



MG CAR CLUB

South Cape Centre

Established February 2007

P.O. Box 732, Knysna, 6570

www.mgcarclubsc.co.za

Affiliated to the MG CAR CLUB Ltd. (UK).

NEWSLETTER NO 11:02 FEBRUARY 2011

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EDITORIAL & FROM THE HIGH CHAIR

With 2011 in full swing, attendance at this year's events suggests that the Club is thriving. For the first time at a noggin, the spaces for members signatures on the attendance register (all 24 of them and then add WAGS!) were filled at the Sundowner Picnic at Brenton. This prompted Tony to increase the spaces to 28 and these **and** one more were filled at the George Car Old Show! MG Members at the last Old Nick's breakfast increased from 10 to 16 and that excludes WAGS and GRMC folk. This bodes well for our centre's future and again makes mockery of the reluctance shown to permit our existence at the outset. However, the club functions because of the willingness of the committee to devote time and energy to its organisation and I would like to pay tribute here to the committee members for their unstinting 'devotion to duty'.

In that vein, I am delighted that my appeal in the last newsletter to members to offer their services has borne fruit. I am especially pleased that Ray Mackey has offered to take over my portfolio of editor. Ray will be proposed for the committee at the forthcoming AGM and we look forward to his contributions. The newsletter is the important vehicle of communication between members, the committee and the MG world in general and I feel sure that Ray will fill this post admirably. However the editor needs support from the members and I hope that you will continue to offer material to him for inclusion in the newsletter. There will be further changes in the committee at the AGM and it is hoped that additional 'new blood' will come forward.

The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the South Cape Centre of the MG Car Club or its Committee. The material may not be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor. Neither the Club nor the Editor vouch for, nor do they accept responsibility for the consequences of any action taken as a result of any of material in this newsletter.

I am making extensive use in this, my final edition, of material forwarded by members and I am sure that you will enjoy their contributions.

The important outing in 'Forthcoming Events' is the AGM and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on March 1st.

It is worth noting that, semi officially, production of the modern TF has come to an end with the last of the 185 car batch being sold in the UK at the moment with the warnings of "If you don't buy one now, you might not get another chance!". This might help to put some upward pressure on the prices of modern TFs some of which are being sold for ridiculously low prices, bearing in mind that they came onto the market at R300000!

Finally, the announcement has been made about this year's Cape Centres Gathering being hosted by the PE MGCC and being held in Graaff Reinet from 27 to 30 October. Registration has been called for and you are encouraged to enter as soon as possible to obtain accommodation in the Drostdy Hotel, the main venue. We look forward to another enjoyable weekend. If you have not received the registration form, please notify a committee member who will forward one to you.

Bruce.

FROM THE SICK BAY

We are pleased that Lionel Hewitt's eye is recovering following surgery and look forward to soon having him and his TC on a run.

CAPTION COMPETITION

Would anyone like to suggest an appropriate caption for this picture?



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 20th February: Bring and braai at Ebb and Flow in Wilderness. Either meet there or join the group which will leave the Quays at 1030. Braai fires will be provided but please bring the usual tables and chairs, umbrellas, grids, food and drink. There is a charge of R20 per head to enter the park which will be collected at the gate or produce your Wild Card. Then Duncan Paton will also ask you for a contribution of R10 per car to cover the cost of the charcoal and hire of the braais from SAN Parks. The GRMC is invited to join the MGCC on this event.

Sunday 27th February breakfast run to Cafe Francois will leave the Quays at 0900.

Tuesday 1st March: The AGM of the MGCC will be held at 1800 sharp at the Knysna Angling Club. A short meeting is anticipated and will be followed by a bring and braai at the club. Please remember that as the club is licenced you may not bring your own alcoholic drinks which will be available from the pub at very reasonable prices.

