



MG CAR CLUB South Cape Centre

Established February, 2007
P O Box 732,
Knysna,
6570.

NEWSLETTER NO. 02: 13 FEB 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
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MG Registrar for S. Cape:	Keith Burton	083 733 7749	keiella@telkomsa.net

EDITORIAL:

A good start to the year from a South African motoring perspective saw not only Giniel de Villiers win the first non-African Dakar Rally in South America, but also Ralph Pitchford navigate another VW to second place. For the members of the MG South Cape Centre, the year began as guests of the Garden Route Motor Club at their annual golf event at the Nelson Mandela University's Saasveld Campus. We thank them for the invitation to what was a most enjoyable outing. It seemed that only a minority of MG members took part in the golf competition which, if judged by the quality of the editor's golf on the first tee, was a blessing. The informal breakfast run to Old Nick's drew less participation than previously which was a pity because the weather was ideal for topless motoring. The excellent MG display at the George Old Car Show is described below.

The AGM is our next event on March 3rd (see below) and the treat to follow will be the Club's first weekend away at Stilbaai. Please would those of you

who are joining us and who have not informed Norman let him know as soon as possible. The Garden Route Motor Club's annual charity Knysna Car Show at Loerie Park has been brought forward on the calendar to May 2nd in the interests of searching for better weather than in the past few years. We would again like a spirited display of MG through the ages and urge you all to diarise this event which will be our official May outing.

I enjoyed meeting a German MG enthusiast at Frost Brothers recently and was most impressed with the monthly newsletter of one of the two UK affiliated German MG Centres. This was of technically very high quality and although I do not understand the language, the content appeared to include all aspects of MG life. The magazine was at least equivalent to 'Safety Fast' and demonstrates huge MG enthusiasm.

At the risk of being accused of bragging which I am not, I hesitate to mention that the new edition of

Fred Phillips' Classic and Performance Car Africa includes a story and photos of our Goodwood trip. This was too good an opportunity to miss to boost our new Centre's image. This magazine is well worth a read for any car enthusiast.

The sad news for the Club is that our inaugural chairman has decided to call it a day from the AGM (although he will be available for election as a committee member) so this 'From the High chair' will be his last. Other contributors this month include Keith Burton with his final episode of Nuts

and Bolts in 'Technical Tips' (see episodes 1 and 2 in March and April 2008 newsletters), and Ron Hollis describing his clutch-less drive from Joh'burg in 'Maintaining the Breed'. Some may criticise the newsletter for being too long but the contributions from members are all worth inclusion and although some are delayed for a leaner period, they will all be used. Tony Lyons-Lewis has another TC story for 'Maintaining the Breed' next month.

Bruce

FROM THE HIGH CHAIR:

With our first AGM as a fully recognized Centre of the MG Car Club UK just around the corner, it is a good time to remember how it all came together in the first place. When I arrived in Knysna in October 2003, I was asked by many members of other MG Centres if I was going to start a Centre in Knysna. After being a Committee Member of PE Centre since I joined in 1984, with seven years as Chairman, and having joined the Garden Route Motor Club soon after arriving in Knysna, it was not a priority. However when I was doing alterations on Peter Vadas's house, I discovered two MGAs there with a B under restoration and with interest (pressure) from both Ricky Cooper and Peter we started drawing up a list of MG owners in the area. I was amazed at how many there were.

At this time we were living at Lake Brenton and I bumped into the late Noelene who worked at the Lake Brenton Resort and with whom I had previously organised several Cape Centres Gatherings. The MGCC had been having very successful Cape Centre Gatherings there since 1987. She informed me that the Resort was closing down and if we (MGCC) wanted to have a last fling there we must do it soon.

I put the idea to Ricky and Peter and they thought it would be a good idea to foster interest in forming a Centre and getting our members to meet members from other areas. They agreed and we went ahead with the organization. We called it "The Last Fling at Lake Brenton" and it was very well enjoyed by nearly forty couples.

At this event we applied for recognition as a MGCC Centre on the Garden Route and although we met all the requirements of MGCC UK we were not accepted by the National Delegates Committee members. They imposed a two year probation on us to prove we could be a viable Centre and now with nearly sixty members, boy did we show them.

