

# MG Car Club Northern Centre Newsletter

December 2015 — Issue 408



The Westaway 'B in its Natural Habitat

## **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.

## New Members

No new members this month...

We are looking forward to welcoming more members in the new year.

## Subscriptions

A reminder that subscriptions are now due. As per the note in the November Newsletter subscriptions have now increased to R330 per year - with a R30 discount if paid by EFT.

A further discount, to R250, will apply if paid before 31 December 2015.

## 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



92, MALIEVELD  
STREET,  
SABIE, MPUMALANGA.  
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# Christmas Party

Saturday 5 December 2015

We hope that you will join us for the Christmas Party this year, which following the success of last year's event we hope will be a great success. Santa Claus will be arriving aboard a 1950's XPAG powered Sleigh and we will have a jumping castle to entertain the children (and some of the adults!).

The event will be held in the afternoon of 5 December, and will take the format of a Bring & Braai, and we will contact members directly to arrange for salads and sides.

### The idea is as follows:

Bring your children\grandchildren, and please buy a present for not more than R100.00 and wrap this and indicate with big bold letters the name of the child. Father Christmas at his age has a problem on reading small print !!! Hand this to Stephen or Bronwyn when the kids are not looking.

Later Father Christmas will arrive during the course of the afternoon and hand out the gifts. Such Excitement!

**For the adults:** Please get a unisex present to the value of between R50.00 to R80.00 for a "Secret Santa", which will be coordinated on the day.

Date                   **Saturday 5 December 2015**  
Time:                   **12h00 onwards**  
Where:                 **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse**  
                              **Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road**  
                              **Menlo Park**



**We are  
still  
No 1**



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# FROM THE WORKBENCH

This will - quite obviously - be the last newsletter for the year. We don't typically publish a newsletter for the month of December, but given the club activities which have taken place in November, as well as the upcoming Christmas / Year-End function it seemed appropriate to break tradition and publish a newsletter this month.

The month kicked off with the Table Raffle. This is always one of the most enjoyable Noggins of the year and this year proved no different. Thanks to all who contributed to the event, and everybody with the exception of John Hugo was glad to leave without Jeremy Salter's three ancient MGB tyres! A big thank-you to George Dehlen for being the inspiration and driving force behind this unique and exciting event.

The driving tests also took place this month - always an exciting event, and nice to see the MG's being used in anger, as so many of them were used when they were new. A massive thanks to the members who put so much hard work to make the event possible & a success. A particular thanks to Dave and Jay Westaway for their efforts. Dave has compiled a report for us on the event which is on page 7 of the newsletter.

We also had a successful pub-evening this month - I have put together a note elsewhere in the newsletter regarding the pub-evenings which you may stumble across on your way through the newsletter - please read this and let me know any feedback that you may have. It is very nice to be able to site outside again, and a big thank-you to Gary Chapman and Johnny van Wyk for ably manning the braai.

My personal MG antics were curtailed this month due to work commitments, which unfortunately is unavoidable sometimes. The MGA is running well, but not enjoying the current heat that we are experiencing! The 'BGT is awaiting the assembly of the rebuilt rear brakes and that should be up and running soon.

This month we have the Christmas / Year-End party planned for 5 December— which is detailed elsewhere in the newsletter, as well as the Noggin on 7 December.

Looking forward, we have some interesting events planned for the new year. We will have a noggin on "back-to-work" day, January 4th, which should allow for members to catch-up on the holiday activities. We are planning a "chairman's run" to the SAA Museum at Rand Airport in Germiston for 24 January which should be an interesting event for those of us with all manner of hydrocarbons in our blood. This event will kick-off the year of "wings-wheels-and-diamonds" and should be a precursor of things to come in the new year.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting MG year, and we are thoroughly looking forward to seeing more MG's out and about on runs and members at events.

Please keep safe during the festive season. We're hoping to see lots of clean and well-running MG's following the break! Godspeed to those travelling to see family and friends far away.

That's all for now.

Octagonally,  
Stephen Grover



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# MG Car Club Northern Centre Charity Drive 2015

This year's Christmas party will be pretty much the same as the very successful 2014 party - see the event write-up for that under upcoming events.

This year however we would like to get the kids attending giving a little of their time to help people less privileged. Before the man of the day arrives in his red sleigh we are going to show the kids how to make decorated sweet biscuits. These together with the donations we would like to give to the people staying in the Phyllis Robertson home.

The Phyllis Robertson home is an establishment that cares for about 65 mentally and physically challenged people. The home was last subsidised by the Lotto in 2012 and thus finds it difficult to make ends meet. The monthly contributions by guardians/parents of the inhabitants is not enough to hold head above water.

So from the MG club we would like to make their lives a little brighter this year by organising a Christmas function.