Sunday 6th March: N.B. Event Change. Please note that the GRMC lunch run to Scotty's in Plett on Sunday March 13th has been cancelled and the following event substituted:

Braai and car viewing in Great Brak: The clubs have been invited to visit the home and car collection of Cobus Halliday who has just relocated to Great Brak. Cobus has brought a collection of some 80 cars with a further 40 to follow. Most of the cars are American, but there are also some British cars to view. John Day tells me that the garaging facilities have to be seen to be believed. We will leave the Knysna Quays at 10h00 on Sunday 6th March to arrive at Great Brak at 11h30 and view the cars for an hour. This will be followed by a "bring and braai" at Cobus's home. Braais will be provided but members need to bring their own food, drinks and seating. More details will be sent to you before the event.

Saturday 19 March: Charity Event in Plett. Graham and Sylvia Yendell will be organising a car show at the Country Crescent Hotel in Plett on starting at 0930 until around 1600. They wish to hold this event in order to raise funds for an orphanage in Robertson and also just to have some fun. Go to www.herberg.co.za for more information.

Kindly note that this is not a MGCC or GRMC event, but the personal effort of Graham and Sylvia who wish to make a positive difference in some peoples' lives. The idea is to have some beer tents, braais, music and so on with a view to creating a country fair atmosphere. Graham will be contacting all the car clubs in the area to ask for their support.

If you would like to support Graham and Sylvia and also have a fun day, please contact them directly at: grahamyendall@hotmail.com or at cell number 083 297 6677

Sunday 27th March breakfast run to Old Nick's will leave the Quays at 0900.



N.B. Sunday 17th April breakfast run to Cafe Francois: Please note that the April Sunday breakfast run has been changed to this day to avoid the holiday masses that will inevitably be on the Garden Route for the Easter Weekend.

Sunday 15th May: GRMC KNYSNA CAR SHOW. Early notice is given of this event which has now been confirmed. It will take place from 9am at the Knysna High School Field, Lagoon Drive (opp. CALTEX garage). For the first time the Show will be a part of the week-long KNYSNA FESTIVAL OF SPEED, which culminates in the KNYSNA HILLCLIMB at Simola the following weekend, on Saturday 21st May.

FROM THE RUNNING BOARD

Thank you to ex member, Don Forsyth, for submitting the following:

EARLY DAYS IN KNYSNA

I recently came across the publication “KNYSNSA MUNICIPAL CENTENARY 1882-1982” and thought that members would be interested in some of the content. A few extracts follow.

“Knysna’s new Mayor, Councillor HP Morgan held office from 1903 to 1906 and one of the outstanding events that happened during these years was the arrival of the first motor car in the town. The “George and Knysna Herald” of October 25, 1905 reported as follows on this historic event: “Messrs Hull and Solomon of Johannesburg arrived here from George on Saturday in a motor car. They left George at 7:30 and arrived at the Royal Hotel here at 11. A record time of 3hrs 30mins.”

In 1908 the precursor of many Knysna owned cars that were to follow, arrived at the Knysna harbour.

The car belonged to Mr J Harden, manager of the Standard Bank and it arrived by boat in a huge crate. At first it was thought that an engineer would have to be imported to assemble the machine, but Mr Bertie Weeks, manager of Coote Noble’s store and a man with natural gift for things mechanical came to the rescue. Amidst much interest shown by local residents, he assembled it and one memorable day he drove the “magnificent machine” down Knysna’s Main Street. It was a single cylinder, chain driven American Cadillac. The engine was under the front seat and besides the seat for the driver, it also had two passenger seats in the rear. The arrival of the Cadillac sparked off tremendous interest in motoring and soon more motor cars were to follow. The advent of the motor car had completely captured the imagination of the public.

