

# MG Car Club Northern Centre Newsletter

April 2015 — Issue 401



Members come to grips with the details of PA810 at the Pub Evening on Friday 13 March 2015

## **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)

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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 Roger Stockbridge (MGBGT) Herman van der Laan (MG Midget), who joined last month.

## 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

An interesting month has passed for the club, and I must start out by congratulating all who entered the Condition Concours. An enormous amount of preparation, and courage, goes into showing a car at a concour and I admire those that do it. Claus Pille has written a great article for the newsletter about entering as a "first-timer" and I hope that it inspires some of us that have never entered a car to try. Obviously the greatest accolades go to those that place in the event, and a massive congratulations to Julian, Gary, and Trevor for taking honours.

This month's pub evening is reported on elsewhere in the newsletter, but it was a great success and those that attended had a great time. A big thank-you to Steve and Hazell Eden for sharing their birthday celebrations with us, and to Pepi for allowing everybody the opportunity to enjoy his MaGnificent P-type.

On a personal note I was incredibly fortunate to join Pepi at the MMM Gathering in Franschoek late in March. We had an incredible time there and met some wonderful new friends and became better acquainted with old ones. I will put together a feature for next months newsletter, but suffice to say that it was a very well organised and enjoyable events, with exceptional examples of MG engineering on display and being used to good effect. The P-type was a joy to use on the Cape roads - a dramatic contrast to our trip two years ago - she performed faultlessly! The performance of the car during the event really is a tribute to the enthusiasm of our Centre because all of the work done on the car was done by MG friends and members of the centre - to an very high standard. A highlight for me was a drive through the streets of Franschoek with member Heynes Stead in Barry Foster's full-race C-type! You cannot believe that something over 80 years old, and build so early in the life of MG can go so fast and feel so solid. Please join us for a presentation on the event at the April Noggin where we will talk (briefly) about the event and the cars which were present.



Bronwyn and I went away for the weekend following the MMM event to Dullstroom in the MGBGT and that too performed well and managed the 500m climb between our accommodation, close to Lydenburg, and Dullstroom with ease, both during the night (slowly in rain and heavy mist) as well as during the day (at speed in 3<sup>rd</sup> O/D and 4<sup>th</sup> Direct for the majority of the climb). The "GT is running really nicely and has given me almost 10'000km of driving pleasure this year, and I am beginning to think that it's time she was rewarded with some work so watch this space for details of that.

Unfortunately the club suffered another break-in, although this time not entirely successful, during March. This has forced the decision to equip the clubhouse with a state-of-the-art alarm and armed response. We cannot remain a "sitting-duck" for these miscreants to visit time and time again. We are also investigating a new fence for the property to enhance our personal security when at the club. All of these things are an *unnecessary* drain on our finances, but we must remain safe and protect our club. We are considering fund raising initiatives and, when the time comes, will appreciate your support on this front.

Also unfortunate has been the manner in which our electricity has been disconnected twice over the last month due to the council mistaking our electrical box for somebody else's - despite our account number being written on the box. One of these outages coincided with the Condition Concours and I must commend everybody that got involved to make the event a success despite the lack of power. The outages follow the installation of a *Smart Meter* in on the distribution line, and we hope that we have now seen through the teething problems relating to this system. In future at least our alarm system will notify us should the power be removed from the property - it seems ironic that we are going to rely on our armed response to inform us of the City's incompetence!

The month ahead has a great many events. "Official" Club events include the Noggin (12 April) I mentioned above, the pub evening (17 April) and a run to Hartebeespoort being arranged by Trevor Beddy (19 April), and unofficial events include Angela's Picnic and the POMC British Car day. The club typically has a strong turn-out at the POMC event, and we hope to see many members there to support one of our sister clubs. Trevor's event should be wonderful, and we are looking forward to sampling the cableway and great food - please see the detailed description of the event elsewhere in the newsletter.

As a committee we received a thought-provoking letter from member Ivan de Clerk who many of you know well. Ivan challenged the committee to detail to members how we are promoting the club and serving the Aims and Objectives of the Club. We have put together a response to this, I hope that members will take the time to read this and perhaps provide the committee with input as to how we could better serve the club. We are open to suggestions and would value

# FROM THE WORKBENCH

(continued)

your input as to how we could do things better. This is YOUR club. Please help us do things better.

