

Newsletter 376 Feb 2013



The 2013 Baylis Bash

The weekend of 20th January was one of almost continuous rain, the only variation being from light, to heavy, to light again. Esra (an ex farmer) commented "If this is climate change, I like it". The annual Baylis Bash in Midrand was planned for the Sunday, and on the Saturday we had fears of being drenched as we had been at the same event two years previously. Fortunately the weather was kind, and the car natter and the outdoor cooking were able to go ahead in only a light drizzle. Thirty-six club members braved the weather, and there were eighteen MGs in addition to Bob's six in his garage – lots to talk about.

A welcome reappearance was that of Gavin and Bernadette Noeth, now with twins, who provided another focus of attention.

The Club's sincere thanks go to Bob and Tanya for hosting the event, and to Jeremy for helping with the transport of the chairs, tables and braai drums

(Text George, pictures George and Danie Bester)



Committee Members

Chairman, Clubhouse Maintenance	082 801 9969	adaboy@absamail.co.za
Secretary/Acting Chairman George Dehlen	082 492 1806 012 991 1754	gdehlen@iafrica.com
Newsletter/Treasurer Steve Eden	082 372 8740	steveireden@gmail.com
Membership Secretary Gary Chapman	082 653 1888 012 460 1392	ghchapman@nashuaisp.co.za
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Records management Ivan de Clerk	082 552 6906 012 997 7335	ivan@bscsurvey.co.za
Public Relations, Club Liaison Pepi Gaspari	082 410 1569 012 803 9682	marpepi@iafrica.com
Clubhouse Refreshments & Trophies Jay Westaway	079 528 1954 012 329 5533	jayw@vodamail.co.za
Vehicle Valuations Carel Wilken	083 391 1611 012 386 2136	Hercar Restorations

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

GPS S 25 46.495 E 28 16.035



Annual Awards Function 2013

Sunday February 17, 12h30

You are cordially invited to attend the MG Car Club - Northern Centre, Annual Awards Function.

This year's event is to be held at La Vie Lente, a country Bistro Venue on the northern side of the M6, Lynwood Road, 11km east of the Simon Mahlangu (Hans Strydom) crossing. There is ample secure parking.

The Menu

Home made bread & dips platter will be placed on the tables for a pre-lunch snack.

Main meal a choice of one of the following:-

- Thai Green Chicken Curry with fresh salsa
- Or Fillet & roasted vegetable stack with herb crusted potato wedges
- Or Carved lamb with minted peas, mash & a cumin gravy

Dessert a choice of one of the following:-

- New York cheese cake
- Or Orange cake served with ice cream
- Or La Vie Lente chocolate mouse

The Cost

An economical R170 per person, including gratuity.

A R20 discount is applicable for direct cash payments to the Treasurer or EFT payments to FNB.

Drinks are for your own account. **Credit Cards only.**



Attendance is strictly limited to 40 persons and menu choices must be pre-booked. Please book before February 12 with your choice of main meal and dessert and pay via EFT to the Club account at FNB, account number 62363284359, Branch Code 250655.

Bookings to be made through Steve Eden. (stevejreden@gmail.com)

Jacaranda Jottings

It is amazing to note that we are nearly in the second month of 2013. This is a busy time for the Club with the Annual Awards Function to be organised and the Annual General Meeting to be held. Reading our constitution this should be held in February, but as long as I have been a member it has occurred in March.

The Committee really needs some new blood, I would hate to determine the average age of the members, but it must be 60 plus. If you have an interest in the Club, and it's future, please let a current EXCO member know and get yourself nominated. Most positions on the Exco are not too time consuming and the monthly meeting usually finish around 21h00. Gary, John and Pepi have decided not to stand for re-election, and Trevor has expressed the intention that this is his last year, so some new nominations are essential.

Talking about the future of the Club, note the two articles about development in the Clubhouse area. I believe we are right to be concerned, and need to take the fight to the council as quickly as we can. A sub committee is to be formed and will try to get all the other clubs in the area together to present a united front to the Council. We really need a suitable lawyer and town planner to help. If we have them out there as members please contact us.

Note, Carel Wilken of HERCAR, see back page, has agreed to conduct vehicle evaluation for insurance purposes at his workshop.

Steve

Event Detail

More detail on events that are coming up soon

Natter and Noggin Feb 4 Clubhouse 19h30

The treasurer will give a report on the financial status of the Club for 2012. This report will be repeated at the AGM but the treasurer will not be present to answer any questions.

