MG CAR CLUB NORTHERN CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

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PO BOX 35765
MENLO PARK 0102

NEWSLETTER No. 331
MARCH 2009

85 YEARS OF MG MAGIC – 1924 TO 2009

EXEUCTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Ivan De Clerk
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Other Portfollos: Records Management, Indemnities

Vice Chairman: Esra Martins
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Other Portfollos: Inter-Club Liaison, Regalia Aquisition

Secretary: Robin Godfrey
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Treasurer: Tony Craddock
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Newsletter: PeterNoeth
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Other Portfolios: Insurance Valuations

Clubhouse Refreshments: Errol Battison
Tel: 012 329 4251, Cell: 082 876 9372, E-Mail: ebat@polka.co.za

Events Co-ordinator: Johan Nel
Tel: 012 997 0067, E-Mail: jne@acctech.biz

Points register: George Dehlen
Tel: 012 991 1754, Cell: 082 492 1806, E-Mail: gdehlen@iafrica.com
Other Portfolios: Website Manager

Ex Officio
Regalia Sales: Charles Thompson
Tel: 012 654 1284

Website: www.mgcc-north.co.za

Monthly Natter 'n Noggins - every first Monday of the month (except Public Holidays) at the Clubhouse, c/o Umgazi Road and 26th Ave, Menlo Park, Pretoria

An Entry Fee of R100 is applicable to all new Members
Annual Membership Fee: R180.00 - Country Members: R90.00

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

AFFILLIATED TO
THE MG CAR CLUB
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
ENGLAND

COVER PHOTO
Abingdon Works
51 Years - 1929 to 1980

MATTERS OF MOMENT

By Peter Noeth

Cover Picture:
This month's cover page depicts the Abingdon Works Cemetery Road entrance showing M Type Midgets leaving the works to undertake the final road test to eliminate any defects, before being moved to Vehicle Despatch. MG moved 80 years ago in 1929 from its Edmund Street premises in Oxford to Abingdon, where it remained until closure in 1980. In those 51 years Abingdon saw the rise and fall of what arguably was the most famous sports car in the world.

Newsletter:
Pressure of business, preparing for the Awards Luncheon and preliminary organisation of the Combined Gauteng Centres annual Showday has pushed the Newsletter to the backburner, and time constraints mean that this issue is short and sweet with articles being kept over for the April issue.
In the last issue I reported on an article published in the Rekord regarding new number plates. This appears to have been incorrect and Steve Eden sets the record (pun intended) straight on page 9.

Events: See details of the Impending AGM and Condition Concours on page 6.
KZN Centre are celebrating their 70th Anniversary with a weekend in the Drakensberg – see deatails on page 8.

I must rush off to printers now!
Cheers

FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Ivan De Clerk

February

This is a one of our busiest months and probably the most important on our Club calendar.
Perhaps not as far as Club Runs are concerned, but this is the month when we traditionally have our Annual Awards Function, and also the month when we elect our new Committee to serve for the coming year.

The MGCC Northern Centres Annual Awards function was really something this year.
The A1 Grand Prix was on at Kyalami and attracted quite a few members to attend the racing there. And who can blame them; racing is in our MG bloodline. I would have liked to see better attendance at our Club's gala function and what is our highlight of the year. Therefore, I urge all our members to try to join us next year February for the Awards.
However, attendance was still good and judging by what our members had to say, we could not have picked a more perfect venue.
A Big thank you goes to Marcelle who organized the event for us at Eat@essence.
The cuisine was excellent and the joyful company was out of this world. We chatted, enjoying each other company and it was difficult to keep to the program schedule.
The prize giving was made something special by the always-witty Peter Noeth and supported this year by the glamorous Mrs. Pat Ewing.
What a day!
Afterwards, we still visited until late in the afternoon, traded stories, and shared jokes with our National Chairman Norman Ewing and stalwarts Jacques Debeil and Esra Martins.

