



Newsletter

352

Dec 2010



Committee Members

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Ex Officio Clubhouse Refreshments Doug & Meghan Baillie		

At the risk of not being 100% PC, the Committee would like to wish all the members a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

If you are travelling, drive carefully, and remember it is better to be late, than dead on time!

At least at this time of year we can be enjoying the beautiful South African weather, not freezing in the Northern Hemisphere. (Although we are the "Northern Centre" - Ed)

MG Car Club - Northern Centre

PO Box 35765, Menlo Park 0102

Clubhouse c/o Umgazi Road & 26th Avenue, Menlo Park, Pretoria.

Meetings usually on first Monday of Month, check by phone.

www.mgcc-north.co.za

GPS S 25 46.495 E 28.16.035

Jacaranda Jottings

As you can see we have a mixed African and Eurocentric look to the newsletter this month. As an ex-European, I still get confused with Christmas in Africa. My instincts, even after living here longer than I lived in England, tell me it should be cold and wet, or snowy. These feelings are also reinforced by the Eurocentric way in which SA still celebrates Christmas with fir trees, holly, fake snow and Santa with his sleigh and reindeer.

Maybe we should start a trend to celebrate with flat top thorn trees, proteas, and sunshine? Perhaps Santa should be in a Hi Ace being towed by some of the big five? We should substitute braaied steak & wors for the turkey and Malva pudding for Xmas pudding. What about a JZ clone in leopard skin, instead of a fat bearded white man in a red suit! This would be a really African Christmas, he could collect the presents and take them to give to his friends, rather than deliver them to the children.

Now for some Christmas Cheer. Due to excellent financial control by Tony, and sterling work by the Bar & Regalia teams, the Club has had a good year and is in a good position.

It was therefore decided at the EXCO that Membership Fees would remain unchanged for 2011. Please pay yours ASAP!

It was also decided, not without some opposition, that the R50 fee for a posted newsletter would not be increased. It was felt that some of those requiring a posted edition were not able to pay more. As the cost per member of a printed and posted Newsletter is around R80 per year at current economics consider yourselves lucky!!

Our friends from the Triumph Club will probably be having their Noggins at our Clubhouse in 2011. The suggestion was made that we could perhaps combine Triumph & MG Noggins, but it was felt that it was not the time for this. I do believe that the day is coming when a single marque club, like ours, will not survive on its own as the membership average age increases and hence membership numbers decrease. I think we could lead the way as the first "British Classic (Sports?) Car Club" in SA. What do you think?