I am looking forward to seeing many members at events over the course of the coming month - "official" or "unofficial".

Finally, with all of the "troubles" we have been having at the clubhouse with intruders doing damage to the club we have found Trevor Beddy's Handyman a great help, and as a club have no hesitation in endorsing him for use by members. This name is Tony Vlok, also known as *The odd job man* and his contact number is 083 447 0384. He has been a great help to the club, and we would like to encourage members to use his services.

Octagonally,

Steve Grover

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## Breaking News Exciting Upcoming Event

Combined Centres Weekend Away  
The Nest - Drakensburg  
8-10 August 2015

Following on from a very successful event in 2013 another combined centres event will be taking place at The Nest over the long weekend in August 2015.

The event is a relaxed event with no fixed programme, and hosts the coming together of the KwaZulu Natal, Johannesburg and Northern Centres. The resort offers Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, and Dinner included [within the price of accommodation. Time is available to enjoy the local sights and attractions, to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

Bookings are to be made directly with the hotel ([www.thenest.co.za](http://www.thenest.co.za)), and enquires may be sent through our club's representative, Gary Chapman, on [ghachapman@gmail.com](mailto:ghachapman@gmail.com) or 082 653 1888.

The cost for the weekend is R800pppn inclusive of all meals, with the exception of drinks bought at the bar.

# March Pub-Evening 2015

The March Pub-Evening hosted Steve Eden's 65th birthday celebration as well as the "unveiling" of Pepi Gaspari's 1934 MG P-type ahead of the MMM event which also took place this month. Steve and Hazell were very kind in sponsoring the drinks for a substantial portion of the evening.

It was very interesting to have the P-type on display under lights. The car was unveiled from under a blue cover by the club members who assisted in the recommissioning of the car for the event, and Pepi was kind enough to regale us with some stories about the car and why it is so special. The manner in which the MMM cars were engineered is quite exceptional, and it was nice to be able to examine the details in close quarters. We were joined by a few Guests, one of whom was Robin Clarke who has a tremendous amount of experience driving MMM cars - he was kind enough to provide me with a lesson on the crash-box technique which, following a break of almost two-years, had become a bit rusty.

Prego rolls were served, and followed-up by ice-cream for desert. I must encourage any club member that has not yet joined us for a Pub Evening at the clubhouse on a Friday to join us. They are wonderfully inclusive and social event - a great way to catch up with old friends, make new friends, and relish the wonderful fellowship that is the MG Car Club Northern Centre.

Thank-you to all who assisted with the evening!

Steve Grover



# Condition Concour 2015

George Dehlen

Northern Centre's Club Condition Concours took place on Sunday 22nd March 2015. It is one of the events which count towards the Club's annual Victor and Victrix Laudorum Trophies.

A good turnout of members in 22 MGs watched the judges assessing eleven MGs for "Tops Only" condition and cleanliness. It was a day of socializing ending in a braai. The highest points (out of 300) for the cars which were entered for judging went to:

Julian Pringle, MGBGT V8, 282

Gary Chapman, MGTF, 274

Trevor Beddy, MGB, 262

Seen in the photo are winner Julian Pringle who had driven from Mafikeng for the event, and co-organisers Jay and Dave Westaway.

Claus Pille came to the rescue with portable generators after the club's electricity had once again been cut off by the removal of the main circuit breaker – either by theft or by an over-zealous local authority mistakenly identifying our property as a non-payer.



# HELP

**what is happening to me ????**

Claus Pille

In September 2013 I purchased my MG. She was rather neglected, and so started a period of three months to get my big dream a little cleaner and more sparkling.

We then started a new adventure when we took our now sparkling clean MG for a short trip to the shopping centre. We made it and didn't break down. Next we went a little further and we didn't break down. Then we ventured to the Hartebeespoort dam and we didn't break down. And so we spread our wings further and further realising that our MG is actually quite reliable. Of course its reliable IT'S A MG !!!! Well I didn't know and I rather wanted to be on the safe side and not along the side of the road.

And then the club had last year their tops up concour day. Concourse day???? What's that?? Now just remember that we joined the club in January last year and had no idea of what actually really happens on such a day. But our MG was nowhere close to concourse condition so we arrived at the clubhouse with our bikes. Our mouths stood wide open when we saw so many beautiful clean MG from the T types to the A's and B's. WOW!!! We also didn't really know too many people in the club and after talking to some familiar faces a while we went home on our bikes still amazed.

