



NEWSLETTER NO. 03: 16 FEB 2009

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EDITORIAL & FROM THE HIGH CHAIR:

Our first Annual General Meeting as an independent centre of the MG Car Club is now a thing of the past. I have been given the honour of being elected your chairman for 2009 in addition to my continued editorial duties which has provided the first dilemma of how to manage the beginning of the newsletter. I would value suggestions from you members out there but for this edition, I have combined the headings and will not differentiate in the text.

The most significant happening at the AGM was Ross's resignation as chairman. I thanked him for his enormous contribution in setting up the club and seeing it formally (and finally!) accepted. We hope that the "health issues" with which he is now dealing will be rapidly resolved and that he will soon be fit again. The Committee was elected as above and we welcome new member, Duncan Paton who is "without portfolio" at present.

Ross presented the Ross and Antionette Lawson Trophy for the most enthusiastic attendance at club events to Keith Burton.

Jennie Frost, our Treasurer, outlined the Club's financial position which is satisfactory for the present. However membership entrance fees have made a major contribution to the present status and these have now tailed off significantly. The Club this year paid R885.00 affiliation fee to the UK MGCC and R600.00 for our SAMCA indemnity and SA Combined Centres affiliation without both of which we may not function. These fees erode our finances substantially and we will undoubtedly, as Jennie intimated, need to increase subscriptions next year.

While on matters financial, on the members' behalf, I wish to thank Neil Metelerkamp for auditing the Club's financial affairs for us and for his advice on their management.

A substantial change in this newsletter is the inclusion of advertisements. This will assist our budget without encroaching significantly on the aesthetics of the newsletter as we are limiting the number and size of the adverts. However the advertisers are sponsoring us and we ask you to make an effort to support them.

Please note that in future, regalia will be available for purchase only at Noggins. Off the cuff sales at Norman's showroom have been too disruptive for sales to continue there.

It was with some surprise to me (male chauvinist that I am) that the "Photo Album" in the KZN Centre newsletter showed three **lady** members receiving trophies for rebuilds, concours success and events. I reflected on how nice it would be if our ladies would become similarly involved and then I thought, "but they are already". Jennie Frost deserves a prize for her treasury work, so does Marilyn Houseman for her rebuild and now we are involving Liesl Winter, Jenny Parfett and others on an entertainment committee (some don't know yet!) to prepare for the Cape Centres Gathering. Well done ladies, we are proud of your participation in the Club.

Three MG anniversaries occur this year. KZN Centre as the oldest centre in the world outside of the UK celebrates its 70th year and the Johburg centre turns 40. For more details, consult the editor. 2009 is the 50th anniversary of SRX210, which competed at Le Mans in 1959, 1960 & 1961 (see below).

Brian Woodhams, the Overseas Director of the MGCC UK relates the story of his South African visit to the recent Indaba in the November edition of Safety Fast. He describes our independence celebration and his enjoyable stay with us as the newest centre.

I had the recent misfortune of my MGB's clutch wearing out. The engine having been removed, I

received a very generous invitation from Ricky, Gavin and Mark Cooper to literally climb in and clean up the engine compartment in their workshop while awaiting the necessary parts. Tony very kindly brought these down from Sports Car Centre in Johburg after his "DJ" motorcycle rally (in which he came 4th – well done!). With tremendous help from Ricky and his sons, the engine bay looks respectable again. For those who have not seen the new chairman at work at his desk.



After the Breakfast Run on March 24th, our next event is the Club's first weekend away at Stilbaai. This is now fully subscribed but if others are interested, we will try to accommodate them. Please let Norman know as soon as possible. Please do not forget to diarise the Garden Route Motor Club's annual charity Knysna Car Show at Lorie Park on May 2nd. We would again like a spirited display of MGs through the ages and urge you all to participate in this event which will be one official May outing, the other being the Noggin on the 5th May. The other event to remind you about is the not-to-be-missed Cape Centres Gathering in Port Alfred from 24th to 27th September. The "Out of Africa" theme promises fascinating entertainment.

I look forward to seeing you at all of the events.

Bruce

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

A recently arranged **“Pensioners’ and Other Loafers’ Breakfast Run”** will take place on **Tuesday 24th March** at the Sedge Links Golf Club (used to be the Fynbos Pub and Grill) at the mashie course on the George side of the Swartvlei Bridge. Meet at the Quays at 08h30 for departure at 08h45. Belvedere members are welcome to join the convoy after the White Bridge. Garden Route MC members have been invited to join us. Please let Bruce or Norman know at the above email addresses if you are coming.