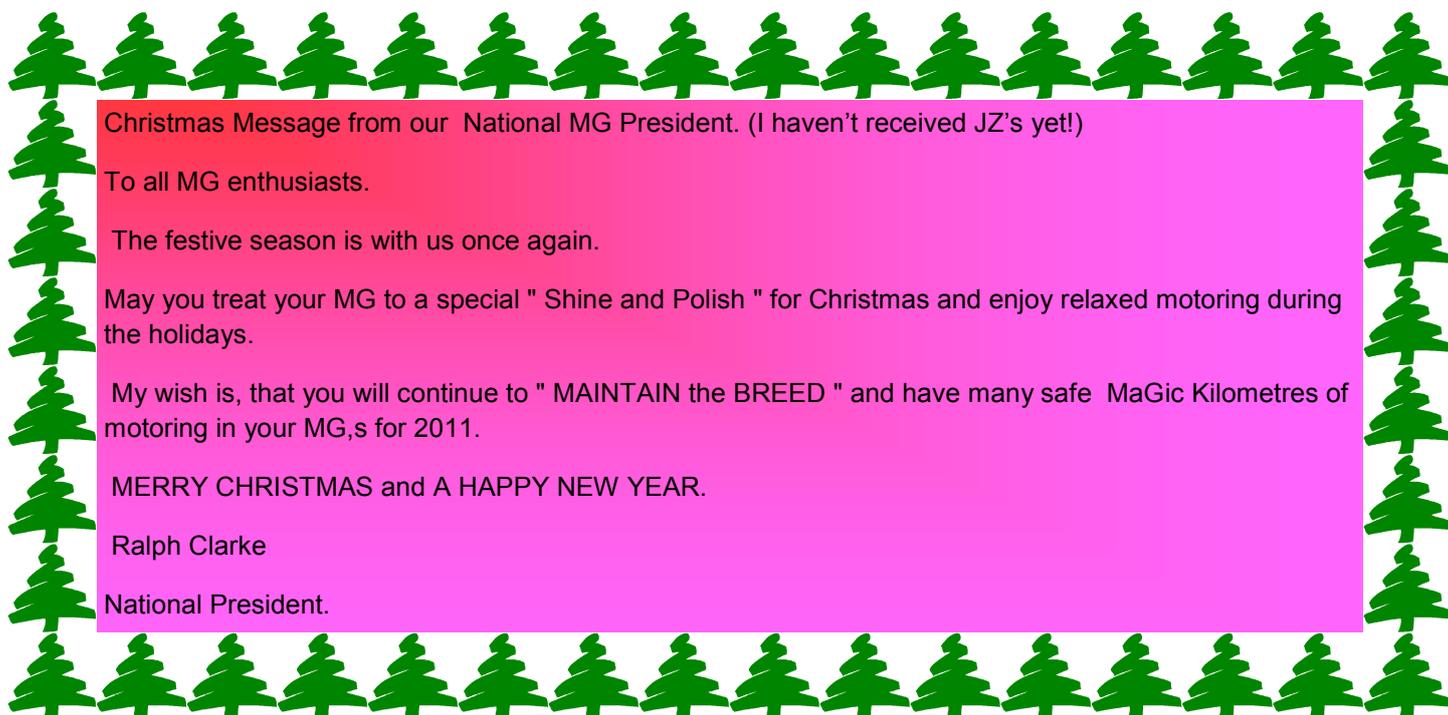
What was suggested was that for now both MG & Triumph Noggins be open to members of both clubs, but the business part of the evening such as announcements, the Chairman's address, and any marque related events be alternated. This will give us 2 monthly noggins at the Clubhouse. More details later.

I have been redeployed, as the ANC would say, from retirement back to Ford for a while. This may mean a slight reduction in Newsletter quality but not if I keep getting good contributions. So keep them coming.

Thanks to Annette (& Tony) for their report on the Lap of Lesotho at the noggin. Very interesting, well presented and just the right length!

In this issue is a questionnaire which we ask you to complete . **There is an incentive, see the detail.**

Compliments of the season—Steve



Christmas Message from our National MG President. (I haven't received JZ's yet!)

To all MG enthusiasts.

The festive season is with us once again.

May you treat your MG to a special " Shine and Polish " for Christmas and enjoy relaxed motoring during the holidays.

My wish is, that you will continue to " MAINTAIN the BREED " and have many safe MaGic Kilometres of motoring in your MG,s for 2011.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Ralph Clarke

National President.

Forthcoming Events

December				
Thur 2	Natter & Noggin	JHB	Old Edwardians Club @ 20h00	
Mon 6	Festive Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse @ 19h30. Please bring a plate of eats to share.	c
Sun 26	Boxing day braai	NC	Clubhouse from 11h00. Informal get together for those who want to get out.	
January 2011				
Mon 3	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse @ 19h30.	c
Thur 6	Natter & Noggin	JHB	Old Edwardians Club @ 20h00	
Sun 9	SAMCA run to the Vaal.	JHB	Meet at the Engen @ Blockhouse at 08h30.	
Mon 10	Exco	NC	Clubhouse @ 19h30	
Sun 16	Baylis Bash	NC	Bob's place in Midrand. Leave Clubhouse at 09h30.	
Fri 28—Sun 30	David Piper Weekend		Zwartkops	
RR = Regularity Rally; c = Clubman event; v = Victor/trix event				



The views, comments and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Club or Executive Committee.