A year later and now pretty familiar with the club activities the tops up concourse 2015 was announced.

Now I'm a realist and I know our yellow MG is not of top quality, but how good is our MG ??? Mmmmm the mind wonders. Then when the chief judge encouraged everybody to enter their cars it made me think. Should I or shouldn't I?? That was the question. Personally I've always had the attitude that I want to enjoy my MG as she is without going overboard on cleanliness etc.

What the heck, let's give this a try.

And so began a 5 day period of cleaning, stripping, re-spraying of window wiper arm and number plate holders and did I mention cleaning. Take off the flicker light lenses and clean ... ohhh dear the seals for them are brittle and old ... replace and cut new ones. It was at that stage that I must have contracted Chapman's fever. Very often I thought to myself that this is bordering on fanaticism and I should have consulted a doctor. But I persevered.

All this cleaning (or should I say Chapman's fever) is contagious as Julie also decided to enter the competition.

So when Sunday morning eventually dawned my heart was broken. Early in the morning it was still raining and I had to be at the club rather early because of a power problem. So we left in some rain and all my work was ruined.

I learned later that just rainwater does not ruin all your work and by merely drying my baby off was enough to bring back the shine ( sorry I couldn't take any photos of the car as the reflections from it ruined any attempt of a good photo ). Julie parked her clean beauty next to mine.

As the judges started walking towards the cars I thought to myself..... today is the day where for once and for all our feud we have in deciding which of our two MG is the nicer one will be decided by impartial and fair judges. The agony of waiting nearly killed me.

At long last the results were made public. Quick let me see , let me see. Who scored more, the yellow submarine or Julie's blue MG ???

To my horror both of our cars scored exactly the same point and so the feud continues.

It was however a superb day and well run by everybody that was involved in this event. Thanks for organizing a great day. Next year be aware of not catching Chapman's fever but if you do don't worry the result is satisfying a very rewarding. Why don't you try it next year, you might be pleasantly surprised.

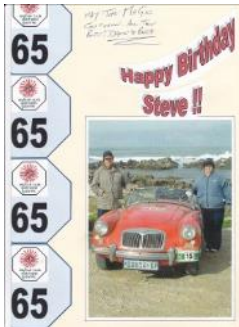




# JACARANDA JOTTINGS

It is good to be able to write these on a voluntary basis rather than feeling obliged to do so as Chairman.

Firstly let me thank all those who wished me well for my 65th and Hazell's (\*\*?).



The turn out at the pub night was great, I am sure mainly to see Pepi's PA , but also to wish us happy birthday (**Ed:** *We are sure that a significant number were to drink your free beer, Steve*). The card came as a great surprise. Thanks to Julie and Claus for that.

Since introducing the monthly pub nights last year, they seem to have gone from strength to strength, both in terms of numbers, and useful income for the club. Let us hope we can keep up the impetus over autumn and winter.

My MGA is under preparation for the A tour in August and now has disc brakes, parts courtesy of Moss and Alan Uzzel, spanner work by Dave Wheeler, the oil leaks have also been dealt with. I am trying to persuade the tour organisers to have the pre-event gathering at our clubhouse, but await their decision. Shake down runs are still to come, but have had to wait until no1 son has returned to the UK. How about a weekend trip to Parys?

Someone else will have had the pleasure of last place at the Club Concours as we had taken son and partner to Kruger. A shame in some ways as the A had been beautifully cleaned by Craftsman auto.

Keep driving your MG

Steve

## From the Treasurer

I would remind all that subs were due in January, and must be renewed by end March or you may be subject to rejoining fees. Many thanks to the 70% of the membership who have paid.

You will have heard of our recent crime problems, this is costing us dearly, fortunately we have had a couple of good years and have the resources to cover the expenses for the time being. We do feel that we need to re-install an alarm system linked to armed response, both for safety of the property and for those present at events. Quotes are being obtained, we may have to look at a further subs increase next year or other ways to cover the fees.

Indaba registration are still low, especially from our own centre. We have some good sponsorship from Sports Car Centre, which will further ensure an excellent event.

We do need to know the numbers fairly soon, so please register. Details are on the Club website.