And that is where we need your help PLEASE!!!! For the next months leading up to December at each of our Noggins and each of our club rides we ask all members attending to please bring along something nice and smelly (like a his or hers deodorant/small packets of tissues/his or hers soaps/ his or hers hand creams or face cloths).

These we'll wrap together so that eventually every person in the home will get a present with his or her name on it. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS CHARITY EVENT THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN, I promise it is for a good cause.

Greetings

Claus

## AGM - 1 February 2016

In terms of the Constitution of the MG Car Club Northern Centre (MGCC-NC) notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the MGCC-NC will be held on Monday Feb 1, 2016 at the Clubhouse, 26 Umgazi Road, Menlo Park Pretoria, at 20h00.

In terms of the Constitution three existing Committee members must be carried over to serve on the 2016 Committee. Exco members Pepi Gaspari, Steve Eden & Stephen Grover will be carried over to serve on the 2016 committee. Nominations are required for a minimum of a further four candidates to fill the remaining positions.

Nominations, signed by the nominator and nominee, must be submitted to any Exco member before 20h00 on Feb 1, 2016

Any member, wishing to add an item to the AGM agenda for discussion must submit a suitably motivated request, signed by five members, to the Secretary before January 25 2016.

### Nomination Form for 2016 Committee

I, ..... Being a member in good standing of the MG Car Club, Northern Centre, hereby nominate ..... to stand for election to the Club's Executive Committee.

Nominator Signature:..... Date: .....

I accept the nomination and agree to serve on the committee if elected.

Nominee Signature: ..... Date: .....

# From Under the Crash Hat

Dave Westaway

We had our test run for the 2016 Indaba driving tests at Kitty Hawk on Sunday 22 November which proved to be a wonderful learning experience. With the restrictions placed on us with regards to safety regulations of a fully operational air field we could identify the short comings of holding the tests at this venue. In short what I am saying is we will sadly not be able to have the driving tests at Kitty Hawk next year.

NOT all doom and gloom, those of us that were there had a really fantastic time trying out the different tests in the somewhat limited space that was made available to us. What I tried to do was to implement some tests that had an



element of thought behind them and not just “foot in the Hook” driving. I did not have any negative feedback so I am sure we can use this format for the Indaba next year and with more space available and spread out, slightly faster. (Should make some people happy, no names mentioned) One positive was that because of the safety procedures that were in place we had to mark out the course on the tarmac so that if an aircraft came in we could move our cones out of the way, this allowed us to use the same area for two tests and with Pepi and Claus arriving late after rescuing Bernard when his newly acquired TC ran into fuel problems, we could set up the course again for them to have a run. I brought along an hour glass (as opposed to a stop watch) in anticipation of Pepi entering the P Type. It

turned out that the P type would have been faster than the ZR so we will have to work on an alternative to time keeping for future events, one common factor that seems to be creeping into the driving tests is that our respective Chairman, being club or Indaba past and present, seem to have difficulty in navigating. We will have to keep a close eye on Mr Grover to ensure that the trend does not continue in future events.

I would like to thank all who entered on the day that made it a very enjoyable event, and to all who helped with the time keeping, setting up, running around picking up and placing cones whilst dodging aircraft, taking photos and videos and marshals, the Triumph club members, and to the large number of members who arrived just to spectate and enjoy the day with us, a huge thank you, the next one will be bigger and definitely better.

Results:			
Class A:			
Alex Dewar	1st	MGA	
Class C:			
Gary Chapman	1St	MGTF	
Bill Swales	2nd	MGBGT	
Claus Pille	3rd	MGB	
Class D:			
Jaco Van Vuuren	1st	Mazda MX5	



Keep the shiny side up and oily side down,  
Dave

# Jacaranda Run (or not?)

For me this run was full of different emotions. Let me explain a little.

Firstly I felt **SORRY** for Dave since the Jacaranda run was always his baby. This year however his work commitment didn't allow for him to run this event.

So I volunteered. About a week before the run I set off on my bike to find a new route. Basically I programmed an "alpha" route into my GPS to give me a basic idea which way to go. Ready, steady and go from the Union Buildings. At the first intersection I look left and right to see where the best Jacaranda's are. Where ever the nicest trees were is where my heading went. That was **FUN** as I had no idea which way the Jacarandas would take me.

Back at home I cross referenced the data from the GPS with Google maps and my own navigational software and set up the road book. This I checked about three times.

I was getting **ANXIOUS** since one mistake would take the whole group in a wrong direction. So I called in the big guns. Julie helped me again on Google maps to check that "Turn left here " was indeed turning left and not right.

**CONFIDENT** that everything was right I mailed everything to Stephen to print us enough copies. Thanks Stephen for doing this.

Then during that week all hell broke loose as our friend at varsities and technical institutions decided it's time to make their voices heard. That's all very fine but when they start demolishing things I get a little hot under the collar. And what do the students decide ??? Well they want to see and speak to the number one at the Union Buildings.

