



MG CAR CLUB
South Cape Centre
Established February, 2007
P.O. Box 732
Knysna
6570
Affiliated to the MG CAR CLUB Ltd. (UK).

NEWSLETTER NO 04: 09 APRIL 2009

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EDITORIAL & FROM THE HIGH CHAIR:

Our club, while a sub-centre of the Port Elizabeth Centre, was subject to their constitution. Our independence requires that we have our own and although based on the P E document, the committee has now approved a new draft constitution. As this affects the manner in which the Club is managed and therefore all members' participation, it is important that your ideas are accommodated as far as possible. We have had some input from members which has been incorporated. The document will shortly be distributed following which you will have time to comment. Any necessary changes will be made and a special general meeting will then be held for the members to approve the constitution.

On a lighter note, Club activities have been a little on the slow side. The drive to breakfast at Sedge Links was pleasant but the morning was marred by poor service at the venue and Peter Vadas for one

still awaits his breakfast! We have therefore changed the venue for the 5th May noggin to Sedgefield Arms. The competition with Formula One, cricket etc. proved too much for the Old Nick breakfast run and only four cars attended. Included were Brian and Jose Davidson whose enthusiasm has to be applauded. They had arrived to live in Knysna from Joh'burg on the Tuesday before and by Sunday had not only prepared their very nice BRG "pull handle" B to come on a run but had also joined the Club. Good news is that the events program is coming together well – see the calendar below for more detail. The lucky people who booked for Stilbaai are looking forward to their imminent weekend. Please make every effort to support the Garden Route Motor Club show on 2nd May at Loerie Park. All MGs will be parked together in date order and it is therefore important that you **let Norman or Tony know what vehicles you are**

bringing. Keith Burton has compiled short stories about each model and these will be displayed in front of those models. Please have your cars parked on display before 09h30.



MG's on the run to Sedge Links at Swartvlei

The June 7th run will be to the Bloukrans picnic site where we hope to be joined by some of the P E members. The East London and P E Triumph Clubs will be visiting the area from 12th to 16th June and we have been invited to join them. Please see below for details. For the July noggin we have decided to have a proper **mid-winter Christmas party** and this will take place at Pembreys on Tuesday 14th. It is our intention to incorporate support for a charity the details of which you will be informed about later. For August 2nd, the planning and official approval for a hill climb is well under way and this promises to be an exciting event.

Accommodation at the **Cape Centres Gathering** from 24th to 29th September is rapidly being taken up. We urge all members to come to this enjoyable weekend near Port Alfred with MG enthusiasts from around the country. There is already a substantial contingent going from our club. The theme for the weekend is "Out of Africa" which should generate many laughs especially at the

"formal" dinner. Please contact Bruce for entry forms

I need to again make mention of the enormous contribution that Peter Hollis, our youngest member, is making to this newsletter. On the advertising front, without any thought for the technicalities, we obtained pictures in a wide variety of formats from our advertisers and banged them off to Peter. Many of the adverts were illegible once reduced to the format of our newsletter and some were not at all suitable. Peter has successfully manipulated them to the satisfaction of the advertisers and they will be included in this edition.

One of the benefits that may accrue to the Club from the advertising is the possibility of us affording our own website. Peter is a strong advocate of this and believes it will have substantial benefits for us members and the Club generally. The committee has asked that Peter give us an outline of how the system will work, what the benefits will be and the cost involved. The first benefit we believe is that you the member will receive an email with a link to the website which will show the latest newsletter. This will enable us to improve its quality while not appreciably increasing the download time. Some experimentation will be necessary in the early stages during which we will probably continue the present system in tandem with the new. We also believe that this will give us the lead among MG

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clubs, certainly in this country, into the way electronic paperless communication is heading.

The accolades about our newsletter continue to arrive (the latest from the P E Triumph Club) but I believe we can improve further with Peter's recommendation. We look forward to hearing more about this innovation.