## Trading Post

### FOR SALE

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### WANTED

None

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

# Security Update

Further to the break in on March issue of the newsletter, there as subsequently been another break-in attempt at the clubhouse on Monday 16 March. This time the they were unsuccessful in gaining access to the club through the same window as before, so turned their attention to the outside store-room. Fortunately the door to the outside store room is relatively heavily fortified and they were unable to gain access - but a degree of damage was done to the door and it was necessary to contract the services of Trevor Beddy's handy man to repair the door.

We were hoping that the initial break-in had been a one-off event, and that we would be left in peace following the incident. Clearly this is not the case. The committee has taken the decision to install an alarm system, complete exterior beams and remote panic buttons in the clubhouse, along with the associated armed response. Naturally, there is a capital and ongoing cost to this, but as a committee we don't see another way around it? We simply cannot leave the club as the "open target" that it currently is.

The addition of remote panic buttons and beams around the perimeter of the property will mean that we are safer within the club during meetings and events. As a committee we may be launching a fund raising initiative to assist in recovering the costs - if you have any ideas regarding this, please let us know.

## Points Standings

Here are the top standings for as at 22 March.

Name	Surname	Total Points
Claus	Pille	140
Gary	Chapman	130
Pepi	Gaspari	130
Bronwyn	Grover	130
Stephen	Grover	130
Dirk	Putter	120
George	Dehlen	100
Jay	Westaway	90
Trevor	Beddy	80
Steve	Eden	70
Heather	Chapman	70
Julie	Angerson	70
Sharleen	Putter	70
Mike	Brown	60
Hazell	Eden	60
Bernard	Mostert	60
Stan	Dawson	50
Avril	Grover	50
Richard	Grover	50
Denise	Harvey	50
Alan	Uzzell	50

## 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!

Corneile Odendaal	8th April
Peter Papadopulo	13th April
Lynton Lomas	27th April

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





The MG Car Club Northern Centre's Facebook page has continued strongly over the month of March, with a great deal of interest being generated by Pepi Gaspari's posts over the course of the MMM Gathering in Franschoek. At the time of publishing the newsletter one of the posts from this event had been viewed by 767 people! The page currently has 87 likes, and we feel that we offer a very useful and interesting information service to the MG Community at large. If you would to stay in touch with the club on a regular basis it is well worth liking our page.

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 9 new photos.

March 22 at 6:04pm

MMM...The Rat Monthlery MG C type Midget owned by Barry Foster and K3026 owned by Phillip Douchet at the Fransshoek Motor Museam earlier this morning ....awesome to have spent the last five days with them !



767 people reached

# Club Aims and Objectives

Points to ponder,

The recent communications from long standing members regarding the payment of subs, the noticeable dwindling in the number of members, and those attending club runs and events, the perceived disinterest with low entries for the 2016 Indaba, and now this incident at the clubhouse, is of grave concern to me on the continued survival of the club. I venture to suppose that it is worrying to some of the members as well?

Perhaps it is high time that MG Car Club Northern Centre exco committee communicates to us ordinary members as to exactly what they are doing to promote the club? As set out in the MG Car Club Northern Centre Constitution: "1.4 Aims and objects of the Club": (quoted from the constitution)

The 2015 MGCC Exco Committee's response to each of the points mentioned above will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ivan de Clerk

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Dear Members,

As a committee we are committed to serving our membership to the best of our combined ability. We share an enthusiasm for the marque, and for the people who are attracted to it. We strive to serve in a creative manner, incorporating fresh ideas as well as those which have been shown to be enjoyable to members in the past. However, we cannot and do not claim to be "all-knowing" or beyond reproach – there are places where we fall short, and ideas which do not occur to us. Some of these are minor and some major.

The letter submitted by long-time member and ex-chairman Ivan de Clerk provided cause for us to pause, as a committee, and consider the aims and objectives of the club as laid out by those that have gone before us. We have responded to this letter to the best of our ability, honestly and openly. We hope that members will also pause to reflect on the aims and objectives of the club and provide us with feedback, positive or negative, as to how we could better advance the club.

Points a through h below are taken directly from the Club's constitution.