This will be my last "From the High Chair" as I am not available to carry out the duties of being Chairman any longer due to the pressures of running a building business in the present down turn in the industry. It will be noted that I had not made the due date for a couple of "From the High Chair" and it was for this reason. I would like to thank the whole committee for their unstinting co-operation and support and in particular to Bruce Henderson for the newsletter as



editor and Peter Hollis for the layout and all the IT involved.

In my last From the High Chair I mentioned colour slides I had taken of Stirling Moss when he was out here in early sixties. It just so happens that one of them is of Stirling in the surf at the Orient Beach in East London with someone who we identify as his first wife Katie, nee Molson, from another book I have about him titled "All But My Life" by Ken Purdy.

See you at the AGM.



Sir Stirling in earlier days

Ross

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

AGM March 3rd is the date for the Club's **Annual General Meeting taking place at 19h30 at the Knysna Angling Club**. By now, you will have received notification of the meeting and a good turnout is anticipated. Certain members of the committee are standing down and elections will take place for all committee positions. The meeting will be followed by an informal noggin in the bar where snacks will be available.

A Club **"Weekend Away"** at the seaside resort of Jongensfontein at Stilbaai has been arranged for **Friday 17th to Sunday to 19th April**. We will leave the Quays at 15h00 on 17th April and drive at a leisurely pace arriving at Stilbaai around 17h30 in time to light the braai fires and have a drink before supper. There are places to explore in and around Stilbaai on the Saturday either by car or on foot. Additional cottages need to be booked as soon as possible (the deadline has already passed!) – please contact Norman Frost for details. (Please note change of dates due to 'out of season' rates).

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 2009. Lionel Hewitt is gathering a Knysna group and all interested should contact him on 044 382 1986.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Doug and Anne Murray of Sedgefield with their MGB GT are welcomed to the club and we wish them a long and happy association with us.

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



MAINTAINING THE BREED

CLUTCHING AT STRAWS

Pushing the clutch in works fine. Letting it out is a rather different story. A jammed and un-reachable linkage has it only partially releasing, and this situation is quickly deteriorating. I'm in Johannesburg and my home workshop is 1250 kilometres away in Knysna. In addition, I'm in a hurry to get home for the Christmas break.

What to do?

In first gear the MGC starts easily on the key and has plenty of low-down torque. For now, its ailing clutch is staying fully engaged. The N1 and N9 routes bypass nearly all en-route towns. Gently on the gearlever, feel the next gear, and blipping for down-changes keeps things on the move. An early start, no uphill stops, and it just might be possible....

First light on Wednesday 10th December and I'm dodging "Dangerous Objects!" (the warning signs really do say this) on the western edges of Ennerdale and Vanderbijlpark. Left foot has been heavily and repeatedly disciplined to not even look at the clutch pedal. Tollgates bring an unexpected challenge, since in this condition an empty booth is all but essential. Forward planning is needed to create a long gap ahead, with the slowing MG ready to race for pole position at the last moment. Three toll booths, three successful encounters. Phew. Now it's only combined fuel and comfort stops, and a challenge to remember exactly where the simpler on- and off-ramps and traffic-friendly garage forecourts are. Mercifully, most stop-'n-go roadworks have been suspended for December.



"Sorry - can't stop for the view...."

Phoning ahead for open gates solves the overnight break on a family farm, which comes up at 2pm, soon after Middleburg. Another early start on Thursday, and a slow-roll through Graaff Reinet's numerous stop streets sees me on my way once again. No problems down the Langkloof, and George is largely bypassed down the Blanco road, via the airport and directly onto the N2. In the end, coping with holiday traffic and crossing through downtown Knysna proves the most challenging aspect of the trip. At least it's now within easy towing distance, but with some lucky breaks the MGC is parked at home before 11am.

Average fuel consumption – 10 km per litre, and only one or two other drivers even noticed the unusual take-offs. The gearbox is out by 4pm, the clutch linkage re-engineered, and everything back in place by lunch-time on Friday.

Mission accomplished. Who says old cars can't be entertaining?

