



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 07:09 JULY 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Member	Brian Davidson	082 495 0005	briandavidson@vodamail.co.za

EDITORIAL & FROM THE HIGH CHAIR

I was recently offered an explanation for why time passes so quickly as one gets older and it goes something like this: when one is young, say 10 years old, a time unit, say a month, is a relatively large proportion of your total lifetime. By the time one's age approximates three score and ten years, a month is a miniscule fraction of that total lifetime and that is why we perceive time as "flying past". I tried to fit this in to why I seem to be almost continuously writing this newsletter and just maybe it's true or perhaps I am just very slow at writing and accomplishing all the other things in which I am involved!

One of the concerns I had of being both Chairman and Editor in our Club was that the lone voice would rapidly become very boring. Dave Jones who started this newsletter has come up with what I think is a great suggestion and after discussion at

our last committee meeting, it was decided that on alternate months, the various committee members will take turns at writing a "From the Committee" article to replace "From the Highchair". I look forward to the easing of the burden and secretary Tony's first contribution next month.

I hope everyone with internet access has looked at our website – www.mgcarclubsc.co.za – by now. The first and for the moment most important point to recognise is the access to this newsletter immediately below the logo with its simplest of instructions on how to open the newsletter. Our plan from after this month is that all members on email will receive notification that the latest newsletter is now available on the website with a link to the website. This will reduce costs for the club and we believe will further the interests of the club with regard to non-member interested parties

having access to the newsletter and club related information. Unless there are howls of indignant protest from you, we shall follow this plan. Besides the newsletter, Peter Hollis, our “web master”, is putting together an entertaining amount of information for our benefit. Once again, I wish to thank Peter for his efforts in putting the website “on the map”.

Please note the addition of Brian Davidson’s name to the list of Committee Members above. Brian has kindly allowed us to co-opt him on to the Committee where he will assist with events organisation.

While writing of events, please do not forget to diarise and attend the Noggin and Special General Meeting booked on Tuesday 1st September at Lush. This meeting is for the members to approve the Club’s Constitution and is therefore obviously a milestone evening in the Club’s existence. Please send a completed proxy form if your attendance is not possible. See ‘Forthcoming Events’ below for details.

There you will also find details regarding the GRMC’s invitation to join them on a lunch run to the Alpine Inn at George. Booking with Lionel Hewitt is essential.

The last-Sunday-of-the-month breakfast runs are now official Club outings and continue to be pleasant excursions in the fresh morning air.

The Cape Centres gathering is barely 8 weeks ahead and it is commendable that the South Cape contingent continues to grow with several latecomers. We feel sure that only those we leave behind will regret their decision. There may still be a few places but accommodation at the venue is becoming scarce. Do not delay any further if you do not want to miss this weekend which promises to

be filled with MG enjoyment. Forms are available from Tony, Norman or me.

Would those going to Port Alfred please give their names to Tony so that we can contact you regarding convoy departure times etc.

Our mid-winter Christmas party on July 14th at Pembreys was a resounding success and has probably set a precedent for the future. The Vadas’s had an appropriate warming glass of steaming Gluwine ready at the entrance which seemed to adjust attitudes towards a relaxed evening. As always, the meal was excellent and we thank hosts and Club members Peter and Vivienne assisted by Robert and Annabel for their hospitality. Two substantial bags of gifts for the Vermont Home were collected for which we thank you all. These will be handed over as soon as Jenny Frost returns from her trip. **We feel sure that many of you have unused clothes in reasonable condition in your cupboards. If you would consider passing these on to the Vermont residents, we know they will be most grateful.** Please let Jennie know if you can help.

Unfortunately, perhaps because of his lack of photographic ability, your editor seems to have developed a mental block about remembering to take his camera to events. Sadly that includes the Christmas Dinner and we therefore do not have pictures of the occasion to show you. This is an appeal for members to take their cameras on outings and to submit pictures for the newsletter.

On a more serious note, Britain's Serious Fraud Office will probe the demise of historic car manufacturer MG Rover which collapsed in 2005 with the loss of 6000 jobs, media reports said recently. The British Sunday Times, which gave no source, added that a long-running government inquiry had found there were grounds for a criminal investigation.