Two points while on the electronic topic:

- Any member wishing to obtain a copy of our membership list may request one from Tony. This is obtainable only in electronic format;
- It would appear that some service providers are sifting and deleting our newsletter before delivery believing it to be spam (should I be insulted?). If anyone is aware of non-delivery, please inform the editor.

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

Bruce

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday 2nd May, Garden Route Motor Club Motor Show:

Our club will again display a series of MGs "through the ages" and you are requested to bring your MGs which will all be parked together. Keith Burton has made cards describing the various models and providing interesting facts about their production and achievements. Please assemble at Loerie Park before 09h30 and leave the car on show until at least 15h00.

Barry Giggins always appreciates assistance with the organisation. Please phone him on 044 387 1303 if you are able to help.

Please let either Norman or Tony know if you are showing your car/s so that the parking can be planned.

Tuesday 5th May from 18h00, Noggin at Sedgefield Arms: Coming from Knysna, take the first turn left as you enter Sedgefield and follow the signs.

Sunday 7th June, Sunday Run to Bloukrans picnic site.

12th to 15th June, East London and P E Triumph Clubs' Visit: These Triumph Clubs accompanied by MGs from the same centres have invited our club members to join their activities over this extended weekend. They start the proceedings with a **spit braai** at Beau Rivage on the banks of the Piesang River in Plett on the evening of Friday 12th. On the Saturday, they will be visiting Knysna and will largely be showing the town to those who have not been previously. They will let us have details when finalised and we can join them at any stage. On Sunday 14th, they will be holding a **driving test**, possibly in the Loerie Park parking area and we are invited to compete. They will be visiting Mitchell's Brewery for a noggin late on the Monday morning and again we are welcome to join them. Members must please let Tony know (lionssden@netactive.co.za 044 384 0347) ASAP in which of these events they will participate so that arrangements can be finalised.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Brian and Jose Davidson and their very nice early MGB roadster have recently moved from Johannesburg and immediately joined the Club. We welcome them and wish them a long and happy association with us.

We are delighted to welcome Robert Vadas, son of Peter and owner of a white MGA. Our efforts to attract younger members has to be intensified to ensure the Club's survival and it is hoped that Robert will find much enjoyment as a member.

Paul Tops has rejoined and we look forward to seeing him and Barbie again at outings.

GLORIOUS INSULTS

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."
"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

MAINTAINING THE BREED

The following "Technical Tip" is copied with permission from the VVA newsletter:

SAVVA TECHNICAL TIPS NO 25 - WATER ADDITIVES

Stew Robinson is an ex aircraft technician and nowadays is in their laboratory testing fuels and lubricants. Stew is an authority on such matters and has offered the following advice:

How much do you value your old car?

"Obviously a hell of a lot to have put in all the man hours to restore it to as close to pristine condition as you can."

If you were told you should use "X" pistons to do the engine up and these pistons are guaranteed to do 500 000 miles and you could buy "Y" pistons for half the price with no guarantee of how long they will last, I bet you would buy the "X" pistons.

A good Antifreeze is an anti freeze, a coolant, a corrosion inhibitor, a boiling point reducer and a rubber conditioner all rolled into one.

You said you have read the labels on the different Anti Freeze bottles and seen a huge difference in the prices. Now go back and look again. Look at the

percentage of Glycol and note the price relationship. Look for the label with about 80 % glycol and note it has different dilution rates for the climate of your area (Temperature Average) Do the cheaper products allow dilution? "No" or at least "I hope not".

Buy the product with 80 % + - Glycol and dilute it to the required amount for the prevalent temperatures of your area and use it in your cooling system.

(I personally only dilute 50 - 50 in my car as the engine is more robust, in my motorcycle I use it 100 % neat as it has more exotic metals and is more prone to corrosion and because one has a tendency to ride the engine harder it may overheat more frequently.)

