



NEWSLETTER NO 09:09 SEPTEMBER 2009

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## EDITORIAL & FROM THE HIGH CHAIR

Firstly our apologies are due for the tardy distribution of the last edition. I was late with the production and the second unavoidable delay was due to Peter's important university examinations. This edition will be distributed while our group enjoys the busy weekend that the Border Centre has arranged for the Cape Centres Gathering at Port Alfred. We look forward to telling those who missed out about it and encouraging all of you to sign-up for the Oudtshoorn Indaba this time next year. Accommodation for this event is already becoming scarce.

The September 1<sup>st</sup> Special General Meeting at Lush was a speedy affair with our constitution being approved without any further discussion. This was the final step in our centre's independence "struggle" and we are now on an even footing with the other centres in the country. Our membership has increased to 61 owning a total of 69 MGs.

The last-Sunday-of-the-month breakfast runs especially to Café Francois are gaining popularity.

Another good turnout was treated to an excellent breakfast, competently and speedily served. Several MG members and their cars enjoyed the GRMC run to the Alpine Inn Restaurant in George and tummies returned laden with vast amounts of superb German cuisine.



"Waiting for breakfast at Café Francois".

A very pleasing waterproof windcheater jacket for both men and women in navy with a touch of light blue and the Club badge will soon be available. Suggested prices are reasonable but we have not as yet had a firm quote as this is number dependant. Several members have already

ordered. You will need to select a size so please contact Jenny Frost for a fitting and to place your order.

Driving in a group has possible legal implications. Please see Tony's notes in "Maintaining the Breed" below.

We have received a poor response from members to our request to

- let Duncan Paton know who will join the Rolls Silver Ghost lunch,
- inform Norman if you wish to drive and / or assist with the running of the Knysna Hill Climb.

Please see details under Forthcoming events and let us know if you are participating.

The Mille Miglia remains one of the great classic car races of all time. In the mid 1920s, following much political in-fighting between authorities, enthusiasts and associated businesses attached to various races and tracks in Italy, a group led by racing drivers organised a road race for production cars from Brescia to Rome and back, a distance of 1600km., hence the title. The first race in 1927 attracted 77 starters and the world was astonished at the winning average speed of 77 kph, way beyond the anticipated 49 kph.

The final tragic race, the 24<sup>th</sup>, took place in 1957. On this occasion, 298 cars entered and the winning average speed had risen to 152 kph but one car had a tyre blow-out causing a crash which killed the driver, his co-driver and ten spectators. The Italian Government were quick to act banning the race because of the dangers involved.

In 1977, enthusiasts obtained permission to hold a commemorative rally and this tradition has persisted in Italy and more recently in other parts of the world. The rallies have become known as the largest car museum in the world because of the large number of entries. Participating cars are required to at least be of a model that participated in one of the original races.

What has all this to do with the South Cape Centre of the MGCC? Well, some time next year, the 1000 Miglia rally will take place on our doorstep running from Joh'burg to Port Elizabeth and down the Garden Route to Cape Town. Details are not yet available but from an MG point of view, having participated in the race, the following cars are eligible: 1932 C Midget; 1933 K3; 1937 SA; 1947 PB; 1956 A (1489cc); 1956 ZA Magnette (1489cc). I hope we will see some of these passing through Knysna even if none of our own members are able to enter.

Go to [www.1000miglia.co.za](http://www.1000miglia.co.za) for more fascinating information.

We received a letter of very grateful thanks from the Vermont Home – see Dave Jones' article under 'Past Events'. A previous unclear request from me has caused confusion; please consider donating any clothing that you are not using to this worthy cause.

We apologise for an accidental omission last time – heartiest congratulations to Frostie and Sue Langman on achieving their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

We also forgot to congratulate Jenny Frost on another highly successful overseas golf tour coming home with mountains of silverware – well done Jenny.

*Bruce*



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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

We have three new members this month:

Lew and Heather Baker of George who own a MGA coupe,

Mike Henderson of Cape Town who recently purchased a Knysna MGB,

And Chris and Ludy Mulder from Plett who have a 1950 TD.