The Safety Chronicles – Chapter 1

In the undiscovered lands of central South Africa, the surrounding wilderness abruptly ceases and a small suburban settlement lies exposed on a little knob of hillside. I found concealment for my vehicle under some foreign foliage and lay inconspicuously beside it. I had a moment to gather my wits and I remembered that it was Wednesday. The streets running adjacent to my hiding place were lined with large brick houses, eerily clean lawns and rows of overflowing black trash bins. It must have been garbage day. I was excited to see what variety of creature would come to collect it's nourishment from these black feeders. I waited.

A fleeting breeze stirred above and carried a beer-like stench into my nostrils. From a far corner down the street, a rickety bulging shape wheeled into sight. It sidled along furtively and paused at a trash bin. This must be the reason that no inhabitant of this settlement was in sight. Through my binoculars I discerned a dark cloaked native pushing a laden cart of sorts. His face was shadowed by a hood but his bare hands appeared as those of a large bird or guinea pig.

At once, those hands were rummaging through the garbage. This was not the collector I had expected but this spectacle was none the less captivating. This native must have been a gatherer of his tribe, a treasurer of maturing food, fixable appliances and tax receipts. I wondered briefly if I should invest in a paper shredder myself but then returned to the subject at hand. He had moved along to the next house's discarded valuables. I shivered as I turned my lenses toward his burdensome cart. Alas, the ingredients were not a consolation.

Between the folds of electricity cables and bubble wrap a glinting metal cylinder with nozzles and a gas mask projected like a chimney and below it another marked 'Cryo-Cyl'. I instantly recognized them from my days as a hospital janitor to be containers of anaesthetic gas and liquid nitrogen. What doctor was this? Were these items evidence of a quirky hobby, perhaps some beastly ceremonial ritual or were they weapons to use against the unsuspecting occupants of the suburb?

I imagined the possible uses of these objects and prayed that I was mistaken. He could put his ignorant victims and their guard dogs to sleep and go about his business by freezing any obstacles (or steering locks) that got in his way. Obviously he would need to know that the exact temperate was minus 273 degrees Celsius to complete the job, but that is beside the point. The clay pigeons inside their protective brick homes would awake one morning to find no meat in the fridge, no handles on the doors, no two shoes that match and no MG in their garage. The hooded guinea pig had struck again!

Now, all the villain needed in order to guarantee his gravy train, is a can of doom, a wire coat hanger and a hydraulic jack!

An army of giant ants had crawled up my safari shorts, I could not help but squeal and then immediately regretted the noise. The villain was targeting me with remarkable swiftness! I got into my BGT and sped away like Indiana Jones.

I immediately decided not to share this knowledge in my scouting chronicles with the civilized society back home. What if it caught on? I fear mankind has a way of returning to his primitive roots. Just look at the crowds at a rugby match. No, I shall keep this haunting expedition to myself, and rather merely bid my readers a good and safe holiday season.

Remember to lock up before you depart on that well-deserved vacation.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2011!

Ivan and Danielle de Clerk

Regalia - Our regalia team did a brilliant job in selecting and selling winter regalia. Limited stocks only are available. The team would like suggestions as to what members think would be suitable to provide for the summer. Please contact the editor or Gary Chapman with your suggestions

Wanted - Companies or individuals to advertise in this newsletter. Circulation is around 150 copies per month. Advertising rates are R300 per year (12 issues) for a 90x50mm insert or R550 p.a. for a 90x100mm. Please contact the editor or any Committee member.

Event Detail

Last Noggin of 2010 - Monday December 6 @19h30

As this is the Festive Season let us try and make this a bumper noggin.

You are all requested to bring along a plate of snacks to share .



Boxing Day Braai - December 26 from 11h00

For those who really want to get away from it all, the clubhouse will be opened and braai fires available. If you had enough Xmas spirit come down for some peace and quiet.

First Natter & Noggin of 2011—January 3 @19h30

If you survived Hogmanay come for a chat at the Club.