The “George and Knysna Herald” ran a motoring column called “Motobilia” and in 1912 the first garage was established in Knysna. It belonged to Messrs Johnny Sass and Berty Bern and was called “The Motor Garage”. By 1914 there were at least 27 motor cars in the town and CBI 27 was a 6-seater Hupmobile belonging to Johnny Sass. The columnist responsible for “Motobilia” gave wide publicity to motoring and motor cars. In 1914 he wrote that all drivers of motor cars in Knysna had passed their Municipal Qualifying Drivers Exams. When licensing became compulsory he complained that the beautiful, brand new cars were being spoilt by the hideous big staring white letters “CBI” and the numbers that followed. He also reported that Mr Donald Benn was “nuts” on Hupmobiles and that he had to widen his garage doors for the new model that he had acquired. He continued his account as follows about Mr Benn’s cars: “These cars proved



extremely useful in the recent election, getting ballot boxes to George in record time. Mr Benn deserves a “Hup-Hup-Hurrah!” for a job well done.

In 1924 the subject of street lighting was again given serious thought . Twenty seven poles and an equal number of paraffin lamps were obtained from the Municipality of Mossel Bay and erected and installed in Main Street. The lighting project however was not a success and apparently gave so much trouble that the lamplighter, a Mr Smit resigned from his post.

Councillor JH Templeton (1898-1902) was the next Mayor and a water scheme was one of the first important matters to receive attention from the new Town Council. It was given the go-ahead by public meeting held in the Court Room on the 5th April 1898, yet it took many, many years to come to full fruition and it was not until the 6th August 1926 that the scheme was finally opened. In the interim the period the various councils were severely criticised by ratepayers and in the Press for their lack of enterprise in this matter”. *(The more things change, the more they stay the same. DF comment)*

Don Forsyth

MAINTAINING THE BREED

A SAD STORY BY HEINZ KONCKI

In the last minute before Christmas closure, Maggie or Winston or Buster - I cannot decide which is the most suitable name - arrived home from the paintshop.

Historic Racing driver and car enthusiast and also my neighbour, Lew Baker, was hired to drive my Volvo station wagon and I followed closely behind using a towbar. Somehow Lew did not like to be chased and tried to outbreak me at a traffic light. Having no brakes at all and sitting on a plastic box, I tried to overtake him but he held his ground. What followed was a modification of the Magnette’s aerodynamics, by changing the shape of the right front fender.

We wrecked the painter’s Christmas holidays when we returned to the shop asking him to undo the modifications, as no improvement of the cars performance was noted.

The tailgate mods on the Volvo achieved also nothing, except looking odd. This will be rectified next year.

At least I have now the time to put the car together again. Sure, I start with the brakes!

Heinz

PS: Please let me know how I should name the Magnette. MAGGIE sounds logical, but there are a good number around. WINSTON is VERY British, but BUSTER seems to me the most suitable after yesterday.



QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

It matters not whether you win or lose; what matters is whether I win or lose. - Darrin Weinberg

The number of people watching you is directly proportional to the stupidity of your action.

AND THEN THE TROUBLE STARTED

He said: Shall we try swapping positions tonight?

She said: That's a good idea - you stand by the ironing board while I sit on the sofa and fart.

THE GOOD LIFE

Mother Superior called all the nuns together and said to them, 'I must tell you all something. We have a case of gonorrhoea in the convent.'

'Thank God,' said an elderly nun at the back. 'I'm so tired of chardonnay.'

PAST EVENTS

On Tuesday 18th January the first MGCC outing of 2011 took place in the form of a sunset-watching picnic on the lawns at Brenton-on-Sea. Fortuitously, this evening coincided with a window in the severe winds experienced in the area for many weeks and the company, the MGs and a beautiful sunset completed the ambience for a most enjoyable outing. Add that to a record turnout for a noggin (24 members, 17 MGs and 39 people) and conclude that those who were not there really missed out!



Sunday 30th January Breakfast Run to Old Nick's was well attended with a total of 37 people enjoying the drive and the 'special' breakfast which was good and certainly assisted the service.