**a) To promote the restoration, preservation and operation of M.G. Motor cars.**

We strive to encourage this by generating enthusiasm through hosting our annual condition concours, as held last month, partaking in the annual combined showday with the Johannesburg Centre, participating in the biennial Indaba and, of late, celebrating restored, re-commissioned, or interesting cars in the club house during our monthly pub evenings. We feel that our monthly runs, of which we strive to vary the distance to suit different types of MG's, encourage cars to be kept in operation and for them to be used as intended.

Unlike when the club was founded, in 1978, when cars now considered to be "classic MG's" could be purchased new and were regularly driven as daily transport we feel that the current focus of the Club is, more than ever, on the restoration, preservation and operation of MG Motor cars.

However, this does not exclude owners or would be owners of current and recent MG models. We encourage them to join in all events.

**b) To promote the sport as pastime of motoring in all its branches and to encourage social activities between persons engaged in any such sport or pastime and in particular to further the interest of owners and drivers of MG cars.**

The MG Car Club Northern Centre has a particularly strong social focus we believe that this has always been a hallmark of our club. The fact that our club has its own dedicated clubhouse provides a platform for social engagement which cannot be bettered by any other local MG Club. We try our best to leverage this by hosting monthly Noggin's and Pub Evenings, using the clubhouse to host various other MG Events during the year such as the condition concour and its associated "Bring & Braai", the end of the Cat's Eye Trial, the end of the Jacaranda run and the Spring Braai which follows, and what we hope will become the club's annual 'Christmas Tree.'

On the *Social Activities* front the relatively newly re-introduced Pub Evening's are drawing increasingly large numbers.

# Club Aims and Objectives (2)

These are informal events and provide a great platform for members to get to know one another and share fellowship – MG related or otherwise. As an aside, the previous Pub-Evening incorporated the past chairman's birthday celebration, and an earlier event doubled as wedding celebration for Stephen and Bronwyn Grover. Both of these events serve to illustrate that the club has a strong social focus and is an integral part of members' personal identity.

As a club we try our best in everything we do to further the interest of owners and drivers of MG cars. General enthusiasm for the cars is strong, but we specifically aim to further the interests of owners and drivers by hosting runs and events, as well as distributing our own newsletter and the publications of both major MG organisations in the UK – the MG Car Club and the MG Owners Club.

- c) **To promote, organise and hold motor-car race meetings and all kinds of tests, matches, competitions, displays, gymkhanas, runs excursions, reliability trials, speed trials, speed hill climbs, and other similar events for motor cars and to offer such awards and prizes in respect thereof as may be deemed fit.**

As a committee, we strive to offer events to suit all MG enthusiasts. In recent times, perhaps as a result of the increasing age, and perceived fragility, of cars we have seen a decline in interest in speed events by members – however, despite this we attend the annual Triumph driving tests typically hosted during the month of May, and host our own driving test in September.

Safety on the roads is an issue of increasing concern, as is the cost of participation in such events. Further, venues for such events are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Particularly at no, or little cost to participants.

Perhaps it would be nice to offer a more diverse range of events in which members can-participate in? Certainly as a committee we would be more than willing to add events proposed by members to the club calendar – the most important part of this exercise is the communication of what members would enjoy.

We offer a comprehensive set of prizes which are awarded for all manner of facets of MG Enthusiasm – ranging from racing, to restoration and club participation. The awards encourage members to engage with the club and to become more involved. Our unique position of having our own clubhouse allows us to maintain Honour Boards which record the members who have excelled in their membership.

- d) **To extend to owners and drivers of MG cars and their friends, and to all persons interested in motor sport, all the usual hospitalities, privileges, advantages, conveniences and accommodation enjoyed in connection with the club, and that it shall cultivate reciprocal relations with kindred clubs and associations.**

The manner in which the MG Car Club Northern Centre can offer the "*usual hospitalities, privileges, advantages, conveniences and accommodation enjoyed in connection with the club*" is certainly advanced by the fact that we have our own clubhouse at our disposal. We offer a meeting place for like-minded people to share their enthusiasm for what is a very specific interest, people can obtain very useful advice from within the club regarding the preservation, restoration and operation of MG cars.

We have very good working relationships with MG Car Club Centres around South Africa, and were very strongly represented at both of the previous International Indaba's, in Clarens and Knysna. Further to this we have a strong relationship with both the MG Car Club and MG Owners Club, and are affiliated to both. Further to the local and international MG Clubs we share our clubhouse with the local Triumph Sports Car Club, and occasionally attend events hosted by other local clubs such as the PTSCC, POMC, and SAMCA.