As many of you are aware, we cancelled our proposed Club hillclimb because another group were putting together a commercial venture to run a hillclimb at the same venue on October 31st and November 1st. The organizers have requested the MGCC and the GRMC to assist with the organization and running of the event and it seems that in return, those who help will get the opportunity to drive the hillclimb. Both clubs are discussing the protocols with the organizers and will report back to you in due course. In the meantime, those of you who may be interested should diarise the dates and let Tony know that you might be available to assist.

Finally the sting in the tail with a reminder that the committee has decided our predicted budget for next year confirms that an increase in the annual subscription to R180 will be necessary from next year. This will be discussed at the SGM on September 1st. We are all aware that costs have increased and it is going to be necessary to have funds in the bank when we come to organise the Indaba in 2014. This figure is in line with membership fees in other centres around the country.

Enjoy your MGs and travel 'Safety Fast'.

Bruce

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE SEE THE NOTE ABOVE AND THE EVENTS CALENDAR ABOUT THE BREAKFAST RUNS ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. THESE WILL BECOME OFFICIAL CLUB EVENTS AS FROM THE JULY RUN. N.B. NOTE THAT CAFÉ FRANCOIS DOES NOT HAVE CREDIT CARD FACILITIES.

Sunday 2nd August: Bring & Braai at Buffels Bay Caravan Park. This is a combined outing with the GRMC organised by Lionel Hewitt and it replaces our planned Hillclimb. Meet at Knysna Quays at 10.45 for 11.00 departure.

Sunday 30th August – Breakfast run to Café Francois at Sedgefield – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Tuesday 1st September – Special General Meeting and Noggin; 18h00 at Lush on Thesen's Island. Members will be given the opportunity to organise a drink and then the proposed Club Constitution will be presented and members will be asked to vote on its acceptance. "Gourmet" hamburgers will then be available for those wishing to have supper. You are encouraged to stay and support one of the larger sponsors of the newsletter.

Sunday 6th September - Invitation to join the Garden Route Motor Club on a lunch run to the Alpine Restaurant opposite the entrance to Fancourt in George. This is a genuinely German establishment and the fare is described as a "Taste of Germany Buffet" providing pork neck roast, crackling Eisbein, a selection of German sausages and bread crumbed Chicken Schnitzel together with the usual German accompaniments. Including a dessert and gratuity, the cost of the lunch is R90.00 per person.

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This notice requires a response as to whether you intend coming or not. Your answer should be e-mailed to lionel.rose@telkomsa.net with a c.c. to Christine at finlayc@telkomsa.net just as a back-up measure in this instance, whilst Lionel is away. Please secure your reservation by making a deposit into the following account:

OUT OF THE REPAIR SHOP

IF MY BODY WERE A CAR...

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull... but that's not the worst of it. My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close. My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather. My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently. But here's the worst of it - Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter.....either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

TECHNICAL TIPS

SAVVA TECHNICAL TIP - NO 27 PLASTICS

You may recall some months ago we had an article "Technical Tip 17" on repairing Bakelite by using a bowling ball compound. There was a lot of interest in this concoction but apparently it wasn't that easy to find. Here is another product, very inexpensive, freely available, made in RSA and it works extremely well. It is called *Interfix 1001 Plastic*. I recently had to repair a badly damaged gearlever knob which I wanted to keep looking original and was able to build it up using this product. There was a large piece of the knob missing and I was

L. Hewitt; Standard Bank,
Knysna Branch 050 314, Account No. 081340818.
Ref: Your name and Alpine Inn.

Lionel requests that everyone wears a name tag.
Meet at Knysna Quays at 11.00 for 11.15
departure.

GLORIOUS INSULTS

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

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." - Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a congress. - *John Adams*

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. - *Mark Twain*

able to form a piece of plastic to fit into the gap which was then glued in. I could have made a totally new knob with *Interfix* plastic but I chose the simplest (and laziest) way of solving the problem.

The product comes in a small granular form. When immersed in hot water it softens to a workable state, more or less like a thick paste or the plastercine we played with as kids. Once you have formed whatever you are making, let it cool down, and Walla you have a perfect whatsit or thingie. If you need to work it further just place it back into



hot water to soften it again. Once it's hard, which incidentally can be speeded up by placing it in cold water, it can be filed, drilled, machined etc.