Although not recognised this year as an official club event, a group of eleven members in six MGs and two plastics drove to Cape Town on 4th February to watch the **Piper Series Classic and Historic Car Racing** at Killarney. On the Saturday, we met for breakfast at Blaauwberg Strand and were joined by two more members, Peter Hollis and Mike Henderson (+his 'B'), and other non-member relatives and friends. Breakfast was somewhat of a celebration in that Lionel Hewitt announced his purchase of a concours level TC the evening before. Confronted by an invading Knysna MG army, the gate at Killarney kindly capitulated allowing all of us in to 'put our cars on show' without payment (with considerable support from the Cape Town Centre). We spent a most enjoyable day strolling in the pits and watching the racing, made even more comfortable by the generosity of Chris Harrison-Smith who enabled us to make use of the VIP



hospitality facility above the pits. I believe the racing on the second day was substantially more competitive and we should bear this in mind if we intend returning in the future.

Saturday 12th February saw a substantial convoy travel to the George Old Car Show. With the theme of “Fins and Fashion”, MGs were perhaps somewhat out of place considering the large proportion of 50’s and 60’s massive chromed American monsters. However, we remain disturbed that MGs from the second largest single-marque classic car club in the area after the Mossel Bay Mercedes Club (and we are dubious that many of the cars in their display can be described as classic) can again be relegated to a totally inadequate display area almost in the ‘back yard’. I doubt that our members would be prepared to go to George to secure a better area on the Friday evening and then to be there probably by 7 am on the Saturday to police the area. It is in any event very difficult for us to stop ‘intruders’ from parking in our demarcated space if that is what they choose to do although organising officials should have the ability to do so.

With an attendance of over 950 old cars on the show, are 29 South Cape members in 21 MGs and at least 10 other MGs (which would of course be welcomed in our enclosure) of importance to the organisers? I would like to think so and perhaps negotiation (once again) with the organisers could benefit us for the future. A further point for discussion would be improved participation by the George club in the Knysna Motor Show’s charity fund raising event.

Having said all that, the show from the Southern Cape Old Car Club’s perspective was clearly a resounding success with large crowds viewing the remarkable variety of cars of all ages from all round the country on display, not to mention the bikes, stationary engines, trade stands, army vehicles, etc.



NOTICE FROM SAVVA RE LHD CARS

SAVVA requests owners of LHDrive vehicles to please log all your LHD vehicles irrespective of whether they are registered, unregistered or undergoing restoration. Go to www.savva.org.za and complete the survey form.

Your co-operation is essential to ensure the success of this campaign.



OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

NUDITY

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, 'What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?'

THE CLUB CAR REGISTER

Would new members please let Keith Burton have their car's details asap. We wish to keep the club car register up to date and the information is passed on to the relevant model registers. Please send details to Keith (keiella@telkomsa.net or P O Box 1154, Sedgefield, 6573).

TECHNICAL TIP

You have a spring problem of any sort? Try Springtech Centre behind the Bosch Agent, 122 Fichat Street, George Industria, 874 0401. Very obliging, helpful and not expensive.

DRIVING TIPS

1. NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON - (not for most MGs but well worth a mention).

Your car will begin to hydro-plane when the tyres lose traction with a wet or slippery road. If the cruise control is on, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an aeroplane. NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE ROAD IS WET OR ICY.

NOTE: Some vehicles will not allow you to set the cruise control when the windshield wipers are on.

If you spread this around, you may save a life.

2. The hoo-haa about the demerit system persists. It seems that it has been introduced in Gauteng and maybe Natal on an ongoing trial basis. It will be introduced in the Western Cape in the beginning of April.
3. And finally, a reminder about

DRIVING ON CLUB OUTINGS

Maintain decent following distances. (100 – 200 metres) This allows other road users to build up speed, pass and to merge back into traffic safely.

Watch your rear view mirror regularly, both for other users of the road as well as the next car in our group. Pull into the emergency lane to allow faster moving traffic to pass at all times. By watching the member behind you, if he slows down or stops, you can do the same thing when it is safe. In this way the whole group will keep together at the pace of the slowest car and we can lend assistance in the case of a breakdown!



Remember to be courteous to other road users at all times. We don't want anybody objecting to our cars causing any inconvenience to them.

Our club's behaviour on the road and the courtesy we show to other road users is important for our reputation.