Sometimes we hear the expression of being penny wise and pound foolish. Your car is, I guess hard to find some parts for. Look after it with good quality products and in the long run they will pay dividends to you. However you won't know it has, as you will



never know when the corrosion would have failed the component without it.

Enjoy your car and treat it to the love inside you lavishly give on the outside.

Stew Robinson

(Before you all rush out to refill your cooling systems, a further more technical article will follow next month. Ed)

THE SPORTS CAR CENTRE

New parts for MG & Mini and other British cars

Contact person: For friendly service phone Alan or Denise
Postal address: 11 Westmeath Rd, Parkview, Johannesburg
Telephone number: (011)486-0021 or (011)646-1631
Email address: sportscar@mweb.co.za

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH:

"If all communities could organise themselves like Orania, we will fight poverty."

~ **ANC president Jacob Zuma** ~

AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED:

One year, a husband decided to buy his mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift.

The next year, he didn't buy her a gift.

When she asked him why, he replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And then the fight started.....

FAST FORWARD:

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES OF FORMULA ONE BY PETER HOLLIS

The beginning of the 2009 Formula One season has been one of the most dramatic the sport has seen in recent years, with surprises at every race. Last season's mid fielders and new team Brawn GP are

showing a clean pair of heels to the more successful teams, while providing entertaining racing. The new regulations are responsible for this shift, and it seems the changes are here to stay.

Why not visit these restaurants that comprise our Quintet of Cuisines?



The biggest surprise is the success of the new Brawn GP team dominating the front of the grid. With a 1-2 in Melbourne, 1st and 5th in Malaysia, 3rd and 4th in China and 1st in Bahrain, they have had the most successful start to F1 since Alfa Romeo in 1950 (the first year the modern F1 championship was run). Another team to have success is Red Bull Racing, with a 1-2 in China, with 21 year old Sebastian Vettel leading from start to finish, and 2nd in Bahrain.

Bahrain was the first race not to require a safety car, with the previous three races experiencing long safety periods. The new evening race format caused a lot of drama, as in Malaysia and China the thunderstorms made racing difficult and dangerous. The idea behind the later start time is to allow for a larger TV audience in Europe, but drivers are strongly against the concept.

More controversy in the paddock was caused by the innovative but controversial rear spoiler design used by Brawn GP, Toyota and Williams. These make use of the rear crash structure as part of the diffuser to generate more downforce, but the FIA recently approved the design meaning other teams are going back to the drawing boards to incorporate a similar idea into their cars.

McLaren are once again unpopular, and facing serious consequences, for the so called 'lie-gate' saga, involving Lewis Hamilton in the opening GP. McLaren claim that the stewards did not issue an order for Hamilton to allow Jarno Trulli to pass under the safety car, and this has since been proven untrue. Also, Hamilton lied about the fact to the stewards. This will be the 3rd time in two years that McLaren is facing serious charges for misconduct. Hamilton has subsequently been disqualified for that race.

Bahrain was the first race where the weather played along, and the track was dry. After only half points were awarded in Sepang for not completing 75% of the race due to the weather, and the downpour in China, the change in the conditions was a good test of the new slick Bridgestones.

The next race is the first in the European circuit, and will be held in Spain on May 10th.

Driver Standings

01	Jenson Button	31
02	Rubens Barrichello	19
03	Sebastian Vettel	18
04	Jarno Trulli	14.5
05	Timo Glock	12
06	Mark Webber	9.5
07	Lewis Hamilton	9
08	Fernando Alonso	5
09	Nick Heidfeld	4
10	Heikki Kovalainen	4

Constructor Standings

01	Brawn-Mercedes	50
02	RBR-Renault	27.5
03	Toyota	26.5
04	McLaren-Mercedes	13
05	Renault	5
06	BMW Sauber	4
07	STR-Ferrari	4
08	Williams-Toyota	3.5
09	Ferrari	3

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PAST EVENTS – BREAKFAST RUN

A great turnout of nineteen MGCC members and four from the GRMC enjoyed the pleasant drive to Sedge Links at Swartvlei and sitting on the deck on a balmy morning. Unfortunately the breakfast service spoilt the day somewhat but it was good to see the response from so many members at short notice.



