

# MG Car Club Northern Centre Newsletter

June 2015 — Issue 403



Claus & Julie experiencing the famous rubber bumper lean at the driving tests held on 17 May 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)

GPS S 25 46.495 E 28 16.035



# 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

Annual subscriptions are now overdue.

If you haven't paid your subscription kindly pay the requisite R250 as soon as you can!

If you are reading this without a subscription please consider joining the club. It's worth your while.

## New Members

We would like to welcome **Ken Goelst** an MGA owner to 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
Vehicle Valuations Carel Wilken	083 391 1611 012 386 2136	Hercar Restorations

## WAYFARERS GUEST HOUSE Chris Colverd



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# Combined Centre's Showday

Sunday 28 June 2015

We are hosting the combined centre's showday this year. Please make an effort to join us for what many consider to be the premiere club event of the year.

We have secured the use of Kitty Hawk Airfield for the event which we hope will prove to be a great venue for the event. Food and drink will be available from the restaurant and there will be a fair degree of air-traffic as they are not closing the air field for our use.

We will be having all forms of concours:

- Tops Only
- d'état
- d'elegance
- Comique

The concour events are great fun to partake in, and make for an entertaining day for all involved. Please consider entering - especially the d'elegance or comique!

Gates will open at 08:00 with Tops only and d'état cars to be in position by 09:30.

There will be a R20.00 charge per car to cover the overhead costs of the day and provision of commemorative dash plaques which are collectable items for those that frequently attend Showdays.

Date **Sunday 28 June 2015**  
TIME: **08h00 onwards**  
WHERE: **Kitty Hawk Airfield  
Boschkop Road  
Pretoria East  
GPS:  
25°51'37"S  
28°26'59"E**



**We are  
still  
No 1**



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# FROM THE WORKBENCH

While this past month has been an interesting one, with Bronwyn and me travelling to Chile for a site seeing holiday and then joining the family for a weekend away at Wyndford Holiday Farm in the Free State (which was also chilly) our involvement in club activities has been frustratingly curtailed. I must thank Steve Eden for leading the Noggin in May, and for Claus for so competently reporting on the events which I missed while away.

While the entire country is battling the effects of Eskom's load-shedding requirement the MG Car Club Northern Centre is also battling the effects of gross incompetence at the City of Tshwane who are subjecting us to highly localised load shedding. While we are in favour of decreasing our burden on the grid, we find having to cool the drinks with ice and lighting the clubhouse by candles and batteries, after having paid our account IN ADVANCE, a bit much! Each time this happens Steve follows it up and ensure that we are reconnected. We owe him many (and Hazell!) our grateful thanks.

The upcoming month plays host to a number of events. The noggin and pub-evening taking place as usual, and the combined Triumph Club / MGCC Northern Centre Cat's Eye trail taking place on Saturday 13 June. Our annual show-day will be held on Sunday 28 June, and we are hosting this at Kitty Hawk in anticipation of our hosting a whole day's activities there during the Indaba next year. Between ourselves and the Johannesburg Centre there should be a great turnout and we are looking forward to seeing a great many members there.

Work toward getting the MGA back on the road is ongoing, but between the travelling and the "two steps forward, one step back" nature that this type of work often takes on means that progress is slow. Replacing the rather tired radiator with a good second-hand unit has turned into a significant undertaking after discovering that the "new" unit is both thicker at the bottom and narrower across the core (where it bolts up to the body) this has necessitated modifications to the body as well as the manufacture of an adaptor plate to account for the narrower width. This turns a few hours work into a few days work and I must thank my dad for his ongoing assistance with the 'A. The cylinder head has is now finished, with reground valves, machined rockers, new rockershaft and bushes. I am hoping that all of this will combine to offer a relatively quiet running B-Series - not something with which I am familiar. I also took the time to accurately measure that volume of the combustion chambers on the cylinder head so can do some accurate compression ratio calculations now which, given that the car is fitted with a MGB cylinder head should be quite interesting.



