

MG CAR CLUB NORTHERN CENTRE

NEWSLETTER



**MG CAR CLUB
NORTHERN CENTRE
PO BOX 35765
MENLO PARK 0102**

**NEWSLETTER No. 332
APRIL 2009**

85 YEARS OF MG MAGIC – 1924 TO 2009

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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

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

COVER PHOTO

1929 M Type Midget
80 Years

MATTERS OF MOMENT

By Peter Noeth

Cover Picture - Based on the original Morris Minor of 1928, the M Type Midget had the distinctive and sporty "boat tail" bodywork and an 847cc single overhead cam engine. It was the forerunner of a series of MG Midgets from 1929 to 1979 when the last of the Austin Healey based modern Midgets went out of production.

2008 Awards Function - This went off very well indeed. The private venue was ideal; the food was good and the company great. Thanks go to Ivan and Marcelle for organising the venue and negotiating a very affordable menu, to Pat Ewing for presenting the trophies and to those of you who attended.

Condition Concours - This forerunner event to our annual Showday saw a significant increase in the attendance over the previous two years as well as contestants, with nine cars being judged. Sadly, however, we could not muster four members other than the contestants to do the judging. Consequently appointed Assistant Chief Judge Jay Westaway and myself had to do the judging ourselves - a pretty poor show! Although we are not getting younger members to take over from us tired oldies, the fact remains that this **IS** our club and so we should balance the pleasures and benefits we get from the club by putting in a fair share of the effort that is required to run the club. On the brighter side, it was nice to see young Ian Mulder and friends presenting the Metro with the great enthusiasm that we seem to have lost! The Craddock ménage certainly put on a good show. Well done! A full report and the results can be found on pages 6 and 7 respectively.

Future Events

Angela's Picnic - 5th of April - This is our official run for April and, for those who don't know, this major annual event is organised by the South African Marque Club Association (SAMCA). This is the governing body of all the

one make clubs, of which the MG Car Club is a foundation member. The event is a charitable event and donations are requested in lieu of a fixed entry fee.

All the Marque Clubs gather together to relax and enjoy each other's classic cars over a laid back picnic lunch.

Let's give this our full support and see if we can help to get 85 MGs there in celebration of 85 Years of MG MaGic!

Natter 'n Noggin - 6th of April - This promises to be an interesting evening. For those of you who missed Esra's recent and excellent Goodwood Revival show, make sure you don't miss it this time. Trophy winners should also come to collect their trophies - see page 5.

Showday 2009 - Your Exco has been busy over the last couple of months looking for a venue for the event that Northern Centre is organising this year, and have chosen Smuts' House Museum in Irene. With only 2 ½ months left, a great deal of preparation needs to be done. Also, on the day, parking allocation for various models must be marked out, marshals required to direct the cars, 16 judges for the Concours events needed and people required for various other tasks. Joh'burg Centre will be asked to help, but the majority of help must come from Northern Centre. As I mentioned earlier it is time to give something back and we will be relying heavily on our members. Please do not let us down.

FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Ivan De Clerk

Putting it back where it belongs.

Well at last! Finis Coronat Opus or 'The end crowns the work.' My MG TD nears completion and its time again to just enjoy driving her. All of a sudden all the new parts in boxes and refurbished bits in their plastic bags have been used up. Everything that was neatly packed is now attached to the car. Hopefully, in their correct places.

The last of the major components to be installed were the carburetors and the exhaust pipe. The tricky thing is that the car has to be running before final settings and the torqueing can be done. Setting the gaps, doing the static timing, rough tuning the carburetors to see if the engine will at least idle. All this had to happen before the car could be driven to the local exhaust franchise to have the brackets fitted in the right places.

I got the engine to start properly, but there was a persistent miss during idle and at speed. After struggling for a week to get the car to stop misfiring, I decided to call in the experts. It was one of those, "If all else fails, read the manual". By then Marcelle had also chirped a couple of times, "Call Peter!"

Peter Noeth arrived early one morning and after coffee we started to go through every little setting, seal and adjustment. It's great to watch an expert at work. I can honestly say that if you haven't done these settings working alongside someone like Peter, who really knows these SU's backwards, then you'll soon find out that SU's are like Chinese puzzles.