Trevor Beddy will then recount some incidents from his time as a Military Attaché. I am sure this will be interesting and knowing Trevor, suitably humorous.



Annual Awards Function Feb 17

See page 2 for details. Come along and enjoy a great meal in a lovely setting. Bring your **credit cards** along, so the lady in your life can shop in the culinary boutique attached to the restaurant.

No cash accepted at restaurant or shop.

Come along and see who won what and congratulate them. Bookings and advance payment are essential.

Diamond Drive March 1 - 3

Norman Ewing, in association with the Kimberley MG Dealer, is organizing a run to Kimberley at the beginning of March. Plans include visits to historic sites - the Big Hole, the Kimberley MacGregor Museum, and battlefields on Saturday. Departure mid morning on Friday 1st March, return morning of Sunday 3rd. Two nights accommodation at the Kimberley Protea Hotel, R699 per night room rate (equivalent to R350 per person per night each if room is shared). Make bookings direct with the hotel, quoting MG Car Club and reference number 5897243. Inform Norman Ewing at (083) 6545433.

Annual General Meeting March 4 19h30

Possibly the most important meeting of the Club Year. Come along and make yourself heard (Assuming you have paid your subs). A new committee will be elected to guide the Club into 2014

Subscriptions - Reminder 3

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.

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

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

New Members

Just one this month

Tony Pinto with an MGB, we hope to see you at future events

At the January Noggin, the Ward Councillor for the Clubhouse area addressed the meeting. Below is a report by Trevor Beddy

Lease of the ground on which the MG Car Club Northern Centre Clubhouse has been built

The MG Car Club Northern Transvaal Centre was established in 1978.

The club obtained, from the then City of Pretoria, a 30 year lease on ground at the corner of 26th Ave and Umgazi St, built its own Clubhouse in 1991, and extended it with a porch in 1997. The lease expires in 2019.

The neighbours – the Wrestling Club, Bridge Club, Gemstones, German Shephard, Racing Pigeons, Scouts, Lions, Voortrekkers, have similar leases expiring at different times depending on when their lease was granted.

The area South of Umgazi has since been rezoned by the City of Tshwane for office use (6 stories) and that North of Umgazi for mixed use. Some previously vacant erven along Umgazi have already been developed with modern office buildings.

Northern Centre has kept its side of the contract - paid monthly rates and taxes, used the property only for club purposes, and kept it neat and tidy. For some years the club has been considering proposals to spend more on the building, for example by adding on a separate room for use as a library or museum, or by improving the braai area. The club is however concerned about the property development further down Umgazi St and the potential interest in the erf from developers, and has therefore delayed any decision about further investment.

On the invitation of Trevor Beddy, Councillor Siobhan Muller addressed the club on 7th January. She explained the City of Tshwane's new town planning zoning and actions which had been taken to protest them. She considered it possible but unlikely that the City would terminate the lease before its expiry date, as the City would have to find another property nearby and recompense the club for improvements. She suggested several options for the MG Car Club:

- Wait until the lease expires in 2019, then vacate the property (the club would not be recompensed for the value of improvements) and move elsewhere;
- A year before the lease expires, apply to the City for extension of the lease. She felt it uncertain that an extension would be granted, and even if it were, it would probably be for a shorter period than the original lease.
- Make an offer to purchase the property before the lease expires. The City might be prepared to consider this. It was uncertain how the City would value the property – whether a reasonable amount commensurate with club use or whether a much higher amount commensurate with commercial office building development. The procurement process might involve tenders, and bring with it a risk of the club being outbid by wealthier developers.

She suggested that the Club either approach the City on its own, or group together with the other clubs in the area and approach the City jointly.

It is worth noting, that in terms of the lease the Council may, at its discretion, cancel the lease before the expiry date. In this case the Club would be re-imbursed for the value of the improvements i.e. the Clubhouse.

Thanks to George Dehlen for the summary.

AGM - March 4

In terms of the Constitution, Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the MG Car Club will take place at 20h00, at the Club House (corner of 26th Street & Umgazi Road, Menlo Park) on March 4, 2013.

In terms of the Constitution three Committee members can be carried over, these are Steve Eden, George Dehlen and Jay Westaway. Trevor Beddy and Ivan have consented to stand for re-election.

Nominations are requested for the further 3 positions, form below, or will be available before the meeting.