Our next Natter 'n Noggin will be on the 2nd of March and all MGCC members should make an effort to attend and ensure that their nominations for the new committee are handed in, as we will be voting for a new committee to serve for 2009. Our Treasurer will also be presenting the 2008 financial report.

We have a very important Club Event coming up on the 15th of March - the Club Condition Concourse. Peter Noeth is the organizer and again I really want to urge all our members to come and enter their cars. Guys, and to our ladies, I ask nicely, please come and enter your MG's. It is not difficult. All you need to do is to ensure that your car is clean, bring it and enter one of the categories on the day, and have a fun day. If you feel your car is not quite ready for concourse, why not enter it for Tops Only?
We need your support.
Ordinary members have the same chance to win prizes as all others do. Please make an effort, and maybe you too will be as pleasantly surprised with your car as I was last year when I entered my MG TF160. I never for one moment thought that it stood a chance of winning. In fact, I was hesitant to enter it for Tops Only.
Remember it is a serious day for some, but for the rest of us it can be a heck of a Fun Day.
Come along and get those entry forms filled in, you won't be disappointed.

A friend once said to me, "Remember, wheels are round". Keep them rolling and do enjoy your MG's.
Chairman – Ivan de Clerk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

JHB

Sun 1	**Alfa Romeo Rally**	SARRA	Joe Smith - 083 309 8632	
Mon 2	**Annual General Meeting**	**NC**	**19h30 at the Clubhouse - details on page 5**	**C**
Thur 5	Natter 'n Noggin	JHB	20H00 at Old Edwardians Club c/o 11th St. and 4th Ave., Houghton - Norman Ewing - 083 654 5433	
Sun 8	Fun Run	JHB	Details on page 6	
Mon 9	**Exco Meeting**	**NC**	**19h30 at the Clubhouse**	
Sun 15	**Club Condition Con-cours**	**NC**	**Bring and Braai - details on page 6**	**C**
Sun 22	**Autobahn Rally**	**SARRA**	**Northern Centre invited to attend- Details on page 6**	

APRIL

Thur 2	Natter 'n Noggin	JHB	20H00 at Old Edwardians Club c/o 11th St. and 4th Ave., Houghton - Norman Ewing - 083 654 5433	
Sun 5	**Angela's Picnic**	**SAMCA**	**Details next momth**	**C**
Mon 6	**Natter 'n Noggin**	**NC**	**20h00 at the Clubhouse - Video Goodwood Revival**	**C**
Sat 18	Drakensberg Rally	SAARA	Ian Miller - 083 454 8268	
Mon 20	**Exco Meeting**	**NC**	**19h30 at the Clubhouse**	
25 - 27	**Gauteng Motor Show**		**Details on page ? ? ?**	

PLANNING AHEAD

May 22-24	70th Anniversry	KZN Centre	Weekend in the Drakens berg - details on page? ? ?
Sept 24-26 2009	Cape Centres Gathering	Border	Port Alfred - Derek Graham - 082 811 6895
Aug 2010	Classic British Sports Car Tour	Steve Eden	See preliminary notice in August *Newsletter*
Sep 2010	**National Indaba**	**Cape Town**	**Oudshoorn**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Member Number	Name	MG Model	Proposed By:
583	Pierre & Alta Van Zyl	1972 MGB GT	Tony Craddock

We welcome you to the MG Car Club Northern Centre and hope that you and your MG will enjoy many kilometers with us.

Notification of the Annual General Meeting

MG CAR CLUB NORTHERN CENTRE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In terms of the Constitution of the MG Car Club Northern Centre, Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the MG Car Club Northern Centre will be held on the 2nd March 2009 at 20h00 at the Clubhouse, 26 Umgazi Road, Menlo Park, Pretoria.
Also in terms of the Constitution, the Executive Committee is required to nominate three of its existing members to carry over to serve on the new Committee in 2009. They are: Ivan De Clerk, Esra Martins and Tony Craddock. George Dehlen, Errol Battison and Peter Noeth are prepared to stand for re-ellection. Robin Godfrey and Johan Nel will unfortunatelt stand for re-ellction. We really need some new blood to bring fresh ideas. Most of the current Committee members are holding down more than one portfolio - we need some additional help here, to share the load. Committee meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month at the Clubhouse and normally finish around 10pm. If you feel you can make time to make a contribution, or know of someone whose arm can be twisted, please come forward.
Below is a nomination form for Committee membership. This must be signed by both the proposer and the nominee and must be handed in to the current Committee by 20h00 at the AGM.