After an hour or two, we tried the car and the TD's engine started first time. But, then it just died. Morsdood! Gevrek! The starter motor cranked merrily, but the engine would not start. After going through every adjustment again and again, I decided to start from the other side of the engine. On the TD that's the dizzy, plugs, HT cables and timing side.

To cut a long story short, in the end I found the



distributor cap to be the culprit. Why it picked that particular moment to pack up, I cannot tell you. I chucked it. Put new HT cables on. Checked all the gaps and the timing again, with a professional timing light, and she purred away.

Nothing ever seems to go easy with an MG. There's always be a little hiccough. A little skinning of the knuckles undoing a bolt that got frozen, a gasket that leaks just because its a little too large, a cable that does not want to go through a hole, or a brand new part that needs a little trimming before it will fit. Thankfully, in the end, it all goes together. The reason why I was rushing a bit to get the car ready, or at least get her rolling, was so that I could make it to the Club's Condition Concours day on Sunday the 15th. Early Sunday morning I packed everything neatly for the trip and decided not to push my luck, but to take some tools along on the long drive from Moreleta Park to Menlyn. I needn't have worried. All went smoothly - there and back. Nothing dropped off... Very little now remains to be done, but time is flying and the Combined Show day is coming up soon. So is winter! I am starting to think that it might be a good idea to get the hood recovered and fitted to the car to keep the cold out. Well, I'm off to go and get that left-hand front wheel rim refurbished ...

See you at our next Natter'nNoggin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 on page 5	C
Mon 6	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	20h00 at the Clubhouse - Video Goodwood Revival	C
Tue 14	Exco Meeting	NC	19h30 at the Clubhouse - Note!! Tuesday - not Monday	
Sat 18	Drakensberg Rally	SARRA	Ian Miller - 083 454 8268	
25 - 27	Gauteng Motor Show		Kyalami - www.gautengmotorshow.co.za	

MAY

Mon 4	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	20h00 at the Clubhouse -TD Midget - 60 Years display	C
Thur 7	Natter 'n Noggin	JHB	20H00 at Old Edwardians Club c/o 11th St. and 4th Ave., Houghton - Norman Ewing - 083 654 5433	
Sat 9	Historic racing		Zwartkops	
Sun 10	Fun Run	JHB	40 th Anniversary Fun Run - Vaal Old Wheels Club - details page 7	
Sun 10	Lotus Rally	SARRA	Steve Crook - 082 653 1572	
Mon 11	Exco Meeting	NC	19h30 at the Clubhouse	
Sun 17	Club Run	NC	Technical Tea run - details next month	
22-24	70th Anniversry	KZN	Weekend in the Drakensberg - details in March Newslette	

PLANNING AHEAD

14 june	Gauteng Centres Showday	NC	See <i>preliminart details on page 5</i>
August 2009	4 th Anniversary	Johannesberg	Prelim notice in March Newsletter
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:
584	Ian Mulder	Not Yet	Annette Mulder

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

EVENT DETAILS

Angela's Picnic - Sunday 5 April 2009.

Meet at the Cubhouse at 09h00 to leave at 09h15 sharp. Bring your picnic lunch, drinks and chairs.

Venue: Delta Park, Linden Johannesburg.

Entry fee: A donation however big or small. Have your donation ready when you arrive at the entrance to avoid build up of long queues.

Special requirements:

1. **All clubs to provide at least 1 x 7,5kg fire extinguisher on their picnic site.**
2. **Patience. We need to exercise patience on arrival. We will get you in as quickly as possible.**
3. **No braai fires under any circumstances.**
4. **Enjoy yourself and have fun.**

Natter 'n Noggin - Monday 6th April At the Clubhouse at 20h00

Some members have been disappointed that winners of Club Trophy have not been able to take the trophies home after the Awards Function. After some heavy debate the Exco has decided to allow the winners to keep their trophies for a period of six months from the Awards Function. So, the 2008 winners can collect their trophies, together with the appropriate Certificates at the Natter 'n Noggin.