We welcome them to the Club, wish them a long and happy association with us and look forward to seeing them and their MGs at club events.



“Mike’s MG in Montagu on their maiden drive to Cape Town.”

## 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.*

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September – Cape Centres Gathering** in Port Alfred.

**Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>** – Breakfast run to Old Nick at Plett – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there. As Tony and most of the rest of the Committee will be in Port Alfred, anyone going to Plett should please collect a register from Jenny Frost and obtain signatures from attendees.

**Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup>** – **Noggin at Mitchell’s Brewery; bring and braai, beer available (surprise, surprise!).**

From 17h00, bring your food and non-beer liquor requirements and enjoy an evening round the fire reminiscing and laughing about the Cape Centres Gathering. Fires will be provided and there will be an honesty box for beer.

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



**Thursday 15th October** - The Rolls Royce Silver Ghost Durban-to-Cape Town tour will be in Knysna from 13th to 15th October 2009. The MGCC and GRMC have arranged to meet them at Knysna Yacht Club at 11h00 on the 15th for a chat, a drink and perhaps lunch. Members are requested to advise Duncan Paton (MGCC) [dingles@telkomsa.net](mailto:dingles@telkomsa.net) or Jim Cleland (GRMC) [jcleland@icon.co.za](mailto:jcleland@icon.co.za) if they intend to stay for lunch so that bookings can be made. This is a rare opportunity to view some magnificent classic cars and to talk to their owners.

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Knysna Hill Climb:** The much talked-about Knysna Hill Climb will take place on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November with a drive through Knysna by the participating cars on Friday 30<sup>th</sup>. Although the MG Car Club and the Garden Route Motor Club as such will not be participating, we are encouraging our members to become involved to assist in the running of the event as officials and traffic/spectator controllers on the days concerned. If you are prepared to become part of the team, please let Ian Shrosbree (082 992 1417 or [ian@gopp.biz](mailto:ian@gopp.biz)) or Norman Frost know as soon as possible. Ian needs many helpers and will welcome your participation. In return for helping, the hill climb will be open for a limited time for us to do after lunch each day, but not as official entrants for the event. In addition, donations will be made to local charities in lieu of payment to the helpers. We have also been asked to encourage our members to bring their classic cars to the Simola Hotel where they will be on display to the public over the weekend. More detail will be provided to you as the organisation unfolds.

**N.B. Please note that Roger Fisher's Fun Navigational Run has been postponed to November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

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## MAINTAINING THE BREED

### NON-CONVOYS

All motoring club outings are characterised by participants driving to their destination in a group. This exposure promotes the cars and clubs and is part of the camaraderie of the car club movement. Some will recall that on our Club's weekend away in Stillbaai, a policeman stopped us one evening and accused us of illegally driving in convoy, a fact that we vehemently denied! He was totally disinterested that one of our group was driving without lights or that we had come from a restaurant.

Tony has investigated the convoy legislation and it appears that this was introduced in the days when new cars were delivered by road and laws were passed to avoid this hazard on the roads at weekends. To avoid falling foul of the law, although we will continue to travel as a group (not a 'convoy!'), PLEASE comply with certain very

common-sense rules which Tony and George Winter have documented as follows:

### **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 lead 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.*

## CARBURETTOR REFURBISHING

This is not usually an advertising column but I am sure you will agree that the finished product is very pretty and the space is justified.

Jack Cramp writes:

Just a rundown of myself: retired Mechanical Engineer, have retained my ToolRoom as I was asked to help out the local car clubs about seven years ago.

It has grown into a fulltime one man business; Have always three sets of carbs on the bench.

I manufacture all spindles, discs, disc screws, large range of springs for H and HS type carbs, at present making prototype Gross Jets to replace the needle and seat.

I have made a machine to turn spindles in one pass hence they are less than imported items; I do not sell components but prefer to assemble myself.

The down side is my minimum refurbishing is six weeks, but as most of my customers are rebuilding it is not a factor.

I will forward some pics of the upper end of my work but some people only want bead blasting, line boring etc.

Trust you find the pics interesting.