Any member wishing to add an item to the Agenda must supply a written request, signed by five members, to the Secretary, not less than seven days prior to the meeting.

Note that only fully paid up members are entitled to attend, speak, or vote.

Nomination form for 2013 Committee

I,..... being a member in good standing of the MG Car Club, Northern Centre,

hereby nominateto stand for election to the Club's Executive Committee.

Nominator signature Date.....

I accept the nomination and agree to serve on the Committee if elected

Nominee signature..... Date.....

Another view on the visit of Councillor Siobahn Muller

The 2013 Natter 'n Noggins started off on a high note when Councillor Siobhan Muller visited the MG Car Club on the 7th of January. Councillor Muller was invited to meet members and to cast some light on the current status on the lease of the clubhouse grounds and the threat of early termination by the City of Tshwane. The lease of the grounds, although set to expire in the 2019 has come under threat, as likewise are surrounding clubs in the area, earmarked for new office development.

Councillor Muller patiently explained the situation and related motions that are under discussion at council level using a colour wall chart. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and voiced their concerns.



She also suggested some brilliant strategies that the Club might take in opening negotiations with the Council.



Our MG ladies had prepared a special table with cakes for the event and Councillor Muller who was accompanied by her daughter could relax and enjoy the rest of the meeting.



The MGCC National Chairman Mr. Norman

Ewing also attended and offered some insightful observations.

Trevor Beddy then presented a special gift to Councillor Muller on behalf of the MGCC Northern Centre and she was properly thanked for taking the time to visit our club and to get first-

hand experience of the hospitality of our members.

Report by Ivan de Clerk – MGCC NC.

MG Mart

1976 MGB for sale, colour red. Needs TLC. Asking R50,000 negotiable. Call Janet on tel. (084) 421 4038. (3)

1972 MGB FOR SALE IN THE ALBERTON AREA. MECHANICALLY SOUND, LICENSED, BUT THE BODY NEEDS ATTENTION. ASKING R50 000 MARK 0798970157 (3)

2004 - MGTF160 SILVER & BLACK, BLACK INTERIOR, PRISTINE CONDITION, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY, WANTED R80,000-00 NEGOTIABLE.

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.

CONTACT: PATRICIA PHILLIPS 083 253 0523 (2)

Thank you
Danie van Aarde (2)

1971 MGB GT in good working order. Stainless steel exhaust & engine converted for unleaded fuel. R50k negotiable or willing to trade for reasonably priced MG ZR. Contact Roger on 0829000964. (2)

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 (3)

Condolences

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the passing of Hester, wife of George Dehlen. Our thoughts are with George and family.

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

Part Two of a submission by our Rear Admiral - Trevor Beddy (*unabridged and un-edited- Ed*)

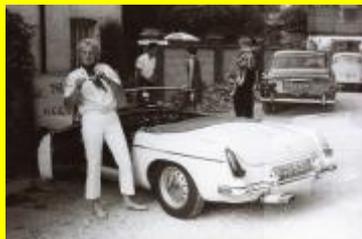
REVISITING THE MG EXPERIENCE AND SOME BLATHER

While I was there I also recall that Liberace, the bejeweled and famous American kitsch pianist sailed to England from the USA on the "Queen Mary", on reflection quite appropriately. His trip to the UK was to pursue a libel suit against the Daily Mirror's vitriolic journalist, Cassandra. Most people loved to hate Cassandra and read the Mirror for this reason only it seemed. There were some enticing pinups amongst its pages as well as I recall. Anyway, this very acerbic middle aged and sour faced social commentator had branded Liberace in one of his scurrilous articles as being, "a slobbering heap of mother love". This had not gone down well in the Liberace camp. I just happened to be at Southampton dock at the time to watch the Queen Mary come alongside. I was not aware of his arrival but gathered from the enthusiastic crowd of middle aged women that something was on the go. On enquiring what the excitement was about one of the women enlightened me in glowing terms. I then remember seeing Liberace's chubby face peering through one of the Queen's portholes He was smiling broadly, dimples and all and waving to a large crowd of his excited fans and swooning women (little did they know!). Needless to say he won his case easily and the Daily Mirror had to cough-up. On reflection, the tabloid press had a field day and predictably sold mountains of newsprint covering this celebrated case. It was a win-win situation and both sides wallowed in the huge publicity that this celebrated case generated. As a consequence everyone concerned ended up swimming in a pile of cash and no less the lawyers representing both sides. Cassandra was not fired and had proved to the Daily Mirror that he had his uses. In turn Liberace had enjoyed his very profitable day in court and the publicity it attracted, and so behind the scenes everyone was happy!