Price, R28.90 for an 80 gram pack. It's available from Builders Hardware and certain Pick n Pay,

Game and Dions stores. If you have problems finding it, or you would like further information contact the manufacturers at 011-706-5196 (ask for Sally) or e-mail sales@interfix.co.za

PAST EVENTS

The first breakfast run to Café Francois on 28th June took place in weather that initially threatened for a while and then it poured. This did not detract from a delicious breakfast which was promptly served. The run was very well attended by about thirteen MGs and several other cars. It was good to see irregular attenders such as the Housemans from George and the Stannards.

The venue proved itself and is certainly a big improvement from the previous one. We thank the

Douglas's and other Sedgie-ites for making the suggestion.

The Christmas Dinner is reported above.

Old Nick put on the usual good breakfast on Sunday 26th July for the smallish group of eight MGCC members and one GRMC member who came in 5 MGs 'and others'. I know it was a "fresh" mid-winter's morning but it still surprises me that more do not take advantage of and enjoy the sunny but cool topless motoring.

FAST FORWARD

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES OF FORMULA ONE BY PETER HOLLIS

The mood in the paddock before the Hungarian Grand Prix was somber, with news of Filipe Massa's crash. A rear damper spring came loose from the Brawn car of Ruben Barrichello and struck Massa's helmet. He hit a tyre wall and suffered a fractured skull. He is recovering well from surgery and is improving constantly.

Other surprise news is that Michael Schumacher is due to come out of retirement as a replacement for Massa. He is undergoing an intensive fitness training programme before the next race.

McLaren and Lewis Hamilton showed a return to form in Hungary, taking the top place on the podium for the first time this season.

Renault has suffered a blow after being banned for the next race after the right front wheel on Alonso's car came loose. The marshals said it was

ignorant on the pit crew's part to allow him back out on the track after struggling with the wheel during a pit stop. Renault is appealing the ban, using Valencia being Alonso's home race as the justification.

Another shock came in the form of the withdrawal of BMW from the sport in 2010. BMW released a statement saying that the resources will be deployed in other areas. There is also speculation that both Toyota and Renault are seriously considering their future in the sport, and this is aggravated by the upcoming signing of the Concorde Agreement, tying the teams to the sport until 2012.

The next race is the new European GP, at Valencia on the 23rd of August.



DRIVER STANDINGS

1	Jenson Button	70
2	Mark Webber	51.5
3	Sebastian Vettel	47
4	Rubens Barrichello	44
5	Nico Rosberg	25.5
6	Jarno Trulli	22.5
7	Felipe Massa	22
8	Lewis Hamilton	19
9	Kimi Räikkönen	18
10	Timo Glock	16

CONSTRUCTOR STANDINGS

1	Brawn-Mercedes	114
2	RBR-Renault	98.5
3	Ferrari	40
4	Toyota	38.5
5	McLaren-Mercedes	28
6	Williams-Toyota	25.5
7	Renault	13
8	BMW Sauber	8
9	STR-Ferrari	5

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:

4 x 60 spoke wire wheels for MGB with splines.

Some spokes will require attention. R 1 800

2 x 6.50 x 15 Cross ply tyres retreaded. Used but useable.

1 x MG TC Wire Wheel.

7 x 4.50 x 19 Tyres some retreaded but all useable.

1 x MG TC drivers side door skin.

1 x MG TC Passenger side lower bonnet panel with teardrop.

Offers to Roger on 044 5335357 or 082 7232297. *

For Sale: 1966 MGB GT. Wire wheels. Blue with black upholstery.

Phone Brian Langham -Love on 072 534 5925. **

For Sale:

Vernon Jaffe has a Brand New MG TF or F Soft top (In Blue Original Softtop Material). This includes both sections ie Roof as well as the Window Section with all the fitting holes. Price R12,000 (Including Vat)

Tel: 27-11-804-1349 Fax: 27-11-802-8607

Mobile: 27-83-277-0378

Email:

jaffes@mweb.co.za*

Needing body repairs in Plett? Roger Davis highly recommends a Plett panel beater. Contact Roger on 044 5335357 or 082 7232297.

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, please phone Norman Frost to

arrange your purchase. 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.



