

MG Car Club Northern Centre Newsletter

March 2015 — Issue 400



Ezra Martins (MG TC) and Tanya and Bob Bayis (MG TD) leaving the drinks stop at Auto Cradle during the club run on 22 February

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

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Notices

Club Banking Details

Account Name "MG Car Club-Northern Centre"
FNB Bank Account Number 62363284359
Branch Code 250655 Menlyn Square

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

Annual Subscriptions

Please be advised that annual subscriptions are due. Please note that the subscription rate has increased to R250 from 1st January 2015. (If paid by cheque or cash into the club account an extra R25 is required to cover bank charges). Joining fees have increased to R125.

New Members

Welcome to Leon Brits who joined during February 2015, and Andrew Lanham who has re-joined the Club.

2015-2016 Committee Members

Stephen Grover Chairman & Newsletter	082 818 0540	Stephendgrover@gmail.com
Steve Eden Treasurer & Vice-chair	082 372 8740	stevejreden@gmail.com
George Dehlen Secretary, Webpage, Attendance & Points Registers	082 492 1806 012 991 1754	gdehlen@iafrica.com
Jay Westaway Clubhouse Refreshments & Trophies	079 528 1954	jayw@vodamail.co.za
Dave Westaway Motorsport Liaison and Competition	061 987 5406	Fleetprotection services@gmail.com
Gary Chapman Indaba Regalia	082 653 1888	ghachapman@gmail.com
Pepi Gaspari Indaba Chairman	082 410 1569	marpepi@iafrica.com
Claus Pille Records Management / Club Social	084 521 0419	pillecd@gmail.com
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FROM THE WORKBENCH

Firstly, before getting into any of the details of the goings-on over the course of the last month, I must convey my thanks for the confidence expressed in me by the Club's Exco in providing me with the opportunity to chair the committee. The year ahead should be interesting, and I am looking forward to what lies in wait for our club.

A hearty welcome to Gary Chapman to the Exco, as well as the other committee members who have kindly agreed to offer up another year of their time for the benefit of the club. We have a very enthusiastic committee going into the upcoming year – if there is anything that you feel the club should be doing more of, or less of, please don't hesitate to get hold of any member of the Exco.

Unfortunately, after a successful AGM the clubhouse was burgled. There is a report detailing containing the nitty-gritty detail on page 9 of the newsletter, but needless to say it was a very disappointing incident. Fortunately, all that was stolen was replaceable, but we are going to have to consider increasing the level of security implemented at the club to prevent further losses – with a particular focus on securing club members when we meet. As an Exco we are considering options going forward, but we would obviously be open to suggestions.



We had some great events during February. We decided to combine the annual prize giving with the monthly pub-evening, which broke from the tradition of hosting a formal luncheon for the event. Pepi Gaspari arranged dinner for the evening, which consisted of bread and either a savory mince or Thai-chicken curry, all kindly provided by Lynn Stopforth from VovoTelo on Grayston in Sandton. The meal was supplemented by snacks kindly provided by Alan and Denise (although we suspect primarily Denise).

The prizes are summarised on page 5 and congratulations to all who won. I accepted my BGT (Bally Great Twat) award in the hope that the year ahead provides me with better luck! Fortunately, I was on the only member to receive an award in the spirit of gest. Alan Uzzell presented Trevor Beddy with a special award, in the form of one of a fuel-level dip-stick (which were his brain-child and creation) after his performance on the January run, during which he unceremoniously ran out of fuel...

The run this month was to Brauhaus om Dam, kindly arranged by Claus & Julie, and was well attended and enjoyed by all. Bronwyn and I elected to join the run at the N14 Petroport, and were thrilled when we caught up with Ezra Martins in the TC on the way – what a thrill it was to see the TC on the road, and we were glad to see that we had also had Tanya and Bob Baylis' TD on the run as well. Having the older cars on the run makes them all the more special. It was a great run, and a brief report on the event, with pictures is included elsewhere in the newsletter.