REGALIA:

"For Club Regalia, please e-mail your requests to Ron Hollis (rphollis@gmail.com). For T-Shirts (Blue) and Windbreaker Jackets (Dark blue with taffeta-lining), please give sizes - check with other members that already have the item you want. Available items:- Key rings (Club logo; "MG" in a variety of colours), Club Grille Badges (2-hole flat type for badge bar mounting, or with rear screws for grille mounting - please specify), Club Licence Stickers, Smaller Club Logo Stickers, Coasters, "MG" Zip pull-tags (various colours). Note that Club Jackets and T-Shirts usually need to be ordered - we keep little or no permanent stock of these items".

Thanks, and kind regards,

Ron

For those without access to email, contact Ron on 082 859 8771 or visit him at Bodge Engineering opposite Frost Brothers.

(When you visit Ron for your regalia, look also at the fine car covers that he has in stock and treat your car-Ed)

The committee has agreed and arranged for members to have the Club badge and 'Forever Young' embroidered on their personal 'civvies' clothing. Please contact Linda after 16h30 (she is at work until then) on 044 382 4025 or 083 461 9730 or linda@inkfight.com. Bruce has several items already satisfactorily embroidered as a trial and will show these on request.

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 B GT: Colour White. Originally a late rubber bumper model which was subsequently restored and converted to chrome grill, chrome bumpers etc. and registered as a 1976 model. Condition excellent, and in sound running order. Has partaken in two lengthy MG Tours over the past two years, without any problems. Recently fitted a complete new stainless steel exhaust system, and central electrical isolation switch. Present owner selling because he has acquired a much sought after MG TC in concours condition, which has unexpectedly come on to the market.

Asking price R85000. Contact details, Lionel Hewitt 044 382 1986 or e-mail lionel.rose@telkomsa.net

.*



For Sale: Tony McEwan writes: Due to the arrival, at last, of another Classic Car in my garage and somewhat limited space, I have decided to part with my blue MGA roadster. It was originally delivered to Durban on CKD form in 1957. It is a 1500 model but has been uprated with a 1622cc engine which makes a significant difference to performance. It has been completely rebuilt some years ago. It is not in concours condition, but is pretty immaculate. Contact Tony on +27 44 384 1789, 0722 784 532 or a.m.mcewan@gmail.com *

For Sale: MG Midget for sale, white, 1971 wind-up windows, R52000 negotiable. Contact Kobie van der Merwe on kobiev@global.co.za or on 082 411 0753 or 021 782 6758, and at 15 Woodway, Glencairn. Photos available from the editor.* *(This could be the ideal Midget for you to purchase and join us on the trip to Namibia in November - Ed)*

For Sale: The following TC spares:-

- Gear box
- Recently refurbished generator
- Compatible engine blocks, heads and camshafts
- Front axle
- Half-shafts/hubs
- Various items of chrome work
- Brake drums
- A crack-tested XPAG crank

Contact: Ron Hollis, 082 859 8771 / ron@bodge.co.za / www.bodge.co.za *

For Sale: For used MGA and MG Magnette spares, contact Ricky Cooper on 082 822 2146 or rcooper@cyberperk.co.za.

Wanted: Ricky Cooper is looking to purchase scrap MGs and other sports cars for spares. Please contact him on 082 822 2146 or rcooper@cyberperk.co.za.

Services: Advertiser Glen Brits writes as follows:

For future reference, if the guys from your club would like to send me goods for restoration, please ask them to mention the fact that they are from your club and I promise to ensure they get a good deal.

Many thanks,

Glen Brits CA(SA) ACCA(INT), Supreme Bumpers, 77/79 Wriggle Road, Heriotdale, Johannesburg

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WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

<http://gallery.mac.com/djwardell> (Website for MG 80 gallery)

www.speedfestival.co.za (Knysna Hillclimb)

www.mgcarclubsc.co.za

www.mgcc.co.uk.

www.motoring.co.za

www.1000miglia.co.za

www.bridgetthemidget.co.uk

www.mgcc-north.co.za

www.motorheads.co.za

www.motorheadsdiary.com (for motor sport / Historic racing diary)

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34
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MGCC SOUTH CAPE EVENTS CALENDAR:

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

A provisional calendar for 2010 follows. Details and any changes will be announced as the year proceeds.