This will be followed by Esra Martin's video of last year's Goodwood Racing Revival. This is one not to be missed - Be there!!

Combined Guateng Centres Annual Showday 2009

This year it is Northern Centre's turn to host and organise our Annual Showday with the Joh'burg Centre. This will take place at the Smuts House Museum in Irene on the 14th June. Due to the extra logistics required it has been decided not to hold the Concours D'Etat two weeks before the main event at Magnette Motors in Benoni. So we return to the old format of running the Concours D'Etat and Tops Only concurrently on the same day. The venue is ideal, with plenty of shade in the display area and excellent facilities that include a bar, restaurant, and tea garden. As an added attraction there is the Smuts House Museum that can be visited.

We celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the TD Midget this year, so a special display area will be set aside for as many (60?) TD's as we can get. Final details will be published when they become available.

Condition Concours Day

Our Club's Condition Concours day held on the 15th of March was again a wonderful event. Organized and ordered by our Chief Judge Peter Noeth, and assisted by Jay Westaway. Most of the members who attended decided to enter their cars. This is great and good news, but then there was no one left to help Peter and Jay do the judging. They were under a lot of pressure to go through all the cars in such a short time, but still managed to do a first class job. Jay deserves a Big Thank You for taking the responsibility and stepping forward to help with the judging. We hope to see a lot more from him. While they were busy, the rest of us could relax with "refreshments" under the veranda enjoying each other's company and soon we started the braaifires.



After lunch the announcements were made and a very proud Tony Craddock (who as always attended with his family) won First Prize in his freshly spruced up MG TC. It wasn't surprising that the ship-shape and spotless black Metro of Ian Mulder (and friends) came in second. Ian's team was polishing away and their enthusiasm was much applauded.



I've a feeling that the younger members are still going to show us a thing or two and the rare Metro looked fantastic.

More hard work still lies ahead if I want to have my MG TD ready for our Combined Show day on the 14th of June.

We really hope to see many more entrants now that it has been decided to change the format of the Concourse Judging by not putting the cars on the hydraulic lifts and no longer making use of floodlights to inspect the cars underneath. The

judging will still be top standard though, and I can assure everyone that there is nothing wrong with the quality of the judging and the integrity of our Judges.

We are trying to make things easier and to attract more entrants. Please, we need you to enter your cars. It's a serious event; so do not be put off by a little criticism. Take it in good spirit, come, and enjoy what can be a fun day.

Some announcement will be made shortly regarding the handing out of trophies and awards, which we hope will further encourage our Club members to make an effort to enter their MG's for competitions.



Here's Dave and Val Waterworth with the absolutely beautiful MGA.

Condition Concours - Results

Position	Name	Car	Score	Percentage
1	Tony	TC Midget	288	96
2	Ian Mulder	Metro	282	94
3	Charles Thompson	MGB GT - Chrome	281	93
4	Annette Mulder	Midget	279	93
5	John Geekie	MGB Roadster - Chrome	278	92
6	Dave Waterworth	MGA Coupe	275	91
7	Ivan De Clerk	TD Midget	254	84
8	Eugene Dartnell	MGB Roadster - Chrome	250	83
9	Peter Knight	TD Midget	213	71

Chief Judges Comments

A very good turn-out with 9 cars being judged. The results show a number of surprises. With the top six entries achieving above 90% the standard is extremely high, and none of them are recent restorations. The two TD Midgets lost valuable points because their soft tops and side screens were not fitted, and Peter Knight's TD and Eugene Dartnell's MGB were not prepared for judging.

For those who may want to enter their cars for our Showday in June, they could be eligible for Concours D'Etat, bearing in mind that the underside, engine compartment and boot (when applicable) need to be prepared to the same high standard as that achieved here. Also authenticity counts for 45% of the total score, so you don't want too many variations from the cars original specification. Tops Only is a lot easier as it uses the same score sheets as were used here. Ask for advice if you want to know more.

The only disappointing thing on the day was that there were no members available to help with the judging - really poor show! My thanks go to Assistant Chief Judge, Jay Westaway, Annette Mulder for doing the scoring and Tony Craddock for auditing the results.

