

# Newsletter 375 Jan2013



## Happy New Year Edition What an End of Year Party we had!



It was extremely gratifying to those involved in organising this event that so many members, friends and partners decided to come along for the evening. There was lots of food from Hazell and Marcelle, and as requested, most members brought something of their own to share. I particularly enjoyed



Annette's scotch eggs and chicken livers peri-peri. Bob's hot sauce was delightful as always! Hazell's unique Moroccan pies also went down a treat.

The Clubhouse, with its new restrained ambience, with added festive lights, and table decorations, looked absolutely superb. What a change from the cluttered, tatty appearance of a few weeks ago.



*Pictures Dave Westaway.  
Text Steve Eden*

## Committee Members

Chairman, Clubhouse Maintenance John Hugo	082 801 9969	<a href="mailto:adaboy@absamail.co.za">adaboy@absamail.co.za</a>
Secretary/Acting Chairman George Dehlen	082 492 1806 012 991 1754	<a href="mailto:gdehlen@iafrica.com">gdehlen@iafrica.com</a>
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Regalia, Community Liaison Trevor Beddy	082 465 0167	<a href="mailto:etbeddy@global.co.za">etbeddy@global.co.za</a>
Records management Ivan de Clerk	082 552 6906 012 997 7335	<a href="mailto:ivan@bscsurvey.co.za">ivan@bscsurvey.co.za</a>
Public Relations, Club Liaison Pepi Gaspari	082 410 1569 012 803 9682	<a href="mailto:marpepi@iafrica.com">marpepi@iafrica.com</a>
Clubhouse Refreshments & Trophies Jay Westaway	079 528 1954 012 329 5533	<a href="mailto:jaww@vodamail.co.za">jaww@vodamail.co.za</a>
Vehicle Valuations		

### MG Car Club-Northern Centre

PO Box 11430, Silver Lakes 0054

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](http://www.mgcc-north.co.za)

GPS S 25 46.495 E 28 16.035

### Jacaranda Jottings

The end of 2012 has arrived, a good year for MGNC, lots of events and clubhouse and grounds updates we can be proud of. If you have not been along to see the progress, it is time you did. And pay your subs.

Since the last newsletter (it actually seems a long time ago to me) we have had the "Topless" run to Cesco's, a PPO lunch run, thanks to Johnnie van Wyk, unfortunately not well supported, maybe Wednesday is not a good idea, a Pub night (thanks Gary), and the N&N/party in Dec.

Thanks to the efforts of Ivan, Marcelle, Hazell and yours truly the Clubhouse had a festive feel. The attendance was superb and I believe that all had a good time, I know the bar staff were run off their feet. It is a puzzle that people turn up for an event like this whom we have not seen for months. Maybe the improved Clubhouse ambience will encourage attendance. I think we should discourage Pizzas as this was what was left over.

I hope that you all have had a safe, and enjoyable, festive season and are well prepared for the year ahead. Let us see you at our events, don't forget, if you have a comment on what we are doing, do not sit and mumble, let us know.

It is disappointing that no input has been received on the awards function, the



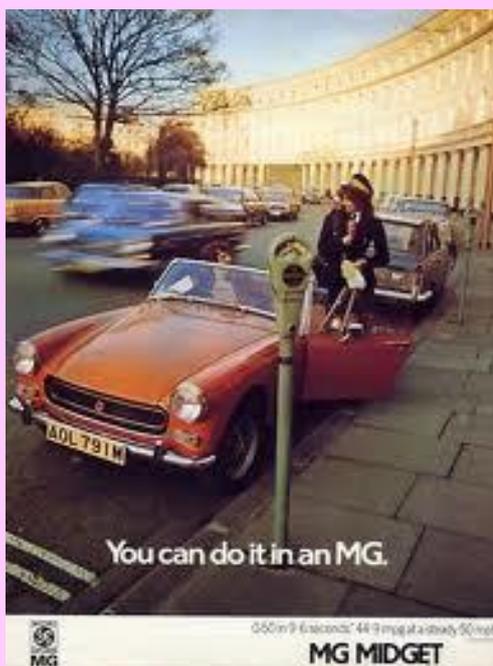
EXCO will go ahead with something, but please, no complaints after the event.