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER

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

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

Signature.....Date.....

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

Signature.....Date.....

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2008

Your annual Subscription Fee is now due. You should pay by the 1st of March. Please bear in mind that only fully paid up members may vote at the AGM!

EVENT DETAILS

CONDITION CONCOURS - SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

To be held at the Clubhouse, this will take the usual form of a bring-and-braai (fires will be available) or bring a picnic lunch. A cash bar will operate.
This year Jay Westaway will be assisting Peter Noeth as Assistant Chief Judge. A judges briefing will take place at 09h45 and judging will start at 10h00.
The Condition Concours is not as serious as Concours D' Etat as it uses the simple Tops Only Judging format. This means that only the exterior and interior of the cars are judged for cleanliness and condition - authenticity is not judged. The engine compartment, boot and chassis are also not judged.
The Condition Concours does, however, provide you with the incentive to thoroughly clean your MG inside and out and to touch-up and repair to bring the condition of various elements back to as-new. It also allows the Club, together with the owners, to select cars for entering in the Tops Only or Concours D' Etat categories at the Annual Combined Gauteng Centres Showday in June.
So, why not get stuck in and see how you pride and joy fares against one or two new restorations that we are hoping to see for the first time.

KITTYHAWK RUN - SUNDAY 22ND MARCH

A unofficial run to the Kittyhawk Aerodrome. Enjoy the flight of a variety of light aircraft flying models. The Autobahn Classic Rally will end there for lunch. Food and drinks are be available at very affordable prices - or bring your own picnic lunch.
Meet at the Clubhouse at 10h00 to leave at 10h15 sharp.

Johannesburg Centre Treasure/ Fun run for Sunday 8th March.

This is a non speed event that will set off from the Parking area of the Hyperama at the 14th Avenue off Ramp from the N1 at 9am. It will wind its way to Magaliesburg for the first section, there we will stop for a braai and proceed back to the finish at the trade Centre Complex. There will be a prize giving at the finish for various categories where the prizes will be sponsored by the Club. Various disciplines will have to be mastered if you want to complete the run and to be in the running for a prize. The cost for the whole day's event including lunch is R100 per person. This event is limited to 30 cars so don't delay and book your place by contacting Clive Winterstein at pet@iafrica.com or at 083795000. First come first served. Non MGs will be penalized to such an extent they will wish they hadn't come – you have been warned!

Coming Event – MGCC Johannesburg Centre's 40th Anniversary Tour

Lordy Lordy We Are Forty

The Johannesburg Centre is celebrating its 40th birthday this year.

Part of the celebration will be a historic fun tour, in any MG, of the Transvaal as it was 40 years ago – including both Johannesburg and Northern Centres which were combined at that time.

The tour will include parts of the North West, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provinces.

The full tour will be from Saturday 1st August to Monday 10th August 2009 (a Public Holiday). Persons who don't have sufficient leave may opt for a shorter tour, joining the others at Tzaneen on Friday 7th or Saturday 8th, ending together on Monday 10th.

The planning team need to gauge interest in the tour before starting the detailed planning, and would like interested persons to contact one of the names below before 13th February, indicating how many persons / type of MG / which tour (full or short) they would want to do. This is not a commitment, but purely a show of interest.