Almost as though it has been feeling neglected the MGBGT developed a misfire which seemed to be getting progressively worse. Investigating the misfire revealed that there the origin was cylinder number four. With spark being present the next test was for compression, and — surprise-surprise — no compression on number four. Without wanting to have all the MG's in pieces the 'B will be attended to once the 'A is finished, but I find myself in the unenviable position of having no running MG's (again...).

Getting back to "Club Matters" we would like to thank those members that have registered for the Indaba, and to encourage those that haven't to register. An Indaba is an incredible and unforgettable experience. Those of us that attend them regularly will move heaven and earth to not miss one, and for those of us that live upcountry this is a great opportunity to experience the MaGic of an Indaba without traveling for across the country.



Also, the upcoming trip to *The Nest* promises to be a wonderful social gathering of MG friends. Bronwyn and I are planning to go this year and it would be great to have a strong contingent of Northern Centre members there. The Nest is around hour hours from Pretoria / Johannesburg, which makes it a reasonable run for a long weekend. Please speak to Gary Chapman if you would like additional information, but all bookings are to be made directly with *The Nest*. See the full details elsewhere in the newsletter.



That's all for now.

Octagonally,

Steve Grover

# Jacaranda Jottings

If Joseph Lucas and Eskom are the Princes of Darkness, what should we call The City of Tshwane Electrical department, the Emperor of the Night? They, despite many phone calls and e mails, still seem incapable of disconnecting those who haven't paid, and I'm not referring to our previously disadvantaged brethren here, but a strange Germanic Cult with premises on the opposite side of Umgazi. Instead, they would rather cut off power to the MG Club, who having had a smart meter imposed upon us, are always in credit.

Yes, you have guessed. Hazell and I, turning up on Friday afternoon to set up catering for the pub night, found no power. Load shedding? No CoT had worked their magic and removed our circuit breaker again.

Fortunately, I had come somewhat prepared for load shedding, with one gas ring and some emergency lighting.

When I had calmed down, and I do admit to losing it for a while, (sorry Hazell) and a couple of phone calls, we had, thanks to Pepi and Gary, more lights and a second gas ring.

This allowed us to continue with evening and serve up the Bunny Chow of lamb curry or fragrant chicken which seemed well received by those present in the low light, flickering candle, romantic ambience.



A rose between thorns at the PTSCC organised driving test .

I must give huge thanks to Hazell for preparing the food, especially as I had asked her not to make beef mince curry, but real lamb curry, which was a lot of extra work. As sous chef, I had chopped 6kg of onions and carrots, which was enough for me!!

Thanks also for Claus for relieving me from bar duties, Jay being unwell could not perform his usual function (get well soon Jay), and to Dave for also running the bar, delivering extra booze, and locking up afterwards. A good evening I think. Pub nights seem to breathe new life into the club, and usually attendance is superior to the monthly natter and noggin.

You will know, that due to recent spate of crime, we have installed a new alarm system, with armed response provided by Fidelity Security. We are suffering a few teething problems with the system giving false alarms, but hopefully we can get these resolved. There are exterior beams, which we can have on protecting the front and car park side of the premises if required, and panic buttons. The whole area is experiencing high crime due the building operations in progress locally, so be vigilant at all times.

Don't forget to book for the Indaba.

Drive your MG, even Pepi's PA competed at the driving test, not X-power P-power.  
Steve



Not a beer in sight? This driving test must be serious!





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## Points Standings

Name	Surname	Total Points
Claus	Pille	200
Stephen	Grover	190
Pepi	Gaspari	170
Dirk	Putter	160
Gary	Chapman	150
Bronwyn	Grover	150
George	Dehlen	140
Trevor	Beddy	130
Jay	Westaway	130
Steve	Eden	110
Sharleen	Putter	110
Dave	Westaway	90
Hazell	Eden	80
Mike	Brown	70
Heather	Chapman	70
Geoff	Cunnington	70
Bernard	Mostert	70
Julie	Angerson	70

# Combined Centres Weekend in Drakensburg

**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 a coming together of the KwaZulu Natal, Johannesburg and Northern Centres. The resort offers Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, and Dinner inclusive 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, and enquires may be sent through our representative, Gary Chapman on ghachapman@gmail.com, or 082 653 1888.