A suggestion has been made that we, Jhb and KZN centres get together to arrange a gathering similar to Cape Centres in non Indaba years. I personally am not convinced about this, I would rather go to Cape Centres than have another event up here. I am sure many would find the cost of the Indaba, and two gatherings bi annually, inhibiting. The naming would be interesting, calling it The "Northern Centre's Gathering" would certainly lead to confusion. As I have said over the years, our name is neither descriptive nor accurate, but to change it seems impossible. Now here's a thought, scrap the Indaba, and have a "Cape" Centres and a "Northern" Centres event on alternate years. This could spread the workload. I can hear the intake of breath from here!!

The way time is flying by, the AGM in March will be upon us before we realise. Give some thought about who you want running the Club, and how you want it run. Some of the current Exco may be standing down and we could certainly do with some younger and some female members. A young female would be the best of both worlds! (*Ouch, sorry Hazell!*) If you want to be involved get yourself nominated. More AGM detail and proposal forms next month.

Steve

*(If you notice more grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors than usual, please note that the assistant editor has had to go to the UK)*



## Regalia



As shown at the December Party, Trevor has obtained a number of shirts and caps, all embroidered with the MG logo, at extremely good prices.

A large number of items was sold but there are a number left, still at low, low prices. Come loaded with cash to the January Noggin, buy some regalia, and pay your subscription.

### New Members

645 – Francois du Toit – MGTF 160 – Proposer Gary Chapman

646 – Danie Bester - MGB – Proposer Gary Chapman

647 – Jennifer Bradley – MGBGT – Proposer John Hugo

Welcome back to 528 - Belinda Cowden. MGB GT.

# MG - The Marque of Friendship

**Message from Jhb Centre** *unedited and unabridged*  
SUMMONS ISSUED THE SYLVI VALE MOTOR MUSEUM.

You have been summonsed by counsel of the above entity, namely the MG club (JHB) on behalf of SAMCA to present yourself, your partner and family and your automobile on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at the Sylviavale museum, Vaal Dr, Sylviavale, Van Der Bijl Park.(Sebideng) just off the R57, as from 9am.

Food, a cash bar, braai(should you wish to cook your own food), doughnuts and coffee will be available. The museum has undergone major improvements since we were last there. Demonstrations of various vehicles will be presented and numerous door prizes will be drawn at lunchtime.

A contribution at the gate for the museum will be gladly accepted at the gate on entry. There is lots of parking and place to have a picnic after browsing through the various exhibits.

We need to support museums like this! It's what we do!

Convoys will leave from two venues, the Blockhouse Engen/Wimpy on the R59 and the Engen/ Wimpy on the N1 just before the Grasmere Tollgate at 9.30am so why not make it 9 for 9.30 am departure and have a chat to your friends or get a cuppa before.

For further details, contact

Abie Brink 0846527952 Or Clive Winterstein 083795000

**MGCC Northern Centre November 2012 Tops Down Run**

The Tops Down Run held on 17th November attracted 17 members in 10 MG's, and number of friends in Triumphs. Knowing how quickly the Highveld weather can change into a late afternoon thunderstorm, I was somewhat concerned, yet wanted to use the TD on the run to Coco's Bistro in Castle Walk. All week long I kept a cautious eye on the weather.

No need to have worried as there wasn't a cloud in sight at five-o'clock on the Saturday afternoon, as the MG's and Triumphs started assembling at the MG clubhouse.



The grounds around the clubhouse really look first-class, with the lawn trimmed, and the trees fully blooming.

Much to everyone's delight, Johan and Ilse Kruger arrived in his newly rebuilt MGA. This is the first time that Johan has ventured out in the MGA after the recently completed upgrades by Johan Wilken. The MGA in shining RED really looks good, but wait until you see the engine compartment. Wow! With the bright silver manifold, aluminium cylinder head, tappet cover and radiator perfectly matching the pair of polished SU carbs., it looks GREAT! George and I had to literary pull people away from the car so that we could get going. (Here's a recent pic of the Kruger's MGA next to a Mustang).



It was the ideal evening for driving Tops Down, and I felt disappointed in not having extended the route through the suburbs, all too soon we arrived at Coco's.

We planned to seat about 20 people, but when Alan and Denise from Johannesburg, we quickly added more tables and just about took over the whole terrace. Service started off a bit slow, but who noticed? We each received a complimentary glass of wine and soon followed that with juice and draught beer to prevent dehydration.

The food at Coco's Bistro was excellent, as usual, and the service soon picked up. A further

complimentary gift of roasted coffee beans was offered, the owner Graham in attendance and constantly on standby. (*The coffee is really tasty - Ed*)

The lovely cool evening under a waxing crescent moon in our Tops Down

MG's was certainly memorable. Marcelle and I, closely followed by Johan and Ilse took the short drive home in the TD and MGA, but could have kept going for another 50 or even a 100 kilometres – easily. Hoping to see you next time.