The month ahead holds the Natter 'n Noggin (2 March), pub evening (13 March), and the club's annual Condition Concours (22 March). We will be discussing the upcoming Indaba, and why this is not a gathering to be missed at the Natter 'n Noggin, and will have Pepi's P-type on display at the pub-evening. We have also been invited to join the Johannesburg Centre for their Natter 'n Noggin on 5 March where they are going to have a presentation from one of the South African teams who successfully completed the Dakar Rally – a gruelling event, and it should be an interesting presentation!

All events are advertised elsewhere in the newsletter, and they all promise to be enjoyable events.

Looking forward to seeing you on the road, and at the club's events.

Octagonally,

Steve Grover

CLUB PRIZE-GIVING

Congratulations to all who were presented with prizes at our annual prize-giving hosed on 13 February at the club.

The list of awards is presented below:

Victrix Ludorum:	Hazel Eden
Victor Ludorum:	Jay Westaway
Clubman Trophy:	Gary Chapman
Magnette Trophy:	George Dehlen
Best Restoration:	Trevor Beddy
Circuit Racing Trophy:	Heynes Stead
Regularity Rallying Trophy:	Steve & Hazel Eden
Condition Concour Trophy:	Trevor Beddy
Driving Tests Trophy:	Dave Westaway
Mike Ashman Trophy:	Claus Pille & Pepi Gaspari
BGT Trophy:	Stephen Grover





The Magaliesberg run

Claus Pille

Oil level checked. Water checked. Tyre pressure checked. And finally fuel checked. All is right so A for away and I'm ready for the Magaliesberg run.



Got to the club house a little early and waited and waited and waited. Where is everyone?? Are they playing a prank on me? Then George arrived and I knew he wouldn't join us for the run. Now I'm panicking !!!!! Where is everybody ???

And then Pepi arrived and I didn't feel too bad. At 09:30 three MG's left the club-house. Pepi in front, Dirk in the middle and me at the back. Ahh well Julie was waiting for us at the Total garage and that would make 4 cars. I was a little disappointed but what the heck ... we will have great fun.

I was pleasantly surprised when we arrived at the Total garage. There was a hive of activity and somewhere in between all the commotion there were a lot of MG's. It was great to see that Bob brought his TD as promised. And then Ezra arrived with his TC. What a sight to see.

We left the Total garage with Ezra behind the leading car and behind him Bob. The rest of the MG's followed the two T types as if they were showing respect to the very old MG's.

Our route took us via Lanseria and the lion park, past a white tiger and via some lush tree lanes, to our first stop. We stopped at the Auto Cradle pit stop for a little cold refreshments as the temperature had climbed already to pleasantly warm.

Then it was off to our lunch stop via Magaliesberg and then all along the Magaliesberg towards Rustenburg. Some were wondering where we would stop as signage along the road pointing to Pilansberg Nature reserve were worrying to some.

Just before the Brauhaus I noticed a big gap in the middle of the convoy. Where was everybody?? Well, as it turned out Jeff's car developed a mega big rattle and he pulled over immediately. The rest of the convey did likewise. All the men went over to Jeff's car and like ants were looking for the problem. Nope nothing could be observed except for the driver's door that wasn't shut properly. Once that was done this mega rattle disappeared. And they were off again and joined us at the entrance to the Brauhaus a little later.

The 11 MG's were given VIP status and we were all parked right in front of the restaurant. The T types off course being the show stoppers.

The food was exceptional and the beers were nice and cold. All in all a great run.

I just like to say a special thanks to Ezra and Bob for coming along with their T Type MG's.

Hope to see even more of you at our next event.



FINDING MY HEAD...

Steve Grover

In last month's newsletter I reported the Bronwyn and my MGA (although I suspect, like a poorly behaved child, under these circumstances it is MY MGA *sung to the tune of YMCA – apologies to the village people and Norman Ewing...*) had unfortunately blown a cylinder head gasket before we had the opportunity to show the car at the club for the January pub evening. I feel that I must follow-up that report with my findings regarding the source of the failure...