The cost for the weekend is R800ppn inclusive of all meals, with the exception of drinks bought at the bar.

# 2015 PTSCC Driving Tests

## 17 May 2015

Claus Pille

This year the Exco decided that the MG club would hold their official monthly club run together with the Triumph club. So a week earlier than usual we drove out to Rafters along the Garsfontein road.

Starting time 10:00 which meant we could sleep in a little longer. Julie and myself arrived at Rafters a little nervous since we had never done a driver's test before. We were greeted by the Triumph guys and we just looked with bewilderment at the hundreds or should I say thousands of different colour cones. So please tell us what to do. No it's easy, you start there with a finger pointing to underneath the covered parking, then you go through those two cones then around here and there you do a 360 degree before going to those cones. He lost me already. But don't worry we will walk you through it as soon as everybody is here.



That did NOT build any confidence with me. At long last everybody was there and we were again told on how to ride. This time we actually did walk it and Julie with her hands wide apart like an aeroplane "flew" around the course. Ok so it seems my navigator knows the route. Great I can relax a little.



The first one out was somebody from the Triumph club and they made a mistake. PANIC !!!!! Now I'm lost as well. The next few participants did go the route as demarcated and we were feeling a little better. Then Julie couldn't take it anymore (her nerves were seemingly more shot than mine) and she said that if we wouldn't go soon she would lose her concentration.

So off to the starting point to receive our upside down Frisbee with the tennis ball on a string lying in it. Ready ??? Yep !!! OK then three ..... two ....one and go.

Concentrate, don't let the clutch out too quickly, watch

where you going but also look at the ball. Take it smoothly..... so far so good we reached the first two cones. Through those and then the communication between Julie and myself broke down a little. Your side .... No the other side Ok around this cone ahead but keep the cone on your side. OK this is what she meant !!! Then straight ahead a little etc etc etc !!! Quite exhausted we made it back to the start finish trying not to lose the ball. I needed an extra pair of eyes, one set for the road and one set for the ball. This we had to do for two laps. The second lap actually went much easier because when driving the route I got familiar with it and so I didn't had to rely solely on my navigator. We did it, around the route twice without losing the ball once. Sjoe !!!



(Continued on page 9)



Once back on the veranda I just wanted a beer. NOOOOOOOooooo I was told, no drinking because we will do this again for a second time. So I got a coke instead just to get my sugar levels adjusted as the adrenalin was now pumping.

The second time around felt much better and this was beginning to be so much fun. Now for a beer !!!! NOOOOOOOooooo I was told again. If you want to ride this route without the Frisbee and tennis ball you need to wait. No coke needed as I was now feeling on top of the world.



Finally everybody had finished and the hooligan rounds were allowed. I knew things were getting serious when people hauled out their racing gloves to prepare for this round. Julie at first didn't want to come along (as she knows my driving at speed) but finally gave in after a lot of peer pressure. First she screeched, then closed her eyes (or maybe the sequence could have been the other way) and then she shouted out which way to go. It was over all too soon with Julie now having rubber legs.

Thanks my dear for supporting me. All I can say is that we had one heck of a day. Thanks for the Triumph club for organising.

Some of our guy's results:	Round 1	Round 2	No ball round
Dave Westway	3.14.09	2.42.36	1.54.59
Pepi with the P-type	4.05.77	3.17.43	2.34.19
Gary with the TF	3.15.08	2.41.37	1.50.13
Steve with his A	3.14.01	and then all wheels fell off as he missed some cones	
Claus with his B	3.20.22	3.02.23	2.02.09

PS we should subtract some 10 seconds or so from Pepi's time since he forgot to retract his "air brakes" which slowed his P-type down quite a bit J J !!! See photo's.

PSS congratulations to Gary who came third overall.



# May Pub Evening

(in the dark...)