Ron Hollis



QUOTES FOR THE MONTH:

"Your Presidency brings hope of new beginnings in the relations between nations, that the challenges we all face, be they economic, the environment, or in combating poverty or the search for peace, will be addressed with a new spirit of openness and accommodation."

~ Nelson Mandela in a letter to Barack Obama ~

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.
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)

AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home. I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later. The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'. So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair. She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office. She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability, too'

And then the fight started.....



PAST EVENTS:

Our February run took the form of our participation in the George Old Car Show. We marshalled the cars at the Quays in age order with the Sedgefield guys slotting in en route, and drove in convoy to the school fields opposite the old Game centre off York Street. Here Ross had already marked our turf with our banners and the cars were easily parked as requested by the organisers in vintage order (almost). Our club display was exceeded in number only by the display of Mercedes Benz's many of which were relatively new. One each of TC, TD, and TF, several A's including two Coupes, Chrome and rubber bumper B's and B GT's, a Midget and a modern TF comprised the 19 club cars which generated considerable interest amongst spectators. There were an additional nine non-club MGs and one TD from the club on display in other areas of the show.

A Border Centre newsletter last year described their record-breaking show day at which they were able to muster 32 MGs. Considering that this was their club's 30th anniversary and that they are based in the city of East London, we can be proud that after only two years, the village of Knysna can produce so many cars for a show. With a little

effort, we can easily exceed that number for our local Knysna Show on May 2nd. Well done to Colleen, Ricky and his guys for their 4 MGA turnout (not to mention the 2 Healeys!).

Ed



TECHNICAL TIPS

NUTS AND BOLTS VOL. 3

What happened to 2008? I cannot believe that I have taken so long to conclude what I started early last year! The chart is published (thanks to Peter Hollis for the layout) so that those interested can have it laminated and stick it on their workshop walls.

I made an error in Vol. 2 by saying that the coarse threads into castings of BMC/Leyland engines were BSW; they are of course (no pun intended) UNC. The TPIs are the same but the pitch angle is slightly different and where bolt heads or nuts are involved, the spanner is an AF.

B.S.W.			B.S.F.		N.F.		ISO Metric		French Metric	
Diameter		T.P.I.	Diameter	T.P.I.	Diameter	T.P.I.	Diameter	Pitch	Diameter	Pitch
$\frac{1}{8}$	0.125	40					2	0.4		
$\frac{3}{16}$	0.1875	24	$\frac{3}{16}$	32			3	0.5	3	0.6
$\frac{1}{4}$	0.25	20	$\frac{1}{4}$	26	$\frac{1}{4}$	28	4	0.7	4	0.75
$\frac{5}{16}$	0.3125	18	$\frac{5}{16}$	22	$\frac{5}{16}$	24	5	0.8	5	0.9
$\frac{3}{8}$	0.375	16	$\frac{3}{8}$	20	$\frac{3}{8}$	24	6	1.0	6	1.0
$\frac{7}{16}$	0.4375	14	$\frac{7}{16}$	18	$\frac{7}{16}$	20	7	1.0	7	1.0
$\frac{1}{2}$	0.5	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	16	$\frac{1}{2}$	20	8	1.25	8	1.25
$\frac{9}{16}$	0.5625	12	$\frac{9}{16}$	16	$\frac{9}{16}$	18	9	1.25	9	1.25
$\frac{5}{8}$	0.625	11	$\frac{5}{8}$	14	$\frac{5}{8}$	18	10	1.5	10	1.5
$\frac{11}{16}$	0.6875	11	$\frac{11}{16}$	14			11	1.5	11	1.5
$\frac{3}{4}$	0.75	10	$\frac{3}{4}$	12	$\frac{3}{4}$	16	12	1.75	12	1.75

Keith Burton.