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		6	6
Bechlars Philip	Martia		2	2
Burton Keith	Ella		9	9
Bush Marion	Gavin	1		1
Cleland Jim	Glen	1	6	7
Clough Pat	Ali	2	4	6
Cooper Ricky	Colleen	3	11	14
Davidson Brian	Jose	3	3	6
Davis Roger	Nita	1	8	9
Douglas Murray	Anne	2	3	5
Dunlop Denis	Gill	1	1	2
Fisher Roger	Alva	1	3	4
Forsyth Don	Marion	1	2	3
Frost Norman	Jenny	1	7	8
Giggins Barry	Joan	1	5	6
Henderson Bruce		3	9	12
Hewitt Lionel	Rose	1	4	5
Hollis Peter		1		1
Hollis Ron	Dee		2	2
Houseman Marylin	Dennis		1	1
Jones Dave	Fay		8	8
Langman Frostie	Sue		9	9
Lawson Ross	Antoinette	3	3	6
Le Feuvre Tim	Sheila		1	1
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna	2	4	6
McCullum John	Louise	1	3	4
Mentz Bunny	Jan	1	4	5
Metelerkamp Neil	Norma		3	3
Parfett Ed	Jenni	1		1
Parker Wilf	Jenny		4	4
Paton Duncan	Leslie	3	10	13
Reitz Fritz	Madene		3	3
Roff Anthony	Corrine		2	2
Stannard Bob	Bridget			
Underwood Colin		1	5	6
Van den Bor Frans	Ellen		4	4
Vadas Peter	Vivian	1	4	5
Vadas Robert	Annabel	1	2	3
Williams Denny	Pat		2	2
Winter George	Liesel	2	8	10
Woodgate Geoff	Merceda	1	3	4

Event no:	EVENT	Date	Attendance
1	A G M	3 Mar	20
2	Breakfast Sedgefield	24 Mar	19
3	Stilbaai weekend	17 Apr	9
4	GRMC Show Day	2 May	28
5	Sedgefield Arms	5 May	13
6	Bloukrans Braai	7 Jun	9
7	Christmas dinner	14 July	25
8	B'fast Old Nick	26 July	8

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.

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AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED

I asked my wife, 'Where do you want to go for our anniversary?' It warmed my heart to see her face melt in sweet appreciation.

'Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!' she said.

So I suggested, 'How about the kitchen?'

And then the fight started.....

MGCC SOUTH CAPE EVENTS CALENDAR:

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

Sunday 2nd August -Combined MGCC and GRMC Bring and Braai at Buffels Bay Caravan Park. Meet at the Quays at 10h45.

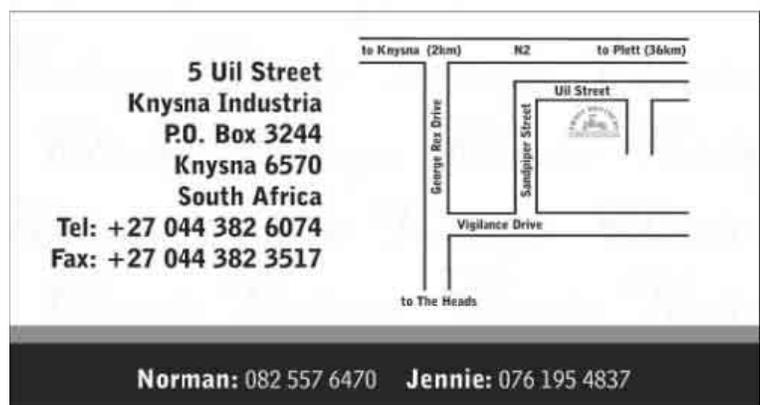
Sunday 30th August - Breakfast run to Café Francois at Sedgfield – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Tuesday 1st September - Special General Meeting and Noggin; 18h00 at Lush on Thesen Island.

Sunday September 6th - Invitation to join the GRMC at Alpine Inn opposite Fancourt for a German lunch. See 'Forthcoming Events' above. Meet ay Quays at 11h00.

September 24-27, 2009 - CAPE CENTRES GATHERING; A fun MG weekend with the Border Centre at Port Alfred. Contact a committee member for details and registration form.

Sunday September 27th - Breakfast run to Old Nick at Plett – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.



Tuesday October 6th - Noggin at Mitchells Brewery; bring and braai, beer available (surprise, surprise!).

Thursday 15th October - Join the Rolls Royce Silver Ghost Tour for drinks and lunch at the Knysna Yacht Club.

Sunday October 25th - Breakfast run to Café Francois at Sedgfield – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.

Saturday October 31st and Sunday November 1st - “Knysna Hillclimb”.

Sunday November 15th - “Roger’s fun Navigational Run”.

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

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