Our 'A is fitted with a 1622cc B-series engines, the last of the MGA type engines, with a bore of 76.20 mm. However, the engine has been fitted with a MGB cylinder head. The 1798cc MGB engine has a bore of 80.26 mm – and the combustion chamber in the cylinder head is sized accordingly.

The installation of an MGB cylinder head on an earlier B-series engine is not a bad thing, but it is important that the later cylinder head gasket is used. This had not been done on our MGA, and a standard MGA head gasket had been used. This meant that the gasket was sitting inboard of the combustion chamber – the poor thing didn't stand a chance!

The installation of an MGB cylinder head gasket should permanently solve the problem – now all that remains is to put it all back together!

Points Standings

Following the awards presentation on 13 February, we have decided that the points standings should be published in the newsletter on a monthly basis. These will be the most up-to-date points, as awarded at the time of publishing, but there may be points which have been "earned" but do not yet reflect as points awarded for organisation of events and contribution to the club are only awarded at the monthly exco meetings.

Here are the top standings for as at 23 February:

Name	Surname	Total Points
Pepi	Gaspari	110
Claus	Pille	110
Bronwyn	Grover	100
Stephen	Grover	100
Gary	Chapman	90
Dirk	Putter	90
Steve	Eden	70
Jay	Westaway	70
Trevor	Beddy	60
Heather	Chapman	60
George	Dehlen	60
Hazell	Eden	60
Sharleen	Putter	60
Julie	Angerson	50
Denise	Harvey	40
Alan	Uzzell	40
Dave	Westaway	40

Birthdays

We would like to take the opportunity to wish the following members a very happy birthday.

May your day be filled with joy, happiness and be free of oil leaks.

We hope that the year ahead brings you many happy MG miles!

Jay Westaway 1st March
Chevaun Beddy 3rd March
Gordon Ellis 12th March
Ivan de Clerk 17th March
Stephen Grover 31st march

Note: Our records regarding birthday's are a bit sketchy in places. If your birthday occurs in March and your name is not listed here please contact the editor, or Claus Pille, to allow us to update the records. Thank-you.



Ezra Martins leaving the Total Petroport on 22 February

MG Car-Club Northern Centre
Update



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More

Our Facebook page is really gathering momentum, and it is proving a very useful tool to communicate events, reports, and trivia of interest to members. This month we have had posts regarding the awards evening which took place on the same evening as the pub night, several photo-reports of the February run - all loaded during the course of the run, as well as several items of general interest. Pepi Gaspari has posted several videos of his P-type back on the road after a period of slumber. The updates and information will continue to flow, so please do join us on our social media platform.

Our Facebook page can be found at the following url: <https://www.facebook.com/MGCarClubNorthernCentre> You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the page, although you will need to be a member to post to the page. If you are a member of Facebook, please *Like* our page. This will cause the posts made to the page to show up on your newsfeed. If you think that our posts are interesting please *Share* the post - this will put the post onto your Friends newsfeeds and that is how we really generate interest in the page. In short please ***Like the Page*** and ***Share the Posts***.



MG Car Club - Northern Centre added 6 new photos.

February 22 at 12:54pm

Lunch stop at the Dam !!! Beer beer need beer !!! The temperature out today as so well put by one of our lady membersFlaging hot !!!!!



THIS WEEK

3

Page Likes

461

Post Reach



177 people reached

Boost Post

Club House Break-in

Evening of 2 February 2015

On the evening of 2 February 2015, between the last member leaving the club after the Noggin and the gardener arriving in the morning the club was broken into.

Entry was gained through the window on the right hand side of the front door and the burglar bars were broken off at the welds. The power to the premises was turned off at the municipal incomer and the Alarm control panel broken.

Once inside the clubhouse the intruders gained entry into the inside store-room by bending the door open, and rummaged through the store-room looking for items of value.