Baylis Bash—January 16—from 10h00 19 Summerset Estate, Garden Road/Seventh Avenue, Midrand

A re-incarnation of a previous event. Bob Baylis will host us at his spread in Midrand. As Bob is now a man of leisure (I doubt it), the previous free drinks **will not be available, so please bring your own.**

Braai fires will be provided. Please bring your own food and drink, chairs, umbrellas, plates and utensils for a pleasant social event in Bob & Tanya's garden.

Parking is limited, so please only one MG per family on this occasion, no parking is allowed on the roads

Meet @ the clubhouse at 09h00 to leave at 09h30, or make your own way.

CLUB RUN – SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER

by Tony & Annette

Our November club run was advertised as a “Breakfast Run” to a mystery venue – meet at the clubhouse at 7h45 to leave at 8h00. The weather was perfect, clear and bright with just a hint of crispness left in the air, but I think the early start time might have put off many of our “regulars”. In the event a nice selection of 10 cars ranging from my TC to an MGF 160 and a ZR arrived at the clubhouse.

We followed a straightforward route towards Centurion, turning off at Botha Avenue, and then through Irene to the venue at Irene Farm. Here we found shady parking under the trees and wandered off in search of breakfast. A few of our very hungry members opted for the restaurant, while the rest of us found “The Deck”, and its simpler menu an ideal breakfast venue.

Our little group of 3 cars left at about 10h30 and returned via a circular route along Nellmapius Drive, through the farm to the Old Johannesburg Road, and then through Valhalla past the Zwartkops air force base and the Voortrekker monument to Fountains Circle, and then on to our respective homes.

Altogether a very pleasant way to spend a Sunday morning, and a chance to give the old lady (the TC not Annette) an excuse to lift up her skirts and run!

Cape Centres Gathering 2011

Early warning that the Cape Centres Gathering will be in October next year in Graaff Reinet. Make your plans !

MG Car Club Northern Centre

P.O. Box 35765

Menlo Park

0102



Subscriptions – 2011

Your membership fee for 2011 is now due.

Fees for the 12 months ending December 2011 are set out in the table below.

Please pay your subs before the AGM to ensure that you:

May vote at the AGM

Receive your club magazine

Most importantly, to enjoy your MG and fellow club members

Payment can be made by cheque or direct deposit

ABSA Bank, branch code:632005

MG Car Club - Northern Centre, acc number: 0-1877-9749

Please remember to reference your deposit with your name and also your membership number, otherwise we will not be able to identify your payment.

Full member	R 200.00
Country member (home address more than 100kms from Clubhouse)	R 100.00
Members receiving newsletter by post	+ R 50.00

NOTE: Your committee has decided that in order to cover some of the costs involved, members who receive their monthly newsletters by post will be required to pay an additional R50.00 over and above the rate of subs as above.

If you wish to change to receiving your newsletter by email, please pay the basic subs rate and provide your email address to the treasurer at tcraddock@infodoor.co.za

Service Delivery Survey

Background

The Executive Committee is constantly striving to improve service to members. We continuously look for ways to improve meetings, events and runs, making them more interesting and enjoyable, and to maintain and increase participation.

At the beginning of each year, the committee meets and agrees on the dates for club meetings and events. We set dates for Club and Combined Centres Showday, monthly runs, and meetings and gatherings of other Car Clubs and Centres in which we would like to participate. We try to make it as easy as possible for members to attend, and to have at least one Club Run every month.

The EXCO has noticed low member attendance at some events, even though dates are published well in advance in the Newsletter and invitations are often repeated via e-mail and SMS.

The low attendance, particularly the dwindling number of entries for Club and Combined Centres Showday, are of serious concern.

The Survey

Business Survey Company is an established Marketing Research and Survey company and has offered its services to the MGCC NC to conduct a Member Satisfaction Survey.

BSC will participate as an external service provider to the MGCC NC and will act as unbiased, third party vendor for purposes of the study - offering to conduct a survey directed at the general population consisting of current paid-up members of the MGCC Northern Centre.