Ivan de Clerk *Thanks Ivan, even got Hazell out in the A after dark - well done, ed (Pictures by Dave Westaway & Steve Eden)*



I received this too late for the November Newsletter, and there was not one in December

Dear Friends

The Noeth and Bremner families wish to thank all for the support received for the loss of our dear sister Daphne. It was greatly appreciated.

Peter, Janet and Families

### Project make Nice

On-going maintenance during the latter half of 2012 to the grounds surrounding the MGCC Northern Centre clubhouse has remarkably improved our much treasured home. This is largely due to Trevor Beddy's efforts, personal supervision, and constant hard work. He receives our most grateful appreciation. The paved driveway access has vastly improved the entrance and many complements from MGB owners in particular have been received by the Exco.

The newly planted lawn in front of the clubhouse will help to keep the winter dust away, and the mud from summer rains, from being tramped into the clubhouse. A lush and eye pleasing front entrance has successfully been created.

Nonetheless, members of the club have expressed their concerns, good-humouredly, that the MG Clubhouse resembles a "Scout Hall" and that it is not enjoyable or pleasant for our ladies to socialise, attend or visit the club.



With stark metal tables, plastic stacking chairs and all kinds of paraphernalia hanging haphazardly from the walls, it perchance could be considered to portray the MGCC's correct image..

The declining number of MGCC members in SA, and in our centre, is constantly of concern to the Exco and the National Body. Matters that might be off-putting to MG members are certainly noted when the Exco discusses subscriptions, finances and events.

New members are being attracted by new MG models, but in limited numbers. The club still suffers from a too high an attrition rate. Some Club runs are poorly attended some members are only seen once a year at prestige club events.

Exco has also noticed that the attendance of lady members, wives and partners, is gradually dwindling.

High on the Exco's priority list therefore, is our intention to attract more member's wives, partners and friends to the MG Clubhouse. We have to make it easier and more comfortable for partners to attend. Solutions were sought, plans were discussed and projects were implemented.



### Projects Completed

#### External

Improving access to the Club - paving of driveway entrance, kerbstones to prevent vehicles from making U-turns and destroying the driveway, interlocking pavers laid, etc.

Grounds – trees cut down on borders, lawns planted at clubhouse entrance, taps and hosepipe installed, area around clubhouse watered, etc.

#### Internal

Re-decorated the inside of the clubhouse, cleaning repairing and painting the walls.

Fabricated table clothes to cover steel tables.

Sorted and hung paintings/posters (still on-going).

Installed curtain rails, curtains to three windows and blinds to rear doors.

Installed towel hooks and obtained more towels (now cleaned on rotation basis).

#### Internal Projects in Progress

Special area to be set aside for ladies to join together.

Purchase round tables (earmarked for two), one in place.

Install coffee percolator and obtain decent cups, saucers, tea spoons and side plates.

Ask MG ladies what they would like to see that would make it even more attractive.

Ceiling bracket for overhead projector – make and install.

Audio connections and speakers to be sorted out.



How many people does it take to hang a curtain?

### Thanks

Special thanks are due to the following persons who have donated time, effort and items at no cost to the Club

#### Ivan de Clerk

<u>MG work team:</u>	Jay Westaway
Trevor Beddy	George Dehlen
Steve Eden	Johan Kruger
Gary Chapman	Dave Westaway
Ivan de Clerk	<u>TSCC for help and contribution:</u>
Marcelle de Clerk	Bill Flynn
	Bill Sales

MGCC NC Committee Member 2012

Date 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012



The opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the MG Car Club Northern Centre or the Executive Committee.

## REVISITING THE MG EXPERIENCE AND SOME BLATHER

Dear Editor

I have been remiss in not writing earlier, specifically to express my appreciation to the members of the Northern Centre who have made me feel at home in this fine Club. This convivial ambiance has in turn allowed me to enjoy the MG experience and marque all over again. I therefore hope that you will permit me to recount my modest MG experience over the years and in so doing kindly grant an "old fart" some latitude to reminisce and wallow a little in memories long past.