As a committee, while we appreciate that it is important to cultivate reciprocal relations with clubs, we also feel that it is important that, as a Club, we maintain our own identity. Combined events should always be in the minority to Club events hosted by ourselves.

- e) **To consolidate all finances and property (movable and immovable) under one general authority, for the social, recreational and sport activities and general benefits of the members.**

The club is well managed by the office bearers within the committee, and our governance is acceptable. Our finances are reported on at committee meetings and annually at the Annual General Meeting as required by our constitution. The club finances and property are working effectively for the benefit of the membership in general.

- f) **To co-operate by affiliation or otherwise with all or any bodies, institutions or clubs, concerned directly or indirectly with motoring in any of its facets.**

As discussed under point (d), we feel that we have strong cooperation with other bodies, institutions and clubs which are to the mutual benefit of both our members and the other parties.

# Club Aims and Objectives (3)

## g) To encourage road courtesy and good driving.

The encouragement of road courtesy and good driving is an element of all MG runs and given the aggressive nature of modern South African driving, we feel that purely by driving an MG on the road one becomes proactive and courteous driver.

## h) Generally to do such things as may be deemed fit in the furtherance of the foregoing aims and objects.

We strive to do our best to further the clubs aims and objectives in all the things that we do as a committee, as laid out in the above points, as well as in our general conduct as MG owners and enthusiasts.

We have tried our best to outline what we are doing to further the clubs aims and objectives in the above response to the points laid out in the constitution. There are surely things which have been left out, however the one of the primary purposes of formulating the response was to examine what we are doing, and perhaps to think of what else may be done to further the club. Should, either through reading our response or through general club membership, you have any ideas of how the Aims and objectives of the club could further be advanced please speak to a committee member or send an e-mail –we would love to hear ideas from members.

Any member, or would-be member, is invited to attend any of the events. Members are encouraged to invite their family and friends, especially to pub nights and other social occasions. Attendance in an MG is, by no means obligatory, at any event. You may be assured of a warm welcome whether you come in an MG, any Marque car, a 'plastic' or on a bicycle.

As a final remark, we feel that the most important thing to bear in mind with involvement in any club, not least our MG Club, is that whatever you put in you will get out. Sometimes it is not easy to attend club events or take part in activities – arrangements need to be made in advance, cars need to be readied, and a certain amount of risk must be taken – however, it is only through attendance and involvement that one reaps the full benefit of club membership. If you do not regularly join us for events, please do – we are thoroughly confident that you will enjoy the time and that it will enhance your experience of the Marque of Friendship.

Octagonally,  
MG Car Club Northern Centre Committee

# Upcoming Events

## Angela's Picnic Annual SAMCA Event Sunday 5 April 2015

**Note: This event is taking place on Easter Sunday**

SAMCA will be hosting the annual gathering of all marque club's at Delta Park in Johannesburg this year. While not an official club event, Claus will be running a convoy to the event. The convoy meet at the Shell Garage on the N1S at 07:00 for a 07:15 departure. Claus will have his mini-braai there so that meat can be cooked, but members are encouraged to bring their own salads and chairs.

Date: **Sunday 5 April 2015**  
Time: **Be there early to avoid traffic**  
Where: **Delta Park  
Craighall Road  
Victory Park, Johannesburg**

# POMC British Car Day

**Sunday 12 April 2015**

We have been invited to join the POMC for their annual "British Car Day" this year. Typically a number of members make the trip to the event, and an enjoyable morning is had by all.

Please join us if you would like to. There are no travelling arrangements as all members will likely come from different directions.

Date: **Friday 13 March 2015**  
Time: **10:00 to 14:30**  
Where: **POMC Clubhouse**  
**c/o Keuning and Fred Davey Avenue**  
**Silverton**

## Natter 'n Noggin

### MG MMM Gathering Presentation

**Monday 13 April 2015**

**NOTE: Not 5 April as this is a public holiday**

Our usual monthly social and club activity session will be held a week later this month due to the Easter Weekend falling on the first Monday of the month. The usual event feedback and upcoming event information will be provided, as well as a presentation by Stephen Grover and Pepi Gaspari on the recent MMM gathering held in Franschoek.

Please join us for a good evening.