Jack

J.W.CRAMP

Tel (021) 785 1948

E-mail Address: [cramp@mweb.co.za](mailto:cramp@mweb.co.za)



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## THE CLUB CAR REGISTER

Brian Davidson has pointed out a further advantage of having your and your car's details on the Club's register. In the unfortunate event of your car being stolen, the members and all other recipients of club emails and text messages can be informed and thus on the lookout for your car within minutes. This has resulted in the recovery of cars in Gauteng and is another reason why the remaining 11 members who still have not sent their details to Keith Burton ([keiella@telkomsa.net](mailto:keiella@telkomsa.net) or P O Box 1154, Sedgefield, 6573) should do so without delay.

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## GLORIOUS INSULTS

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

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."

- John Bright

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## QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."  
~ Winston Churchill ~

## HUSBANDS AND WIVES

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie. 'Tie me up,' she purred, 'and you can do anything you want.'  
So he tied her up and went golfing.

## PAST EVENTS:

### MG CARS BRAVE THE COLD – 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

You have to be a pretty keen member of the MG Sports Car Club to brave the cold and to take your beloved car out of its warm garage on a wet winter's day in the Garden Route. However, if you have made a commitment then it is another matter. So a brave band of local enthusiasts still got out their winter woollies and their rain gear last week for an MG run with a difference. One obvious difference was the predominance of hard-top versions while others all had their canvas hoods up, but that was not all.



A few weeks earlier members of this thriving local Centre of the MG Car Club had enjoyed a delightful Christmas in July Dinner with their spouses at Pembrey's where the owners are keen MG owners themselves. In keeping with the spirit of the occasion, all of those who attended brought a small Christmas Gift along – suitable for an elderly person. Then on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, as part of their regular monthly run, these generous MG owners arranged to visit the Vermont Centre in Hornlee to deliver their gifts.

The Vermont Centre was chosen because of the wonderful work the staff do in caring for its 50 Residents who are either frail-elderly, disabled or in need of psychiatric nursing. All have limited means. The main income for the centre comes from old-age or disability grants that residents receive but this does not easily cover running costs. After their contributions towards these costs as well as an important contribution towards a funeral policy are deducted, very little pocket-money is left over for the residents. Such as does remain is all they have to buy small luxuries and toiletries.

As Sisters Alice Levendal and Emily Gelderbloem explained to their MG visitors, gifts of this nature can make a tremendous difference to the quality of life of their residents and they were very grateful to receive them. The MG owners in their turn were tremendously impressed by the clean, well-run appearance of the home and the warm reception from both the staff and residents who came out to meet them.



There seems no doubt that Vermont Centre is doing very good work indeed and the MG owners were very pleased to feel that their contributions had made a difference. They suggest that other similar clubs and organisations too might feel it worth while to support the centre, either with similar gifts or with financial contributions. Any such donations will clearly be put to good use and the matron in charge can be contacted at:

044 – 385 0593 or else by email on [vermont@xsinet.co.za](mailto:vermont@xsinet.co.za).

*Dave Jones*

Following this exercise, the group drove to Enrico's at Keurbooms for a delicious lunch of the standard that one has come to take for granted at this excellent restaurant.

*Ed*

BREAKFAST AT CAFÉ FRANCOIS ON AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup>

See the editorial.



*"At the Quays looking forward to breakfast."*



*"A trio of Sedgies B GTs."*

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## FAST FORWARD:

### A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES OF FORMULA ONE BY PETER HOLLIS

Currently, the Grand Prix circus is on its way to Japan for the next round of the World Championship at Suzuka. The paddock is alive with rumours about who will drive for whom, keeping all the drivers on their toes. Several big names are moving around, the most talked about is Fernando Alonso moving to Ferrari, who confirmed that he has signed a 3 year contract to drive for them.

This will be a big race for Brawn GP because there is the chance that Jenson Button could win the World Championship. His 5 wins in the first seven races gave him a huge advantage, but his poor showing in subsequent races have made the title race more interesting. Only two other drivers have a mathematical chance of winning the championship – Rubens Barrichello, and Red Bull

driver Sebastian Vettel. Button will win in Japan if Barrichello finishes 4 or more places behind him.