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	3	2	5
Batissou Dave			1	1
Bechlars Philip	Martia		1	1
Burton Keith	Ella	4	24	28
Bush Marion	Gavin		9	9
Clough Pat	Ali	1	10	11
Cooper Ricky	Colleen	4	23	27
Davis Roger	Nita		16	16
Dunlop Denis	Gill	4	10	14
Fisher Roger	Alva	2	9	11
Forsyth Don	Marion	2	4	6
Frost Norman	Jenny	4	23	27
Giggins Barry	Joan	4	8	12
Hamilton Alan	Brenda			
Henderson Bruce	Pat	4	21	25
Hewitt Lionel	Rosemary			4
Hollis Peter		2	8	10
Hollis Ron	Dee		7	12
Houseman Marilyn	Dennis	4		4
Jones Dave	Fay		8	10
Langman Frostie	Sue	4	15	19
Lawson Ross	Antoinette	2	20	22
Le Feuvre Tim	Sheila			
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna	2	16	18
McCullum John	Louise		3	4
Mentz Bunny	Jan	2	2	4
Metelerkamp Neil	Norma		1	1
Parfett Ed	Jenny	2	3	5
Parker Wilf	Jenny	4	16	20
Paton Duncan	Leslie	4	19	23
Putter Willie		2	1	3
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			1	3
Vadas Peter	Vivian		6	6
Van den Borg Frans	Ellen			2
Wessels John	Jane			
Williams Denny	Pat	2		2
Winter George	Liesel	2	23	25

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
12	KYC Braai & slides	11Nov	17
13	Xmas Prawn Braai	12Dec	24
14	Hollis home	17Dec	15
15	Saasveld	18 Jan	16
16	George Car Show	31 Jan	19

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.

CLUB REGISTER

The following members have still not completed the Club's car register and they are requested to please do so without delay. For your convenience, a copy of the registration form with instructions will be attached to the email with your newsletter. Most of the information not in your head can be obtained from the car's license papers.

Member No.:	NAME:
3	Peter Vadas
7	Phillip Rosser
9	Fritz Reitz
18	Peter Lourens
21	Bert Scheepers
22	Scanni Scanlen
27	Denny Williams
28	Philip Bechlars
33	Anthony Roff
34	Neil Metelekamp
38	Jane Wessels
39	Heyns Stead
44	Bob Stannard
45	John Busby
49	Julian Lincow
50	Greg Gilbert
52	Willie Putter
54	Frans van den Bor



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: 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.***

For Sale: MG Magnette ZB 1500 1958 model, "rendered topless" and with no papers. In

Hout Bay. Urgent sale as owner leaving country. Contact Christian Krug on 0725421255 or krugch@hotmail.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 now familiar light and dark blue club shirts are becoming a feature at car related events. For those who don't have, they are obtainable at Frost Brothers. 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.

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.



INVITATION:

Not only is the KZN (previously Natal) Centre the oldest MGCC Centre in South Africa but it is the oldest Centre **world-wide** outside of the UK. All MGCC members are invited to join them for their 70th Anniversary weekend at The Nest in the Drakensberg. For further information, please contact the editor or Lawrence Sysum on 031 705 1054 or 083 785 0340 or Lawrence@ionline.co.za .



MGCC SOUTH CAPE EVENTS CALENDAR:

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

[\(Events in blue are not official MGCC outings\)](#)

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

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

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

Sunday 29th March – Informal breakfast run to Old Nick’s at Plett – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th April – Weekend away at Stilbaai.

Sunday April 26th - Informal breakfast run to Nauticus at Brenton – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Saturday 2nd May – GRMC / Hospice Motor Show @ Loerie Park.

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

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.](#)





"Forever Young"
MG CAR CLUB
South Cape Centre

Established February, 2007
 P O Box 1122, Knysna, 6570.

REGISTER OF CLUB CARS

Name of Registered Owner: _____

Address: Residence: _____

Code

Postal: _____

Code

MG Car Club Membership Number: _____

DETAILS OF MG OWNED:

Model: _____

Version: _____

Year: _____

Registration No.: _____

Chassis No.: _____

S.A. Build No. (TD's & MGA's where applicable): _____

Engine No.: _____

Colour: Paint: _____ Upholstery: _____

Wheels: Wire Steel Alloy

Status of Car:

Awaiting rebuild	
Being rebuilt	
Running	

Condition of Car:

Poor	
Fair	
Good	
Excellent	

Please complete a form for each MG owned and return to K Burton at P O Box 1154, Sedgefield, 6573 or at keiella@telkomsa.net

