost - I get to keep the prize 16-year-old single malt whisky but I am willing to share if anyone thinks they can contribute! (Ed)



2008 ATTENDANCE RECORD,

(Derived from signatures in attendance register – if you snooze, you lose!)

MEMBER'S NAME	PARTNER'S NAME	Accumulated	This Month	Total
Auty Anthony	Norma	2		2
Batissou Dave			1	1
Bechlars Philip	Martia		1	1
Burton Keith	Ella	3	21	24
Bush Marion	Gavin	2	7	9
Clough Pat	Ali		9	10
Cooper Ricky	Colleen	4	19	23
Davis Roger	Nita	4	12	16
Dunlop Denis	Gill	2	8	10
Fisher Roger	Alva	4	8	9
Forsyth Don	Marion		4	4
Frost Norman	Jenny	3	20	23
Giggins Barry	Joan		8	8
Hamilton Alan	Brenda			
Henderson Bruce	Pat	4	17	21
Hewitt Lionel	Rosemary	4		4
Hollis Peter		4	4	8
Hollis Ron	Dee	5	7	12
Jones Dave	Fay	2	8	10
Langman Frostie	Sue	2	13	15
Lawson Ross	Antoinette	3	17	20
Le Feuvre Tim	Sheila			
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna	2	14	16
McCullum John	Louise	1	3	4
Mentz Bunny	Jan	1	1	2
Metelkamp Neil	Norma		1	1
Parfett Ed	Jenny	2	1	3
Parker Wilf	Jenny	3	13	16
Paton Duncan	Leslie	4	15	19
Putter Willie		1		1
Reitz Fritz			1	1
Rosser Phillip	Amanda		1	1
Scanlen Scanni	Lorr			
Scheepers Bert	Renate			
Stannard Bob	Bridget		4	4
Stead Heyns	Ann		1	1
Underwood Colin		2	1	3
Vadas Peter	Vivian		6	6

Event no:	EVENT	Date	Attendance
1	A G M	26-Feb	19
2	Tsitsikama picnic	16-Mar	20
3	Frosts' Noggin	1 Apr	16
4	Glentana Braai	11 May	10
5	Le Bistro Noggin	3 June	13
6	Kwelanga lunch	22 June	13
7	Wybo's run & lunch	20 July	18
8	Frost's darts evening	13Aug	14
9	PE Indaba 2008	4Sept	6
10	Post Indaba Noggin	10Sept	68
11	Economy Run	5Oct	15

Discrepancies should be reported to the Committee without delay. A point is awarded for:

- Attending any event either organised by the Club or in which the Club is invited to participate;
- Coming to that event in an MG
- Arranging an event or speaking/entertaining at an event.

FOR SALE OR WANTED:

(This is a free service for members. Please make use of it as it helps to keep our cars on the road. Just send your advert in to The Editor well before the end of each month. The committee has agreed that commercial adverts can also be accepted but these are charged for.)

For Sale: MG TD 1952 in good but not concourse condition. BRG with new weather equipment. Offers around R140,000. Lack of garage space forces reluctant sale. Contact Roger Davis on 044 533 5357 or 082 723 2297.***

For Sale: Lucas P700 Tripod headlight units in boxes @ R1600.00 per pair. Contact Denny Williams on 044 8770191 or 082 633 6254. **

For Sale: 2003 MG TF 160, dark metallic blue with black leather interior. 94000km, year and 3 month warranty left, FSH, Johannesburg car, Contact Etienne Potgieter, 0848000604 or etiennepotgieter@gmail.com.**



WANTED: Ivan de Clerk, Northern Chairman, is looking for the surround for the dashboard of his MG TD. Particularly important is the trim around the glove box hole and the glove box door. It is a flat metal strip approx 1 cm wide with a lip that is folded around. Moss sells it, but apparently they ship it in one

wound up roll and you still have to bend it to fit perfectly. If it helps any, here is the part number 454-110 BEAD SET, Dash and Glove box." Any TD parts are always "wanted". Ivan's contact number is 082 55 26906.**

REGALIA:

NEW SCC SHIRTS

The smart new club shirts were well promoted at the Christmas party and those without must have hoped for a delivery from Father Christmas. For those who lost out, they are obtainable at Frost Brothers. Guys, as the picture shows, the girls look real good in them too so don't scratch your head when you are battling with ideas for a present for your wife/partner, the answer is right in front of you. A few of the original shirts are still available.

Bumper badges, magnetic name and lapel badges and key rings all with the club logo are available. Please contact Norman or Ross with your enquiries and orders.



CLUB REGISTER:

PLEASE if you have not already done so, take a very few minutes to complete the car register form sent with the April newsletter and send it to Keith Burton on Keiella@telkomsa.net or P O Box 1154 Sedgfield 6573 or leave the form with Norman Frost.

MGCC SOUTH CAPE EVENTS CALENDAR:

MEETING PLACE: KNYSNA – THE QUAYS AT THE WATERFRONT END OF GREY ST.
SEDGFIELD – ENGEN ONE-STOP.

(Events in blue are not official MGCC outings)

Sunday 18th January – Golf Challenge against GRMC; at Saasveld near George; details to be announced

Sunday 25th January - informal breakfast/coffee run to Old Nick's at Plett – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Saturday January 31st January and Sunday 1st February – George Motor Show; see above for details.



Sunday February 22nd - Informal breakfast/coffee run to Nauticus at Brenton – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Saturday 14th February - British Motorcycle Association bikes on display at the Waterfront 13h00-17h30.

Sunday February 22nd - informal breakfast/coffee run to Nauticus at Brenton – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Tuesday 3rd March – AGM at 19h30 at Knysna Angling Club followed by Noggin.

September 24-29, 2009 CAPE CENTRES GATHERING; Contact a committee member for details.

The early warnings are for inclusion in your diaries. Details to follow.

In view of the advancing years of many of us, there may be problems with **print size**, etc. Any CONSTRUCTIVE criticism of the Newsletter and how it can be improved will always be welcomed as will of course, your contributions.

The views, comments and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the MGCC SC Centre or its committee.



5 Uil Street
Knysna Industria
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South Africa
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to Knysna (21km) N2 to Pielt (36km)
George Rex Drive
Sandpaper Street
Uil Street
Vigilance Drive
to The Heads

Norman: 082 557 6470 Jennie: 076 195 4837

The image contains a business card layout. On the left is the contact information for Frost Brothers. On the right is a street map showing the location of the business at 5 Uil Street. The map includes labels for 'George Rex Drive', 'Sandpaper Street', 'Uil Street', and 'Vigilance Drive'. It also shows directions: 'to Knysna (21km)', 'N2', 'to Pielt (36km)', and 'to The Heads'. At the bottom of the card, the phone numbers for Norman and Jennie are listed.