Kevin Loader 011 678 3762 kloader@worldonline.co.za
Mike Okeefe 083 449 5220 mok@asu.co.za
John Buttress jopie@iburst.co.za
Clive Winterstein 083 795 0000 pet@iafrica.com

70th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND IN THE DRAKENSBURG

22 – 24th MAY 2009

To be Held at the Nest, Central Drakensburg
This will be another of the famous KZN Center weekends away. A full program of events and activities is planned. These include:

- A treasure hunt type rally
- Bowls tournament
- A fun event involving your cars
- Other activities to be announced later

THE MAGIC WEEKEND CONTINUES !!!!
All Meals, from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch included, morning and afternoon teas/coffee
A theme evening (Still to be decided). Walks up the mountains for the fitter and more energetic.
WHAT ABOUT THE COST ???
A special price has been negotiated.. Sponsors are still being sought although unlikely.
The all inclusive price is R1,200 per person (couples) for the weekend. Single R1,300.
A R500 deposit is required per room with your booking.
Please fill in the attached entry form to secure your place on this truly memorable run !
The MG Car Club KZN Center is the oldest center worldwide outside the UK !

For further information phone Lawrence Sysum on:
Home: 031 705 1054 or Cell: 083 785 0340
E.Mail Address: lawrence@ionline.co.za

Details are available on e.mail. If you would like to receive and respond in this way send request to lawrence@ionline.co.za
Direct payment to the Club's account can be made to Standard Bank Durban North
Acc No: 050200887
Branch Code: 040026
Lets try to have entries and deposits in by end February

ENTRY FORM For 70th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND MG CAR CLUB – KZN CENTER-

Name……
Address……
E.mail Address……
Phone
Land Line……
Cell……...
Your Car…….
Deposit enclosed: R……...
Return your entry form to:
3 Gordon Pirrie Cres. New Germany, 3610
Numbers are limited so get your entry in now!!
Branch Code: 040026
Lets try to have entries and deposits in by end February

NEW NUMBER PLATES - THE FACTS

By Steve Eden

Peter, just got the latest Newsletter, nice and small this time. However, your statements on number plate requirements are not strictly correct and I attach below an extract from the RTA. As you can see the new rules on fixings only apply to new vehicles registered after Jan 1, 2009 and there is no requirement for the use of an authorized fitment centre - so all us old MG owners will not be affected and there should be no cost. There is a further change to the rules in Jan 2010 which changes the allowed sizes, again on new vehicles only. This may affect us as the current 440x120 plate which most of us have will no longer be available. If we then require a replacement we will have to take one of the new sizes. As far as I am aware there are no unique Gauteng requirements which are legally valid. I read the same article you did but I do not believe it is valid. Possibly more a marketing exercise for McCarthy who sponsored the article!

Road Traffic Act 13th Amendment May 2007

Abstract: The South African Department of Transport has reduced the number of number plate sizes allowed from Jan 2010 and specified certain methods for fixing number plates to vehicles from Jan 2009.

VEHICLES AFFECTED: ALL SUMMARY: The South African Department of Transport has passed legislation prohibiting he popular 440 mm x 120 mm number plate from January 2010 and requiring number plates to be fixed to vehicles by one 'one way' screws or rivets from January 2009.

Exact Text

'Provided that notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation, no person may operate on a public road a motor vehicle first registerd on or after 1 January 2010, unless the motor vehicle is fitted with a 520 - 113 or 250 - 205
or 250-165 size number plate'.

'Provided that no person shall operate on a public road a motor vehicle first registered on or after 1 January 2009, unless the number plate fixed to such motor vehicle is affixed within 20 millimetres from the edges by means of 4
millimetres rivets or 4 millimetre one way self (tapping?)screws'.

Note. The Department has indicated that other methods of secure attachment may be incorporated in the Regulations at a later date if these can be demonstrated as offering similar or better levels of security.

Number plate requirements for South Africa going forward are now as follows.

520 x 113 mm This must now be considered the standard plate for South Africa. Dealers will purchase this size of plate as standard practice for new vehicles for fitment at front and rear.

250 x 205 mm This plate would only be purchased by a new vehicle dealer when the 520 x 113 mm plate does not fit at the rear of the vehicle. It is not for fitment to the front of the vehicle. It would typically be fitted on the rear of vehicles which only have provision for this plate size such as SUV's with a rear door and or rear mounted spare wheel. This plate size is readily available in the market place.