Date: **Monday 13 April 2015**  
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse**  
**Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road**  
**Menlo Park**

## Pub Evening

**Friday 17 April 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.

The event is open to all who would like to attend - members & non-members, friends and family. It is a wonderful way to wind down after a long week and enjoy the company of like-minded friends, free of the stresses of day-to-day.

We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of wives and girlfriends who are joining us at this event, and (assuming that the Newsletter is read primarily by our male audience) we encourage you to bring your better halves with you. They most certainly won't be the only wife/girlfriend/partner there, and there will be more to talk about than how to best clean spoke wheels or where to buy the new Wynn's Lead Replacement additive...

Also - nobody has to cook if you come to the pub evening!

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Date: **Friday 17 April 2015**  
Time: **17h30 onwards**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse, Corner 26 Avenue and Umgazi Road**

# April Monthly Run

## Hartbeespoort Dam

### Sunday 19 April 2015

Dear members

Claus very kindly assisted me in doing a reconnaissance for the run to Hartbeespoort Dam on Sunday the 19th of April. The arrangements are as follows:

#### **Time and departure venue.**

08.30 Meet at the Club for the run. The run will commence at 09.00. Members can also meet at 09.30 at the N14 Total Petroport if they wish to pick up the club members travelling from the clubhouse further down the road.

#### **Route**

Departure 09.00. The route no-toll route will be down Charles Str. travelling West; left into Duncan – travelling south; around the Brooklyn Circle peeling off at three o'clock (George Storrer) towards Fountains Circle. At Fountains Circle we will cross-over and head under the railway bridge towards the N14 which takes us to the Krugersdorp turn off. We will then follow this road, peeling off beyond Diepsloot onto the Lanseria road R512 (travelling South) which leads to Broederstroom. At the T junction we turn right towards Pelindaba (Easterly heading) and then left onto the R511 which takes us into Hartbeespoort. On entering the outskirts of the village (built-up area) there are two traffic lights. At the second one we will turn right towards the Cable Station,

10.30 approximately, arrive at the cable station, which is our first stop. This leg of the run should take us about an hour and a half depending on Sunday traffic. Here we can take the cable car up the mountain, which is spectacular if you haven't done it before. The new cableway and station is very modern, well-appointed and well organised. There is also a watering hole and restaurant here, as well as on top of the mountain.

The round trip cableway prices are as follows: Adults R175.00, Children under fourteen R95.00 and Pensioners (sixty and over) R100.00. Most of us will qualify for this rate - Hooray! Those that do not want to visit the mountain – and more's the pity, will be able to enjoy a very pleasant view of the dam from the restaurant's dining area and deck, while sipping pink gins and nibbling at "elevenses" sandwiches. Those members joining us from the East Rand and Johannesburg should consider joining at this point, or we can meet along the route and drive together which will be all-the-more enjoyable. The one-stop petrol station on the M14 before the Lanseria turn-off will be a good meeting point. Alan, Denise, Esra and Daves Wheeler/Westaway, please advise either Claus or myself. Claus will once again be the roundup cowboy. Yes, don't forget to fill your tanks! BGT is waiting for you.

Those who choose to visit other sights in the area before lunch may do as they please. Note, however, that at 13.00, we will have lunch at the "Caravela Portuguesa Restaurante". Please note that we have made prior arrangements with the management, Jose and Tara Da Mata, to sit together as a group. To reach the restaurant, retrace your steps to the second traffic light, then turn left i.e. towards Pretoria and at the second traffic light you will see the restaurant on your left hand side. It's a large yellow building. Please note that we will need to confirm numbers a day beforehand. The prices at the restaurant vary. However, be rest assured that the fare is excellent. You will not be disappointed. There are also very reasonably priced and delicious "specials" under R100.00. Don't be timid though – go ahead and treat yourself and partner.

#### **Return**

After lunch there will still be time to explore the area or to return home directly. In this regard there are two alternatives. Either take the short route back to Pretoria via the N4 Toll Road at R9.50, or simply retrace your steps.

There will be a handy map put up on the Club notice board indicating venues and the proposed route. We look forward to all of you attending the event. And please don't forget to bring your MGs!!

Regards,

Trevor Beddy





**Our Sponsors so far - get your Logo in here ASAP!**



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](http://www.mgcc-north.co.za/Indaba2016)

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