MGCC PROVISIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR 2011				
			Depart:	
Sun	20-Feb	Bring & braai, Ebb & Flow	Quays @ 10h30	Duncan Paton
Sun	27-Feb	Breakfast run to Café Francois	Quays @ 09h00	Tony L-Lewis
Tues	01-Mar	AGM @ KAC		
Sun	06-Mar	GRMC run to Great Brak	Quays @ 10h00	Jim Clelland
Sun	27-Mar	Breakfast run to Old Nick	Quays @ 09h00	Tony L-Lewis
Mon	04-Apr	Combined Winelands Tour.		
Sun	17-Apr	Breakfast run to Café Francois	Quays @ 09h00	Tony L-Lewis
Sun	15-May	GRMC Knysna Car Show	High School fields	Bunny Mentz
W/E	21-May	Knysna Hillclimb	Simola	Ricky Cooper
Sun	29-May	Breakfast run to Old Nick	Quays @ 09h00	Tony L-Lewis
3 Thu	27-Oct	CAPE CENTRES Graaff Reinet		Brian Davidson

The early warnings are for inclusion in your diaries. Unfortunately it may be necessary to change some of these nearer the time so please review the calendar monthly. 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.

2011 ATTENDANCE RECORD

MEMBER'S NAME	PARTNER'S NAME	This Month	Accum.	Total
Albisser Tony	Elsbeth	2	2	2
Baker Lewis	Heather	1	1	1
Burton Keith	Ella	22	4	4
Bush Marion	Gavin			
Cleland Jim	Glen	122	5	5
Clough Pat	Ali	1	1	1
Cooper Ricky	Colleen	222	6	6
Davidson Brian	Jose	11	2	2
Davis Roger	Nita			
Douglas Murray	Anne	222	6	6
Dunlop Denis	Gill	21	3	3
Esterhuizen Tom	Jeannette	22	4	4
Fisher Roger	Alva	1	1	1
Frost Norman	Jenny	1	1	1
Giggins Barry	Joan	2	2	2
Grevensteyn Rudolph	Sharon	2	2	2
Hamilton Alan	Brenda	22	4	4
Henderson Bruce	Pat	222	6	6
Hewitt Lionel	Rose	12	3	3
Holliday Clive				
Hollis Peter		2	2	2
Hollis Ron	Dee	222	6	6
Houseman Marilyn	Dennis	2	2	2
Jones Dave	Fay			
Koncki Heinz	Paula	1	1	1
Langman Frostie	Sue	22	4	4
Lawson Ross	Antionette	12	3	3
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna	222	6	6
Mackey Ray	Angela	1	1	1
Mangan	Geoff	222	6	6
McCullum John	Louise			
McDonnell Mike		2	2	2
McEwan Tony	Linda	2	2	2
Mentz Bunny	Jan	2	2	2
Metelerkamp Neil	Norma	1	1	1
Mullany Fred	Jo	222	6	6
Parfett Ed	Jenni	2	2	2
Parker Wilf	Jenny	22	4	4
Paton Duncan	Leslie	222	6	6
Putter Willie	Linnea			
Reitz Fritz	Madene			
Rosser Phillip	Amanda	2	2	2
Slade Keith	Yvonne			
Stead Heyns	Anne			
Van den Bor Frans	Ellen			
Van der Hoven Hugo				
Vadas Peter	Vivian	22	4	4
Wessels John	Jane			
Williams Denny	Pat	2	2	2
Winter George	Liesel	2	2	2
Woodgate Geoff	Merceda			
Yendall Graham	Sylvia	222	6	6

Event No.	Event	Date	Attendance
1	Sundown picnic	18.01	24/38
2	Old Nick	30.01	17/36
3	George Show	12.02	29/32

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.



FROST BROTHERS
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