BSC undertakes to provide the technology platform, the specialised IT and project management services and the defined intelligence feedback services required to successfully conduct the survey, in accordance with agreed requirements of the MGCC NC executive committee and at no cost to the Club.

The Goal of the Member Satisfaction Survey will be to provide information on any positive and/or negative factors, as well as current perceptions of members. The prime objective will be to look for and identify Areas for Improvement, and

then to address these issues at executive committee level.

Members Participation Needed

A questionnaire that is quick and easy to complete is included in this newsletter. The committee wants to give members ample opportunity to participate, and attempts will be made to ensure that no members are excluded.

Members with Internet facilities will be contacted via e-mail and may participate by completing an electronic questionnaire. Those members who prefer to print the questionnaire are asked to complete it and fax the page to BSC at the number indicated on the form.

Every response is vital, and you are requested to assist your Club by taking this opportunity to indicate your preferences to be considered by the committee when it meets in January to discuss the 2011 events.

The committee is looking forward to hearing from its members.

Ivan de Clerk from the **Business Survey Company** can be contacted on 082 55 26906 or 012 997 7335.

The Incentive prize for participating in the Survey is a **Bush Baby Picnic Set for 4 to the value of R200.00!!!**

All you have to do to come in line for the Lucky Draw at the end of the Survey, is to complete the E-Survey questionnaire and submit your reply, or alternatively to fax back the completed hard copy to 0866 117 413. You may remain anonymous if you wish.

Go For It!!!!

MGNC Membership Survey		The Business Survey Company PO Box 2035 Wingate Park	
Fax back to 0866 117 413			
Please rate the following questions on a scale from 1 to 5, where a 1 is Very Dissatisfied (Unlikely) , 3 is Neutral and a 5 is Very Satisfied (Very Likely) Mark clearly with a BLACK PEN			Your Comments
1	Are you Satisfied with the Meetings, Runs and Events organized by the MGCC Northern Centre?	1 2 3 4 5	
2	Would you participate in occasional longer runs with overnight stops?	1 2 3 4 5	
3	Looking back at Club Runs and Events, are you satisfied with the price of entry fees, breakfasts or lunches?	1 2 3 4 5	
4	Are you likely to enter your MG at Club Concours and Showdays for judging?	1 2 3 4 5	
5	Are you likely to attend the 2012 MG International Indaba?	1 2 3 4 5	
6	What types of events would you like the MGCC NC to organize more often? Select at least 2 (two)	a. Social Club-house Events	
		b. Technical Meetings,	
		c. Track Events,	
		d. Economy Runs,	
		e. Treasure Hunts,	
		f. Weekends away,	
		g. Other Events?	
7	Which day of the week would you like to see Club Runs and Events take place?	a. Saturday	
		b. Sunday	
		c. Other	
8	What specific improvements could the MGCC NC make that would convince you to regularly attend Club Meetings, Runs and Events?		
9	What is the one thing that the MGCC NC could do to persuade you to enter your MG at Club Showdays for judging?		

As an Incentive, we are offering an exceptional Prize to one of the Respondents. To enter for lucky draw, which will take place at the end of this Survey, please print your name here. **Name** Private and Confidential

MG Mart—buy one for Christmas!