The following was stolen:

- All unopened hardtack liquor (open bottles were left behind)
- All beverages, with the exception of diet drinks and mixers
- All regalia, with exception of T-type related hardware
- AV projector
- Hi-Fi System
- Wall-mounted safe used to store keys

The Exco are investigating possible means of further securing the club, and are open to input from members regarding opinions on the best way forward.

Trading Post

FOR SALE

None

WANTED

None

GIVE AWAY

MGB hardtop complete with all glass and fittings.

Needs slight attention and repaint.
It is genuinely NO CHARGE. I have decided that as I have never used it in 28 years of ownership it must go where it will be used.

Phone Robin Dunstan on 041 585 2614 bus hrs or 078 266 7752.

New owner to collect as I have no means of moving it anywhere.

Should you wish to advertise items for sale, wanted or to swop please e-mail the editor at Stephendgrover@gmail.com, or call on 082 818 0540

Upcoming Events

Natter 'n Noggin Indaba Presentation

Monday 2 March 2015

We will be discussing the upcoming Indaba at the March Natter 'n Noggin. Please join us to find out why this is going to be the event of a lifetime!

Date: **Monday 2 March 2015**
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road
Menlo Park**

Johannesburg MG Car Club Noggin Dakar Rally Presentation

Thursday 5 March 2015

We have been invited to join the MG Car Club Johannesburg Centre's noggin on 5 March 2015. They will be hosting one of the teams who successfully completed the Dakar Rally earlier this year, and it promises to be an interesting evening. This is also a great opportunity for inter-centre comradery, so please make the trek across the Jukskei and join us in Johannesburg

Date: **Thursday 5 March 2015**
Time: **19h30 onwards**
Where: **Old Edwardians Club
11 9th Avenue, Lower Houghton, Johannesburg**
Please call Stephen Grover (082 818 0540) if you require directions or details of the location of the meeting room

Pub Evening & P-type Display

Friday 13 March 2015

The March pub-evening will be of the same format which has now become a standard. There will be a light meal available for a nominal cost - R25 to R30 - and the bar will be open from 17:30 until late.

We will be featuring Pepi Gaspari's P-type at this month's pub evening. This is an example of the last of the 4 cylinder OHC Midgets, before the pushrod T-type was introduced. Please join us to have a look at this interesting car.

Date: **Friday 13 March 2015**
Time: **17h30 onwards**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse
Corner 26 Avenue and Umgazi Road
Menlo Park**

Upcoming Events

Condition Concours

Sunday 22 March 2015

As you would have seen advertised in the club magazine our Northern Centre Condition Concours is to be held on the 22 March 2015 at the club house. We would encourage all members to participate in some way , by either entering their M.G. or to help with the judging.

The concours is a TOPS ONLY format so your car does not have to be in d'Etat condition, only clean. (This also gives enthusiasts who would like to improve their vehicles a chance to have them "evaluated")

We are also desperately looking for judges. You do not have to be an experienced judge, just have a keen eye. If you have not judged before we will put you with an experienced judge. You would be surprised how much you can learn about the cars from judging. Being a tops only event there is no crawling around under the vehicle.

If there are any willing judges, experienced or just keen, please phone Jay on 079 528-1954, your input would be greatly appreciated. (Hazel might even supply you with some snacks, believe me they are extremely good.) Thanks Hazel.

Date: **Sunday 22 March 2015**
Time: **Gates open at 08h30**
Cars to be in position at 09h30
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse**
Corner 26 Avenue and Umgazi Road
Menlo Park



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You are invited to join us for the 2016 Indaba.

The event will be held over 3 days, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 2nd, 3rd and 4th September 2016.
Registration forms are available on the Club Website

Concours, and other competitive events will take place, we will provide you with the opportunity to visit some places of interest in and around Pretoria.

Web-site; www.mgcc-north.co.za/Indaba2016

E-mail: indaba2016@gmail.com
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