My first encounter with an MG was in 1950. I was about twelve at the time to which the black and white attached photograph of me and an MG TD, will attest. This came about when an older friend of mine's father generously treated his son to a brand new red TD. It may have been a birthday or Christmas present, I can't recall this for sure? Peter, my friend, could not have been much older than sixteen at the time. His mother and father owned a smart hotel in Nelspruit and were very kind to me as a young lad. They had known both of my parents from Parys (OFS) before the war and had very kindly maintained contact with my mother after my father's death in WW2. Many of my school holidays were sponsored by the Strong's to the various hotels that they had owned in various towns. The old photo of Peter's glam mother, my aunts and my mother and me (with dog) posing in front of Peter's car, is the only photographic record that I have of this time. Peter and I are still in contact though and when last I saw him in Kloof, Durban, he remembered his TD with great affection. I think the fond memories were also linked to our impromptu hunting expeditions. We used to dash across to Barberton from Nelspruit at 70 mph, windscreen down, with a .22 Mauser behind the back seat for poaching any small game that presented itself alongside the road or on adjacent farm land. This was risky, even in those days, but fortunately Peter was a good shot and I recall being quite nimble through barbed wire fences, returning with a guinea fowl in my hands and another torn shirt on my back, before we went roaring off again. It all went about the adventure and the speed really.



My next memorable contact with old cars was when I visited the Montagu car collection at the village of Beaulieu in Hampshire, England in 1959. The museum had been established in 1952 at Palace House, the ancestral home of the Montagu's, by Edward Douglas-Scott-Montagu, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Montagu of Beaulieu. This was as a tribute to his father who was one of the pioneers of motoring in England in the late 1800's. It is now the internationally renowned National Motor Museum established as a charitable trust and has grown vastly since my time there. Incidentally my first love affair with an MGB was to be closely linked to the beautiful Hampshire countryside, but more about this later.

I was a young, impressionable naval officer at the time I visited the museum in 1959. I was fortunate to be part of a SA Navy contingent commissioning Ton Class minesweepers for the SA Navy at the Royal Navy's minesweeping base at Hythe. For those readers who may be unfamiliar with the area I'm referring to, Hythe is short ferry ride across the Solent from Southampton, which is situated on the south coast of England. It is also close to where the famous Spitfire aircraft took to the air for the first time shortly before WW2. Many of these famous aircraft were built there under extraordinary circumstances during the war, as well as the pre-war Schneider Trophy float planes and air speed record holders – forerunners to the Spitfire in fact.

I also recall being very excited to see the Cunard liners; Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary dock in Southampton every fortnight, as well as the SS United States, the American liner that at that time held the coveted Blue Riband for the fastest crossing of the North Atlantic from New York to Southampton. This was considered to a very prestigious technical achievement in the maritime world at the time. It seemed as though the RMS Titanic episode had been long forgotten? As an aside, and to capture the mood in England, I have to say that it was an exciting time in the UK. Britain was still being rebuilt after WW2, and despite the ravages of the recent austerity period the mood was upbeat. The swinging sixties were lurking around the corner. This was therefore before the Hippie era and before the Quarrymen became the Beatles. Shirley Bassey was all the rage at the time with the song "Kiss me honey honey kiss me" and many other hits. I wonder if anyone still remembers this song. In addition, the famous Big Bands were at all the prominent dance halls in the UK and their music could be danced to for the paltry price of an entry ticket. Here you could meet young ladies galore as they all arrived at these places of entertainment unescorted, hoping to be invited for a dance and the prospect of some company. I can claim to having danced many a time to the music of Johnny Dankworth's Big Band at Southampton Pier. That was something! However, I can't recall having had much success with the girls. On reflection I was only nineteen at the time and a slow starter to boot.

To be continued.....

## Forthcoming Events

Point allocation c=Clubman, v= Victrix/tor Ludorum, RR=Regularity Rally, HR=Historic Racing

Dec (would you believe it, where has the year gone?)

Wed 26	Babelaas Braai	NC	Clubhouse from 11h30	
Jan 2013				
Mon 7	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
Sun 20	Baylis Bash	NC	Clubhouse 09h30 or make your own way there. 1 car per family plse.	c
Feb 2013				
Fri,Sat Sun 1,2,3	Zwartkops Historic "Passion for Speed"		Looking for someone to organise a MGNC viewing spot.	
Mon 4	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
TBA	Awards Function	NC	Looking for ideas and an organiser	c

## Event Detail

### Boxing Day (Babelaas) Braai - Dec 26 - 11h30

A traditional MGNC event, this has suffered from poor attendance in recent years. Come along for a breath of air, to get away from the kids, and possibly to show off what Father Christmas brought you. I hope it was what you wanted! George has promised to open the Clubhouse at 11h30, so come along for a drink, a braai, or just a chat.