<p>MG Midget - 1969. Engine rebuilt, seats retrimmed. Old English white. R55 000. Steve Eden 082 372 8740 (3)</p>	<p>MGB GT 1972. Chrome bumpers, rosstyle wheels. Asking value price R65 000.00 and assessed as excellent. Looking for a good home, only two owners. Vinca Cox 0823754235 (3)</p>
<p>1967 MGB GT. Restored 4 years ago by EMGEE WORKSHOP for R 127 000. Prizewinner. converted to ride on unleaded fuel. Fitted with modern clutch thrust bearing. New tyres. Full service history since restoration. MG club valuation R 100 000. Price R90 000-not neg. Contact danie 082 5539954 (2)</p>	<p>FOR SALE: ZB MAGNETTE – 1958* - ex late Errol Battison – all body rust removed – complete down to bare metal respray in Damask red with beige leather interior and new red carpets. A complete engine and clutch overhaul just run in – brakes and propshaft overhauled – new tyres and electrical wiring. Including many spares. This has to be one of the best ZB Magnettes in the country – all you have to do is drive it and enjoy! R70000.00 – contact Peter on 012 998 0361 or 083 267 3457 or e-mail no-ethj@tekomsa.net (1)</p>
<p>1970 MGB GT (Jhb based). Wire wheels, white (new paint), body work in great condition, recently refurbished. Asking R78k Phone: Sean 0795019211 (3)</p>	<p>MGB Roadster 1963 White with red interior, soft top, tonneau. R 90 000 Reine 0711 801 523 info@kalahariminerals.com (3)</p>
<p>Midget – 1972 round Wheel Arch. Red m 70000 kms. Has just been worked on after standing for 2 years. Brakes , water system, Fuel systems and carbs have all been cleaned and car is running well. Tyres good. Needs carpets and soft top repair. Further car needs TLC . Price R35000 onco – Car in Pretoria . Contact Jaco Guillarmod on 082 562 7000 Or Robin Godfrey at 082 6780171/012 4305004 (3)</p>	<p>1980 MGB roadster, flame red, rostyle wheels, recently resprayed in original colour, 2 owners, excellent original condition, with RWC R80 000. 1980 MGB Roadster, yellow, rostyle wheels, Chrome bumper conversion, recently resprayed in original colour, gas flowed head, fast road cam, extractor manifold and alloy tappet cover. Excellent condition all round. With RWC. R85 000 Contact: Rod Paxton 083 458 0148 (East London) (2)</p>
<p>FOR SALE - Tel Alan Farndell 011 849 7355 or 082 875 5446. (2) Hooters, 1932 Lucas 'King of the Road' high and low note pair. Chromed, with wire mesh fronts, Le Mans Bentley style; 36 - 47 original Lucas 'Altette', as fitted to TA - TC; 48 - 62 original Lucas 'Windtone', pair high and low note, as fitted to 'Y' Saloons, TD, TF, Midget and MGA, plus single examples of high or low note; (All hooters refurbished, and in Concors or excellent condition). Wipac Halogen headlamp unit, for r/bumper MGB; Moss (UK) Special Tuning and Parts Manual, covering MGB, MGC, V8 and Midget (unused); Tonneau cover for Midget Mk I or II, Hood stowage cover for same; MGB cylinder head; MGB GT tailgate glass, with heater strip; MGA 1600 Driver's Handbook (unused); Cylinder head for 'A' Series, e.g. Midget; MGB engine, completely rebuilt by Bob Osborne, but never used; MGB engine block; Dunlop brass footpump (1930s).</p>	<p>MGA Coupe 1959 Concors condition, includes personalised number plate MGA1959GP R170000 Phone 0823363715 Benoni (1)</p> <p>2004 MG TF 160 Manual Metallic Grey 36 000Km FSH, ABS, Adjustable seats, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Air bags, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Armrest, Central locking, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Power assisted steering. R97,500 Contact: 0725343828 (1)</p>
<p>For sale: Book entitled "Practical M.G. TD – maintenance update & innovation" by Jonathan Goddard & endorsed by the UK T-Register. A recommended buy for anyone who owns a T-series MG. Limited stocks available from Kevin Loader @ R85 + postage, email KLoader@worldonline.co.za . All profits to be donated to the Firlands Salvation Army Children's Home.(1)</p>	<p>MGB Roadster for sale It is completely original. 1800cc twin carburettor. Stainless steel pipe (Front to back). Maroon in colour (Original paint job still). One owner. Imported directly from the UK in 1974. Rudi JJ Pretorius [mailto:rudi.pret2686@hotmail.com] .083 396 9002.(1)</p>

Advertisements must reach the editor by the 15th of the month of publication. Please preferably e-mail to stevejreden@gmail.com or fax to 0865439787. Adverts will be carried for 3 months unless an extension is requested.

The National For Sale and Wanted list is available on request.

MG - The Marque of Friendship