## 15 May 2015

Claus Pille

We were looking forward ( as usual ) to a great pub evening. We arrived a little later than usual as the traffic had caught us.

As we entered the premises I noticed that the club house wasn't lit as per usual. We entered the club and ahhh it was soooo romantic. Hazel and Steve switched off all the lights and each table had some battery powered light some looking like candles and some like pyramids. One long string of LED's was hanging over the two pots each on their own gas cookers. Wow they really went out of their way to make this pub evening a little different.

Only when I went to the bar (normally first call of port when having arrived a little late) I noticed that the beers and other drinks were all in a big bucket with ice, I realised that our power was gone.

Load shedding ?????? Nope !!!!!

For the umpteenth time the Tshwane municipality had wrongfully taken our circuit breaker out.

We will show the municipality that even without power we will have a great time. And we did. I brought some wood along and we made a lovely fire however before the fire was really burning well everybody went inside the cosy club house to try the very delicious lamb and chicken curry with a half loaf put together as bunny chow. Hazel said it took her two days to prepare and judging by the taste I believe her. Nothing better than time to bring out all the flavours in the food.

Thanks to Allen for sponsoring part of the bar account as it was Denise's birthday a day or two before.

Judging by the dustbin behind the bar counter those that attended had a really good time.

Sorry no photo's as we had no power J

As we are moving ever so closer to winter ( and the last pub evening was weather wise very pleasant ) we will be having more soup evenings and another curry and rice evening so diarise the next pub evening or lose out on great evenings with friends.

Thanks again to the cook Hazel and the taster Steve for preparing the food ... it was yum yum!!!

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# Upcoming Events

## Natter 'n Noggin Social Gathering Monday 1 June 2015

The usual Natter 'n Noggin.

This will be a social affair - come and join us for an evening with friends.

Date: **Monday 1 June 2015**  
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse  
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road  
Menlo Park**

## Pub Evening Friday 19 June 2015

The June pub-evening will be of the same format which has now become a standard. Now that we are (allegedly) in winter we are having fewer braai's and more indoor, pre-prepared meals. Join us for a meal at a nominal cost - R25 to R30. 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.

This month we are hoping to be able to treat our members to alternating current electrical lighting and beverages cooled by means of a refrigeration cycle rather than direct current and candle lighting and drinks cooled by ice. Please come along and enjoy this with us, and bring your better 1/2 along with you. There will be more to talk about that what's wrong with your chairman's driving style that causes him to keep loosing compression...

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

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Date: **Friday 19 June 2015**  
Time: **17h30 onwards**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse, Corner 26 Avenue and Umgazi Road  
Menlo Park**

## Cat's Eye Trial Combined PTSCC & MGCC Event Victor & Victrix Ludorum Event Saturday 13 June 2015

The PTSCC will be hosting the Cat's Eye Trial this year. We are awaiting full details from them, but have reason to believe that it will start from the clubhouse at 18:00 on Saturday 13 June 2015.

If you are planning to attend this event, please keep an eye on our Facebook page and your e-mail for further details.

## Forthcoming Events in Brief

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

### June

Mon 1	Natter & Noggin	NC	Social Noggin Clubhouse from 19h30 onwards	c
Fri 19	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse from 17h30 onwards	
Sat 13	Cats Eye's Run	NC/ PTSCC	Awaiting full details. See Facebook / e-mail when available	c/v
Sun 28	Combined Showday	NC/JHB	Kitty Hawk Aerodrome See body of N/L for full details	c/v

### July

Mon 6	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Possible MG Live! Report Back Clubhouse 19h30 onwards	c
Fri 17	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse from 17h30 onwards	c
Sun 26	Winter Rally / Treasure Hunt	NC	Details to follow in forthcoming newsletter	c/v

### August

Mon 3	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19h30 onwards.	c
Fri 7 to Sun 11	MG Gathering at <i>The Nest</i>	NC/JHB/ KzN	Gathering at the nest. See N/L body for details	
Thrs 13 to Fri 21	MGA Tour	National	MGA Tour	
Sun 23	Monthly Run	NC	TBA	c



**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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