The Club **“Weekend Away”** group will depart from the Quays at 15h00 on **Friday 17th April** driving to the seaside resort of Jongensfontein at Stillbaai. We will drive at a leisurely pace arriving at Stilbaai around 17h30 in time to light the braai fires and have a drink before supper. The event is fully subscribed but if any more members wish to join the party, we will try to find accommodation for them – please contact Ricky or Norman. It is bound to be a great weekend.

GLORIOUS INSULTS

(These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.)
The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor: She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison."
He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

MAINTAINING THE BREED

TONY’S TC AND OTHER FAMOUS PEOPLE

I matriculated in Cape Town in 1964 and, as was the system at that time, was conscripted into the Air Force for my National Training in 1965.

Towards the end of that year Geoff Ballantyne, a school pal of mine, purchased a left-hand drive TD from a chap who had stored the car in the old Southern Timbers factory on Gunners Circle. He did not have a licence yet but I did, so his Dad towed me home in the TD - getting 20 years of saw dust into my eyes in the process.

We rebuilt the car; Geoff's Dad was a very competent wood worker, and Geoff still has it to this day. This started me hankering for an MG, but I wanted a TC because, even then, I was of the opinion that it was a better car in many respects. I only realised this dream in 1976, when I returned from a 2-year tour of duty in the UK. Afrox

transferred me to Johannesburg and my elder brother tracked down the TC to a guy in Edenvale. R1500,00 changed hands and I drove the car home.



The Johannesburg Centre was always called on to provide cars for the Grand Prix driver parade at the

old Kyalami circuit. Cars were arranged in order of age and driver names drawn from a hat. In 1979 I got to drive Niki Lauda and Miss South Africa around the circuit and I remember being most impressed with her. She was not just a pretty face but was able to hold a really intelligent conversation with him! I do remember that Niki Lauda was somewhat perturbed with the amount of free play in the TC steering, too!

Lauda won the 1977 Grand Prix and I, sadly that year, had paraded Tom Pryce in my TC before the race. He was killed when he struck a marshal who

was crossing the track to extinguish one of the race cars that had caught fire after breaking down. Ironically, it was Pryce's team mate that was on fire.

Tony Lyons-Lewis

(I am sure that even Miss South Africa will look better in Tony's TC after the meticulous rebuild that is taking place! Ed.)

FOR THE LOVE OF MG

The love of MG was aptly exhibited in last December's edition of SAGA Magazine and shown to me by Jennie Frost. Unfortunately the picture was not reproducible but it shows a beautiful, bright blue, 1938 MG PA Special crewed by two elderly women smartly kitted out in matching white 'flying helmets' and overalls, goggles and blue scarves matching the car. They refer to themselves as "the fast ladies" or "the racing wrinklies". The bottom line is that Jimmy Adams bought the car in

1948 for £212. He rebuilt it, modifying it to take luggage and latterly even to run on unleaded fuel. The car was well used for MG events and after Jimmy died, his widow aged 71 together with her sister have continued the 60 year old tradition and go to classic car events all round the UK, only partly protected behind their Brooklands windshields (even in their foul weather! - Ed).

(Another significant MG involvement by the fairer sex - Ed.)

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH:

"Our generation has inherited an incredibly beautiful world from our parents and they from their parents. It is in our hands whether our children and their children inherit the same world."

~ *Richard Branson, after pledging \$3 billion to the development of alternative energy technologies* ~

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING:

www.mgcc.co.za

MGCC Combined Southern African Centres

www.thecarmuseum.co.nz

Allegedly the largest car museum in the southern hemisphere.

www.mgcc-north.co.za

MGCC Northern Centre – a site recently opened and where one will find the Northern Centre (Pretoria etc.) Newsletter.

<http://mg-uk.co.uk/>

The new MG website

AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED

A man walks into Ann Summers to purchase some see-through lingerie for his wife. He is shown several possibilities that range from £50 to £150 in price, the more see-through, the higher the price. He opts for the sheerest item, pays the £150 and takes the lingerie home. He presents it to his wife and asks her to go upstairs, put it on and model it for him. Upstairs the wife thinks 'I have an idea. It's

so see-through that it might as well be nothing. I won't put it on - do the modeling naked - return it tomorrow and get a £150 refund and keep the money for myself'. So she appears naked at the top of the stairs and strikes a pose. The husband says 'Stone me, it wasn't that creased in the shop'. ***And then the fight started...***

FAST FORWARD:

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES OF FORMULA 1 BY PETER HOLLIS

The start of a new season of Formula One is always an exciting time, but this year even more so. The vast array of rule changes and new innovations have put all the teams and designers on the back foot. The rules are scoured for loopholes and grey areas, in an effort to get an advantage. Because of the new regulations, many teams have stated that they are going to be focusing on the reliability of their cars, while incorporating the new technology. With time, the emphasis will move back to speed, once the teams know what is possible and what isn't.