ANOTHER QUIZ

The following was sent in by Roger Davis on his return from New Zealand. Before he identifies the model for us, readers can test their knowledge.

One of two MG's that I had the pleasure of sitting in is attached, but they have an extraordinary collection including one Mercedes Benz that has a 23 litre, 6 cylinder engine and they also have a Mercedes 540K. Only 12 of this model were made and only one in r.h.d. That is the one that they have on display. Last year a l.h.d. one that belonged to Bernie Ecclestone sold for \$8.25 million.

I also visited a British Motor Museum at Hawkes Bay. Also 300 plus cars, but more of a car graveyard

than a museum with some cars piled on top of others. Website is www.britishcarmuseum.co.nz

Roger Davis



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 from Norman Frost at noggins. A few of the original green 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.



2009 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	4
Batissou Dave				
Bechlars Philip	Martia			
Burton Keith	Ella	2	2	4
Bush Marion	Gavin			
Cleland Jim	Glenda	2	1	3
Clough Pat	Ali	1	1	2
Cooper Ricky	Colleen	2	1	3
Davis Roger	Nita	2		2
Dunlop Denis	Gill	1		1
Fisher Roger	Alva	2		2
Forsyth Don	Marion			
Frost Norman	Jenny	2	1	3
Giggins Barry	Joan	2	1	3
Hamilton Alan	Brenda			
Henderson Bruce		2	2	4
Hewitt Lionel	Rose		1	
Hollis Peter				
Hollis Ron	Dee			
Jones Dave	Fay	2	2	4
Langman Frostie	Sue	1	2	3
Lawson Ross	Antoinette		1	
Le Feuvre Tim	Sheila		1	
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna	1		1
McCullum John	Louise			
Mentz Bunny	Jan	2		2
Metelerkamp Neil	Norma		1	
Parfett Ed	Jenni			
Parker Wilf	Jenny		2	
Paton Duncan	Leslie	2	2	4
Reitz Fritz		1	2	3
Rosser Phillip	Amanda			
Scanlen Scanni	Lorr			
Scheepers Bert	Renate			
Stannard Bob	Bridget			
Stead Heyns	Ann			
Underwood Colin			1	
Vadas Robert		2		2
Vadas Peter	Vivian	2	2	4
Wessels John	Jane			
Williams Denny	Pat			
Winter George	Liesel		2	

Event no:	EVENT	Date	Attendance
1	A G M	26-Feb	19
2	Breakfast run Sedge Links	24 Mar	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.)

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 any one interested. Chris Opperman, Windhoek, Cell: 00 264 811225310 **

For sale: Rare 1959 MGA, chassis number (2385), originally a twin cam but now with a standard 1600 engine. The twin cam body has been meticulously restored and the engine completely overhauled,

and has still to be run-in. White with black interior with red piping. Originally exported to Zimbabwe from UK. R 150,000. Phone Leon Leask to view: 044 343 2766 (Sedgefield) or e-mail leon@colabeach.co.za . *

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

MGCC SOUTH CAPE EVENTS CALENDAR:

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

(Events in grey are not official MGCC outings)

Saturday 2nd May – GRMC / Hospice Motor Show @ Loerie Park. Please let Norman or Tony know if you are coming and what car/s you will be bringing, and please be parked in the show area before 09h30. Convenor – Barry Giggins 044 387 1303.

Tuesday 5th May – Noggin at Sedgefield Arms from 18h00. Take the first left turn on entering Sedgefield from Knysna and follow signs. Convenor – Keith Burton, 044 343 1656.

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

Sunday 7th June – Bloukrans picnicRun

Tuesday 14th July – Mid-winter Christmas Party at Pembreys.

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



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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.