250 x 165 mm This plate requires the use of smaller characters and is only allowed when the other plates with the regular size characters can not be used. In the past it was only allowed for motor cycles.

Number plate technical details are prescribed in terms of SABS 1116 standard - which is referenced by the Road Traffic Act.

MG MART

Please note that adverisements must reach the Editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Adverts may be faxed to Peter Noeth on (012) 998 0361 (office hours only) or E-Mail to noethj@telkomsa.net .Also note that the asterisks in the adverts indicate the number of insetions.Ads will be removed after 3 insertions unless renewed by the advertiser

FOR SALE

MGB Roadster 1972** - Malard Green, good all-round condition - Dirk on 012 361 2752, Cell: 084 837 3765

MG RV8* - Oxford blue with air-conditioning and RWC. Best offer over R195 000 will be considered. Rod Paxton. 083 458 0148.

MGB 1967 Roadster* - red - the engine was redone over a year ago and is in good condition. - R69 000.00 o.n.o - contact Charlie Testa on 0845054415 to view (Benoni)

1953 MG TD Mark II. * only 1710 of the MK II manufactured. Original engine & chassis. Not fully restored yet…..Instruments need replacement and needs original generator plus speedometer cable attachment.Invoices for R 30 000.00 as proof of restoration. Fully licensed, running and roadworthy. The car is licensed in Windhoek R 70 000.00 ono - Chris Opperman. Cell: 00264 811225310 (From SA) Fax 0866322242 (From SA)

50th Anniversary -2009 is the 50th anniversary of SRX210, which competed at Le Mans in 1959, 1960 & 1961.The car still exists in its latest Le Mans specification.To celebrate the event George Dutton has produced a 'scrapbook' of its Le Mans races that includes anecdotes and many photographs that haven't been seen before.
The book will also include a DVD of the car and team at the 1959 and 1960 races.The DVD is from 16mm colour footage shot by Jack Twyford and has never been seen in public before.
The book should be available around May and is expected to sell at £25, including the DVD. Russell Hudson: russell.hudson@ukgateway.net

1969 MGB GT* -** Very good condition - Owner relocating -R62,000-00 neg - Phone: Dietmar - 0826519450

MGTF 160 2002* -** Silver, Black soft top, all the trimmings, mechanically sound, great sound system, soft top zip needs attention and the elecronics need to be reset - photographs on request- R96 000 -Caera O'shaughnessy - 083 285 7168 - kisscaera@hotmail.com

MGTF 160 2003*-** dark metallic blue, black leather interior, 94000km, year and 3 month warranty left, new tyres on the rear, fronts still very good, new bushes on the front, soft top in good condition, good clean car, full service history Johannesburg car presently in PE - R105000 - Etienne Potgieter – 084 800 0604 etiennepotgieter@gmail.com

MGB Roaster (V8)** – Urgent sale: red, runs beautifully, but needs new electrics. Spoke wheels with chrome bumpers. Price R60k. Contact Marilyn tel. (082) 332 0477."

Obsolete Plastic Car Kits ** - new still in original box 1:32 scale for sale all at R65 each. Now not available in the shops.
Airfix kits- 1933 Alfa Romeo(1); 1933 MG Magnette(4);Aston Martin DB5(1); Jaguar 'E' Type(1); MGB Roadster(1)
Matchbox kits – MG-TC Sports(1) Aston Martin Ulster(1);Auto Union type D(1); Jaguar SS100(1); Mercedes-Benz SSKL(1) - Contact Derek on 012 9931072

WANTED

MGTD * - seats, and a complete TD motor please call Acton, Elgin W.P. - 0825720979

MGA * I am looking for 3 synchro gearboxes or parts and also MGA diffs. Roger 0828970771

National For Sale & Wanted List compiled by Gus Heinze of Natal Centre is available from the Editor.