Some of the major rule changes are outline below:

- The tyres are slick once again. After 10 seasons on grooved tyres, the emphasis on mechanical grip is being placed over aerodynamics. This is in an effort to aid overtaking, and reducing the turbulent zone directly behind the car.
- KERS (Kinetic Energy Recovery System). The details of this were discussed last year, but it is

Formula 1's first big step towards 'green' technologies. It is not compulsory yet, and not all teams will be using it.

- The rev limit on the engines has been dropped to 18 000 rpm, in an effort to reduce costs and increase reliability. Each driver has only 8 engines per season, and with 17 races in 2009, the tactics behind replacing engines could make an even bigger difference.
- The aerodynamics on the cars will be much cleaner, and provide far less downforce, again in an effort to help with overtaking. The front wing is now lower and wider, while the rear wing significantly narrower and taller, giving the cars a completely different look.
- Testing is no longer allowed in the season, and drivers are only allowed to do 15 000 km.

The first couple of races will prove to be intriguing, as the effects of these changes make themselves apparent. The season starts on the 29th of March, in Australia, and I can't wait.

PAST EVENTS - AGM

That 20 members, several with spouses, attended the AGM shows that there is considerable interest among members in the running of the Club. That there was no controversy suggests that the committee are "getting it right" and we as your committee will endeavour to continue to do so. The group enjoyed the snacks provided by the Angling Club and a noggin or two in the pub after the relatively short meeting.

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				
Bechlars Philip	Martia			
Burton Keith	Ella	2		2
Bush Marion	Gavin			
Cleland Jim		1		1
Clough Pat	Ali	1		1
Cooper Ricky	Colleen	1		1
Davis Roger	Nita			
Dunlop Denis	Gill			
Fisher Roger	Alva			
Forsyth Don	Marion			
Frost Norman	Jenny	1		1
Giggins Barry	Joan	1		1
Hamilton Alan	Brenda			
Henderson Bruce	Pat	2		2
Hewitt Lionel	Rose	1		1
Hollis Peter				
Hollis Ron	Dee			
Jones Dave	Fay	2		2
Langman Frostie	Sue	2		2
Lawson Ross	Antoinette	1		1
Le Feuvre Tim	Sheila	1		1
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna			
McCullum John	Louise			
Mentz Bunny	Jan			
Metelerkamp Neil	Norma	1		1
Parfett Ed	Jenni			
Parker Wilf	Jenny	2		2
Paton Duncan	Leslie	2		2
Reitz Fritz		2		2
Rosser Phillip	Amanda			
Scanlen Scanni	Lorr			
Scheepers Bert	Renate			
Stannard Bob	Bridget			
Stead Heyns	Ann			
Underwood Colin		1		1
Vadas Peter	Vivian	2		2
Wessels John	Jane			
Williams Denny	Pat			
Winter George	Liesel	2		2

Event no:	EVENT	Date	Attendance
1	A G M	26-Feb	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.



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.)

2009 is the 50th anniversary of SRX210, which competed at Le Mans in 1959, 1960 & 1961. The car still exists in its latest Le Mans specification. To celebrate the event George Dutton has produced a 'scrapbook' of its Le Mans races that includes anecdotes and many photographs that haven't been seen before. The book will also include a DVD of the car and team at the 1959 and 1960 races. The DVD is from 16mm colour footage shot by Jack Twyford and has never been seen in public before. The book should be available around May and is expected to sell at £25, including the DVD. They are also doing another MGA run to Le Mans to celebrate, if any of you fancy taking your car over for a holiday!

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 **

For Sale: MG RV8, Oxford blue with air-conditioning and RWC. Best offer over R195 000 will be considered. Rod Paxton. 083 458 0148.

For Sale: I own a 1953 MG TD MK 2 which I want to sell. The car is licensed in Windhoek where I live.

Since there were only 1710 ever built, this is really a unique car. The engine and chassis are original with all numbers etc. I will send photographs to anyone interested.

Chris Opperman Windhoek Cell: 00 264 811225310 *

Wanted: Acton of Elgin Grabouw, West Cape (tel. 0825720979) is searching for a complete engine and seats for a TD.**

REGALIA

Please note that in future, regalia will be available for purchase only at Noggins. Off the cuff sales at Norman’s showroom have been too disruptive for sales to continue there.

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. 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.



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)

Tuesday 24th March - Pensioners’ Breakfast Run to Sedge Links (used to be Fynbos Pub) west of the Swartvlei bridge. Meet at the Quays @ 08h30 for 08h45 departure (Contact Bruce or Norman for bookings)

[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.

Tuesday 5th May – Noggin at Sedge Links (used to be Fynbos Pub) west of the Swartvlei bridge from 06h00.

Sunday 31st May – Informal breakfast run to Old Nick's at Plett – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Sunday 7th June – Run

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.



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