I have digressed. The Montague estate and motor museum was situated close to Hythe in the New Forest and was therefore very accessible to me, even though I did not have a car at the time However, I did have a battered second-hand bicycle which I had bought for about a quid and some small change and which got me around the area quite nicely.. The young Lord Montagu had started his motor museum soon after the war at the Beaulieu family estate. In those days rich people in England were subjected to punitive taxes and death dues by the British government. As many of the rich families of Britain were titled land owners they were forced to open their private homes to paying visitors to keep their vast estates and family fortunes fairly intact, mainly with money garnered from the public. As a point of interest, the Duke of Bedford, who used to farm at Somerset West in the Cape, was, I think, the progenitor of this clever initiative?

Aside from his regard for his father as a pioneer of the British motoring spirit, I think that the young Lord Montagu wisely saw this as an opportunity to acquire exotic cars as a draw-card for visitors to his family estate and must have viewed these acquisitions as a way to protect his family fortune. Initially it was a very modest car collection displayed in the entrance hall of the impressive family home. However, after WW2 it was a propitious time to collect rare and potentially valuable cars. Consequently Montagu began to acquire vehicles with increasing enthusiasm and the collection grew exponentially. At the time I visited the museum it had a sizeable assembly of all manner of vehicles including world land-speed record-breakers. I recall having seen the cars of Malcolm and Donald Campbell as well as the Sunbeam of Henry Seagrave. I remember that the museum was housed in what seemed to be temporary structures, but it was nevertheless a large and very impressive exhibition. I can't recall whether the cars were simply static displays or whether they were also runners. I would hazard a guess that some of them were used from time to time despite the high cost of fuel. Quite appropriately there was also a Mk. 9 Spitfire fighter aircraft standing and weathering in the open. The photo of this aircraft shows one of the old exhibition sheds in the background. Things have changed quite dramatically since then though. Incidentally, I read somewhere that in 1959 there were 269,909 visitors to the museum. It appears that I was one of those. That was more than fifty years ago. I wonder what the attendance figures are these days. When we eventually sailed for home I took with me many fond memories of the UK and the experiences I had, one of them being my visit to Beaulieu. I also sold my bike on for about a quid and some small change.

The next step that I took in the right direction was when I was selected to do a long gunnery officer's course at the Royal Navy's gunnery school, HMS Excellent, in Portsmouth, Hampshire. This was in 1962/63. I had sold my somewhat hesitant diesel/petrol mix Auto Union 1000 in SA, which I had in turn purchased from the proceeds of the insurance money that I got when I spectacularly and effortlessly rolled and wrote off my 1958 VW Beetle. I still have a photographic proof of that disaster somewhere. That was in 1960. However, before leaving South Africa in 1962 I had already decided to



acquire a sports car in England. Sports cars were all the rage at the time amongst young naval officers. As I was to stay in England for a year I was also able to benefit from the import duty concessions granted to South Africans living overseas for more than six months. Therefore this was an opportunity not to be missed.

The MGB had burst upon the automotive scene in 1962 and a naval friend of mine suggested that I should consider buying one. My funds, as a relatively impecunious lieutenant, were limited and therefore price and my choice of car had to be in-synch. It was crucial. Fortunately the MGB roadster as advertised fell into the upper limits of my shallow pocket. I can't remember the detail but I do recall that I could order my car to a

modest specification - and I did so accordingly. This was to be my most memorable vehicle acquisition ever - a 1963 brand-new MGB three bearing crank roadster, in Old English White livery nugal. What more can I say but, Wow!

To be continued.....

SAMCA Run to Sylvania Motor Museum.

Organisers Clive Winterstein from the Jo'burg MG Club and Abie Brink from Vaal Old Wheels could not have chosen a better day to suit this unbelievably nice venue. The meeting held this year was on 13th of January.



If you are into classic cars, old engines, steam or vintage buildings (as you should be), it's all there for you to see and experience; the noise, smell and smoke, the chickens and donkeys, the Fowler steam tractors, the Ruston horizontal engines and Siddley Armstrongs.