The constructors' championship is now between Brawn and Red Bull. Brawn could make history in Japan should they clinch the constructors' championship in their first year of competition. Brawn needs 11.5 points to win, which means they must finish better than 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Following his horrendous crash earlier in the year, Filipe Massa has been testing karts in Brazil. He said he felt fine and perfectly normal after his session. Ferrari team boss Stefano Domenicali last weekend refused to rule out a return for Massa before November's Abu Dhabi season finale.

### DRIVER STANDINGS

1	Jenson Button	84
2	Rubens Barrichello	69
3	Sebastian Vettel	59
4	Mark Webber	51.5
5	Kimi Räikkönen	40
6	Lewis Hamilton	37
7	Nico Rosberg	30.5
8	Fernando Alonso	26
9	Timo Glock	24
10	Jarno Trulli	22.5

### CONSTRUCTOR STANDINGS

1	Brawn-Mercedes	153
2	RBR-Renault	110.5
3	Ferrari	62
4	McLaren-Mercedes	59
5	Toyota	46.5
6	Williams-Toyota	30.5
7	Renault	26
8	BMW Sauber	21
9	Force India-Mercedes	13
10	STR-Ferrari	5

### AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED

My wife and I are watching 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' while we were in bed.

I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have sex?'

'No,' she answered.

I then said, 'Is that your final answer?'

She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying 'Yes.'

So I said, 'Then I'd like to phone a friend.'

And that's when the fight started....

### WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

[www.mgcarclubsc.co.za](http://www.mgcarclubsc.co.za)

[www.mgcc.co.uk](http://www.mgcc.co.uk).

[www.thecarmuseum.co.nz](http://www.thecarmuseum.co.nz) Allegedly the largest car museum in the southern hemisphere.

[www.motoring.co.za](http://www.motoring.co.za)

[www.1000miglia.co.za](http://www.1000miglia.co.za)

### 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.)

**Tyres for Sale:** Via Roger Davis, Derek Hitchcock tells us that Malcolm Paul of Supa Quick Montague Gardens has managed to import 20 Bridgestone tyres for our T-types and MGA's. Reputable brand tyres in this size are almost impossible to obtain. Contact Malcolm directly to secure yours. His contact number is 082 789 8482. \*\*

**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:

- 1) MG workshop manual for TC, TD, TF & MGA (Australian publication),
- 2) MG blazer badge,
- 3) UP carburettor tuning kit.

All 3 items to be sold together for any reasonable offer. Contact Hans Swart in



Port Owen on tel. (082) 940-7177 or email [ssstele@polka.co.za](mailto:ssstele@polka.co.za) .\*\*

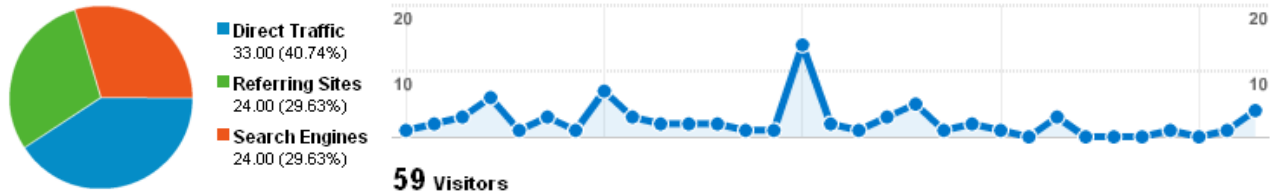
needed as a result of some clown driving into one of the MGs on the Icicle Rally recently!!)

**Wanted:** Right Rear mudguard needed for a TD MG. Bob Baylis 011 468-2848. \*\* (This is

## WEBSITE

Some statistics from the club's website, [www.mgcarclubsc.co.za](http://www.mgcarclubsc.co.za)

The site has been visited by **774** unique visitors, viewing **2487** pages. There have been numerous international visitors, from Brazil, Australia, the US, the UK, Belgium, Canada, Israel and Germany.