Peter Noeth

Johannesburg Centre May Run invite

To Peter, George, and All members of the Northern Centre'

As you know we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary Year with on going events during this year. I have been asked to organise the May Run, and have gladly accepted the challenge.

The Old Vaal Wheels Club have invited us to attend their Monthly Meeting at Vanderbjylpark, which will be on Sunday the 10th May - So I have arranged with Abe Brink who is a member of our club and is also on the committee of the OVWC, that we will attend, and make a Special Day of it. They say they have large grounds and usually have a hundred cars out on the day, and that we should bring a large contingent of MGs down for the day.

They are anxious to organise a Fun Day, with a Driving Test or two, as well as other items of entertainment during the day. They can cope with as many cars as we can 'muster up' for the occasion. We are aiming to get at least Forty Cars out, (one for each year).

I am inviting The Northern Centre Members to please join us on this run on the 10th of May and we may just Get two cars for each year. !!! Hope to see you there.

Please advise me of the response from your members

Abe has said that we need not bring lunches with us as they have Lunch Packs with meat and salad for sale at R40 to R50 each, BUT please bring CUTLERY and CHAIRS. And your drinks!! Hoping to make this a "GREAT MG FUN DAY"

Regards, Tom Kirkland - 082 4456 770 or 011 391-3459 E-mail kirk1@lantic.net

MG CAR CLUB NORTHERN CENTRE TROPHY AWARDS 2008 YEAR

Annual Awards		Recipient	Places for information only
Victor Ludorum Trophy	Most successful member in 2008 competitive events designated by the MGCC Northern Centre Exco (Condition Concours, Showday, Icicle, Indaba, MG Challenge)	George Dehlen	1 st – George Dehlen 2 nd – Tony Craddock 3 rd – Esra Martins
Victrix Ludorum Trophy		Annette Mulder	1 st – Annette Mulder 2 nd – Shannon Texeira 3 rd – Jane Bagley
Clubman Trophy	Attendance of events during 2008 in an MG, organising events, introducing new members – <i>trophy donated by Val & Peter Noeth</i>	Ivan de Clerk	1 st – Ivan de Clerk 2 nd – Peter Noeth 3 rd – Tony Craddock
Magnette Trophy	Contribution of Newsletter content during 2008 (excluding the Editor) – <i>trophy donated by Bernard Donnelly</i>	George Dehlen	1 st – George Dehlen 2 nd – Ivan De Clerk 3 rd – Robin/Errol
Best Restoration Trophy	Best restoration completed during 2008 – <i>trophy donated by Clive Mulder</i>	Jay Westaway	
Circuit Racing / Track Events	Competing, assisting or attending track motorsport events during 2008	Heyns Stead	1 st – Heyns Stead
Regularity Rally Events	Participating in regularity rallies as per MSA or CRRASA calendars during 2008	Esra Martins	1 st – Esra Martins 2 nd – Bernadette and Gavin Noeth
BGT	An unintended, embarrassing event during 2008 – <i>trophy donated by Fred Geater</i>	Annette Mulder	Wrong turn – driving tests Indaba PE
Individual Event Awards			
Club Condition Concours	Overall winner, Club Condition Concours 2008 – <i>trophy donated by Karl Lucouw</i>	Ivan de Clerk	1 st – Ivan de Clerk MGT 2 nd – Jay Westaway MGB 3 rd – Johan Kruger MGA
Special Awards			
Mike Ashman Trophy	Enthusiasm, dedication to the Club, Chairman's choice – <i>trophy donated by Norman and Pat Ewing</i>	Johan Nel	Banners – events co-ordination

MG MART

Please note that advertisements 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 insertions. 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 81 1225310 (From SA) Fax 0866322242 (From SA)

50th Anniversary -2009** It 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

MGB PARTS*- Complete Heater box cleaned up and painted - R 600,00, complete roadster wind-screen frame - what offers, plate to close heater hole cleaned and painted - R200.00, 1x 165x14 tyre - brand new - offers required, 1x Pair pull

handles for Early MGB Roadster - offers required - Robin Godfrey - 012 430 5004, Cell: 082 678 0171, e-mail: rgodfrey@telkomsa.net

IMGB 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.