We met up with some Triumph Club friends on the R21 and joined the Johannesburg guys at the Blockhouse One-Stop on the R59 other-side of Alberton. By then the early morning cold was gone and we pushed on towards the Vaal. There was a plethora of cars, from classic Jaguars



to a pack of MGA's. What a wonderful sight to see a red MGA at speed with wheel spinners flashing light, comfortably doing

120kph on the highway! Proving that the British still have it in them after all these years. *(Of course we do - Ed)* Parking at Sylvania is plentiful and, for a change on mowed grass – specially prepared for their guests. Upon our arrival we were marshalled and efficiently directed to a large parking area inside the venue. (Unlike the super dusty Swartkops during CITP with constant fights for parking, no marshals to assist, 'donks' in their pimped cars circulating around the track showing off 30" wheels. In my opinion, Swartkop's dreadful access, filthy ablution facilities and lack of edible foods shows that they just cannot handle large crowds). Indeed, at Sylvania it's another story. The cars are safe from people clambering on, stay clean and don't even need a dusting-off afterwards. There is ample shade under the trees for visitors to set up tables and to enjoy a picnic as some MG members did. This lends a much more welcoming, friendly and carnival type of atmosphere to the whole venue with excellent eats. Comparable only to Angela's Picnic with its wide variety of vintage, classic, collectable cars and prime spots under huge poplars, a run to Sylvania Museum is definitely a YES. The whole experience seemed like turning back

time. We were able to wander around in this beautiful historic village. We took pictures and videos of cars, engines, and steam tractors. We chatted to friends, looked at farming equipment, more cars, donkeys, ate doughnuts, downed a beer, visited exhibits, motor bikes, ate potato curls and chat more.

At lunchtime all visitors were asked to gather around for a prize draw. Some excellent prizes were handed out, and much to everyone's delight, Clive's wit was as sharp as ever.

By then the braai-fires were burning strongly and we settled down with something cold to drink. We had decided earlier to have lunch at Stonehaven, situated a short distance away on the Free State side of the Vaal River. This turned out to be an excellent decision as Stonehaven is really THE place for a Sunday lunch.

Nestled on the banks of the river with lush watery gardens, a swimming pool and well shaded diner areas served swiftly from a central kitchen, we enjoyed an excellent lunch. With a brief rest on the deck afterwards



overlooking the river, we could spend the afternoon at leisure. Returning to Pretoria at about five, we agreed that

we could not have had a more enjoyable MG day and a plan to revisit the Vaal soon is being considered.



Thanks to Norman Ewing in his MGA coupe for getting the convoy back on course after it briefly lost the way. (there's still some navigator blood in him). to Lynton Lomas and Gary Chapman for showing off that absolutely beautiful Porsche and to Bill Flynn in his mellow yellow Ford and Bill Sales for good company. Keep a lookout for the SAMCA invitation next year and join us in your MG to experience a Run to a venue 'Second to none'.

Ivan de Clerk – MGCC Northern Centre

Thanks Ivan Ed

Forthcoming Events in Brief

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

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
Sun 17	Awards Function	NC	La Vie Lente, 12h30	c

March

Fri 1 to Sun 3	Diamond Run to Kimber- ley	Jhb	See elsewhere in this edition	
Mon 4	Annual General Meeting	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
Sun 17th	TBA		Watch your e-mail and SMS's	

April

Mon 1	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
Sun 21	Club Condition Concours	NC	Clubhouse 09h30	c/v

May

Mon 6	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
TBA	PTSCC Diving Tests	PTSCC/ NC/Jhb	Rafters Pub Car park	c/v

Proposed Combined KZN & Gauteng Centres Gathering in the Drakensberg - August

Looking at a rather full 2013 MG Calendar, August seems the best slot, and as Friday 9th is a public holiday it may make sense to choose that weekend. The Nest and The Cavern are both willing to work with us. You may have some input about these, or other venues.

Accommodation is not unlimited. Both have a variety of rooms, from R600 pppn for Rondavels to R900 pppn for suites. There are 20-30 rondavels available at either venue.

We would reserve Friday and Saturday nights and leave after a brunch on Sunday.

Please help with the following:

How many NC members are likely to attend? Some proposals of what can be done, eg Drakensberg Boys Choir, battlefields walk/talk, simple driving competition, Inter-centre bowls/tennis competition etc.

If you are likely to attend, or have some suggestions about the venue or programme please contact Gary Chapman at the Noggin or via phone or e mail.

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