In the last month, there have been **59** visitors, staying an average of **2 min 10 sec** on the site. **41%** of the traffic has been direct traffic to the site, with **30%** being referrals from other sites, and **29%** being from search engines, like Google. If one was to Google the phrase "MG Car Club" in South Africa, our site appears **5<sup>th</sup>**.

## REGALIA

**Jackets will become available in the near future. They will be waterproof windcheaters in Navy with light blue beading and with our Club badge – very smart and most useful. Please contact Jenny Frost for sizing and to place your order as soon as possible.**

**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.

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.



## 2009 ATTENDANCE RECORD

(DERIVED FROM SIGNATURES IN ATTENDANCE REGISTER – IF YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE!)

MEMBER'S NAME	PARTNER'S NAME	Accumulated	This Month	Total	Event no:	EVENT	Date	Attendance
Auty Anthony	Norma		6	6	1	A G M	3 Mar	20
Baker Lew	Heather	1		1	2	Breakfast Sedgefield	24 Mar	19
Bechlars Philip	Martia		2	2	3	Stilbaai weekend	17 Apr	9
Burton Keith	Ella	4	9	13	4	GRMC Show Day	2 May	28
Bush Marion	Gavin		1	1	5	Sedgefield Arms	5 May	13
Cleland Jim	Glen	3	7	10	6	Bloukrans Braai	7 Jun	9
Clough Pat	Ali	-	6	6	7	Christmas dinner	14 July	25
Cooper Ricky	Colleen	4	16	20	8	B'fast Old Nick	26 July	8
Davidson Brian	Jose	2	9	11	9	Braai @ Buffels	2 Aug	11
Davis Roger	Nita	1	8	9	10	B'fast @ Francois	30 Aug	16
Douglas Murray	Anne	2	7	9	11	SGM @ Lush	1 Sept	20
Dunlop Denis	Gill	4	2	6				
Fisher Roger	Alva		4	4				
Forsyth Don	Marion		3	3				
Frost Norman	Jenny	2	8	10				
Giggins Barry	Joan	2	8	10				
Henderson Bruce		3	14	17				
Hewitt Lionel	Rose	2	5	7				
Hollis Peter			1	1				
Hollis Ron	Dee	2	2	4				
Houseman Marylin	Dennis		1	1				
Jones Dave	Fay	2	8	10				
Langman Frostie	Sue	4	9	13				
Lawson Ross	Antoinette		6	6				
Le Feuvre Tim	Sheila	1	1	2				
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna	2	7	9				
McCullum John	Louise	1	4	5				
Mentz Bunny	Jan		5	5				
Metelerkamp Neil	Norma		3	3				
Parfett Ed	Jenni	2	1	3				
Parker Wilf	Jenny		4	4				
Paton Duncan	Leslie	4	15	19				
Reitz Fritz	Madene		3	3				
Roff Anthony	Corrine	2	2	4				
Stannard Bob	Bridget	2		2				
Underwood Colin		2	6	8				
Van den Bor Frans	Ellen		4	4				
Vadas Peter	Vivian	2	5	7				
Vadas Robert	Annabel		3	3				
Williams Denny	Pat		2	2				
Winter George	Liesel	4	12	16				
Woodgate Geoff	Merceda		6	6				
Yendall Graham	Sylvia	2		2				

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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## MGCC SOUTH CAPE EVENTS CALENDAR:

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

**Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast run to Old Nick at Plett – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.**

**Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> – Noggin at Mitchells Brewery from 17h00 - bring and braai, beer available (surprise, surprise!).**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October: Join the Rolls Royce Silver Ghost Tour for drinks and lunch at the Knysna Yacht Club.**

**Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast run to Café Francois at Sedgfield – leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there.**  
(N.B. Please note that Café Francois does not have credit card facilities).

**Saturday October 31st and Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>: “Knysna Hillclimb”.**

**Sunday November 22<sup>th</sup> – “Roger’s fun Navigational Run”.**

**Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Prawn Braai at the Angling Club.**

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.

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# You know your planned destination.

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