### Natter & Noggin - Monday Jan 7 - 19h30

I trust you have all made a resolution to support your club by attending the events in 2013. I hope you have all paid your subs!  
Come along to the first Noggin of the year to tell everyone what you got up to in the holidays.

### Sunday Run - January 20 - Baylis Bash 09h30 from Clubhouse

Come and join us for a bring and braai in Boband Tanya's garden. Braai fires and seating will be provided but please bring your own food, plates, cutlery and liquid refreshment.  
Parking is limited, so one car per family please! **Bob needs your name and car registration in advance to clear you with security.**  
Meet at Clubhouse at 09h30 or make your own way to 19 Summerset Estate, Garden Road/Seventh Avenue, Midrand.

### Natter & Noggin - Monday Feb 4 - 19h30

We are hoping that we can get our DA ward Councillor, Siobahn Muller, to come and discuss future proposed developments in the Clubhouse area. She is extremely busy and we will not know if she can definitely make it before the time. These developments could have a major effect on the Club, ie no Clubhouse, so we need to understand how to move forward. Ms Muller has been extremely active in defending her constituents rights so we need to give her support.

## MG Mart

<p>1976 MGB for sale, colour red. Needs TLC. Asking R50,000 negotiable. Call Janet on tel. (084) 421 4038. (2)</p>	<p>1972 MGB FOR SALE IN THE ALBERTON AREA. MECHANICALLY SOUND,LICENSED,BUT THE BODY NEEDS ATTENTION. ASKING R50 000 MARK 0798970157 (2)</p>
<p>2004 - MGTF160 SILVER &amp; BLACK, BLACK INTERIOR, PRISTINE CONDITION, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY, WANTED R80,000-00 NEGOTIABLE.  CONTACT: PATRICIA PHILLIPS 083 253 0523 (1)</p>	<p>A friend of mine wants to sell his MG YA, 1950 model.The car is still in a spotless condition.For any enquiries, you are welcome to phone me on 0766 298 017. Thank you Danie van Aarde (1)</p>
<p>1971 MGB GT in good working order. Stainless steel exhaust &amp; engine converted for unleaded fuel. R50k negotiable or willing to trade for reasonably priced MG ZR. Contact Roger on 0829000964. (1)</p>	<p>1967 BRG MGBGT with overdrive and wire wheels. Re-built 2006. Major service just completed. R65,000.00 Call Cliff on 082 898 9772. Jhb.(3)</p>
<p>1976 RUBBER BUMPER. RED. PAINT AND INTERIOR OKAY BUT NEEDS TLC. BLACK LEATHER. RUST BLISTERS ON DOOR SILLS, AS USUAL. ENGINE GOOD. GEARBOX NEEDS ATTENTION, BUT A GOOD RUNNER. SOFT TOP GOOD, BUT WINDOWS NEED REPLACING. LOCATED IN BUCCLEUCH SANDTON. CONTACT JANET 084 421 4038 (3)</p>	<p>MG TF135, Colour black Kms 83,000 Model 2005 price 95,000 hermang@mwebbiz.co.za 082 881 5238 (3)</p>
<p>MG Midget 1979 1500cc. Seats and Body needs some TLC. Original all round. In daily use and licensed until end November 2012. R50 000 neg Contact Riaan 072 476 2199 (2)</p>	

### Subscriptions - Reminder 2

Your subscriptions are now due

It has been decided to keep the fees at the same levels as last year, ie R200 for full members and R100 for country members. This must be the bargain of the decade, not even half a tank of LRP!!!

Please note that should you require a posted Newsletter, not to be encouraged for the extra load it puts on the Editor, an extra R100 pa is required to cover postage and printing. The last posted Newsletter to those currently on this option will be January's unless payment is received.

Please pay by EFT to FNB Account - MG Car Club Northern Centre, 62363284359, Branch 250655. This account will **not accept cheque payments**, if you must pay by cheque, please contact the treasurer.

Payment by cash or cheque attracts bank charges, so please add R20 to your payment in this case.

Remember, your insurance may be invalid if your membership expires.

**In terms of the Club Constitution any renewals after April 1 will be treated as a new application and the R100 joining fee will be imposed.** Please pay promptly to keep your club on it's sound financial footing.

To those who have already paid, my heartfelt thanks. To the others, extract digit!! Many Thanks - Treasurer



**More Party Pics**

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