UNION BUILDINGS ????? That's our departure point.

Very **WORRIED** I called up Dirk on the Saturday who graciously offered to take a ride out to the Union Buildings on Saturday to check if it is safe. He risked his life but being adventurous he drove out and reported back that everything looks OK at the Union Building. Thanks Dirk for your courageous recce.

On Saturday evening a very strong wind came up with very little rain but the wind blew a lot of the blossoms off the trees. Damn it !!!!

Sunday morning while waiting for everybody to arrive those butterflies in my stomach were back. What if ..... Ahh well its to late now if there is still a mistake on the road book.

I was **OVERWHELMED** to see how many cars arrived at the starting point. Thanks to JHB branch members to join us.

To my **SURPRISE** a great number of Triumph's arrived. I didn't know that there are such a lot of TR-7 still around.





Thanks to all of you.

Two Morris Minor's also joined us but I didn't see a lot of them after the start. Thanks guys for making the effort to support us.

I was one of the last to leave and I didn't had to navigate according to the road book as I cheated. The GPS told me where to go. Just as well since I really had to concentrate to speak German to our newest members of the club who joined me and Julie for the ride. Frank and Anja have come out from Germany and will be staying in South Africa for at least two years. They have a MG B at home and found us through Facebook. Welcome and hope you will have a great stay in South Africa.

Along the way we were flagged down by a sexy lady next to the road for a beer stop. Thanks Marlize and Bernard who saw that the pub was open.

Upon our arrival at the club house everybody had settled in somewhere in a spot of shade ( and many that didn't do the run also joined us at the club house ) for a great social and a braai lunch.

I lot of laughter was heard throughout the afternoon.

Since this is my last chance before Christmas I would like to thank everybody in the club that supported our club events. It has indeed been a memorable year with lots of different rides.

From Julie and myself I would like to wish everybody a blessed Christmas and a joyous new year.

Greetings and love  
Julie and Claus



# Your thoughts on Pub Evenings ?

The MG Car Club Northern Centre's Pub-Evenings have become regular fixtures on the club calendar now, and have been taking place regularly, on the Friday of the week following the Noggin, for more than a year now. The intention of these events has always been to encourage the social elements of the club, and to allow us to make full use of the wonderful facilities which we have at our disposal.

Many of us look forward to the pub evenings as an opportunity to relax after a long week, enjoy a cold drink - in whatever form that may take - and enjoy the company of like-minded folks. We regularly have visitors from the Triumph Club, as well as the Mercedes-Benz Club and all are welcome to attend the event. Unlike the Noggins, which have always been attended primarily by our male membership there is always a large number of wives & girlfriends at the pub evenings, which really causes the event to feel much more family centred than many other events.

The format of the pub-evening has always been the same, where a member (or a member and their better half) puts together a meal, which is then sold at nominal cost to members in attendance. This cost is never more than R30, and often R25 for simpler meals. This allows everybody to take a night off from their culinary duties, which is always nice on a Friday. The bar is always open—well stocked thanks to Jay Westaway's tireless efforts — and a good evening is had by all.

We have experimented somewhat with the meals which have been provided. After the first few pub evenings, where the primary fare was wops rolls, we diverged into various other cuisine. We hosted a Curry Night, Italian Evening, Soup Evening, Shwama's, Homemade hamburgers, to mention a few. While these meals are all wonderful, it is very difficult to keep the cost of such a meal down to below R30 - especially when it is taken into account the fact that these may not be frozen and defrosted for another Pub-Evening as can be done with Wops or Prego steaks... As a result of these increased costs a few of the Pub Evening's have made a loss, which leaves either the host, or the club out of pocket—and often leaves the family sick of Soup after week 3! We have also battled the high variability in attendance, with us running out of food on some evenings, and having the hosts eating soup for weeks on others...

While we remain enthusiastic about the Pub-Evening Concept, and we will continue running them so long as there are a few people propping up the bar, we cannot afford to lose money on the food. There are three possible solutions to the predicament—

1. Limit the type of cuisine to simple pub-fare, which is cost effective and simple to refrigerated and store for future use.
2. Vary the price of the meal according to the "complexity" of the meal.
3. Request RSVP's to the event ahead of time to allow for accurate catering.

We are very interested to hear your thoughts? Is it unreasonable to expect members to eat the same food month after month, or is it excessive to request R50 or R60 for a plate of Lasagne? Alternatively, would it be inconvenient to RSVP for a pub evening? Please chat to the a member of the Exco, or drop me a call or an e-mail with any thoughts or suggestions.

Also, to the members who we don't regularly see at these events, is there anything which we could do encourage your attendance?

Octagonally,

Steve Grover





It is now almost a year since the launch of the MG Car Club—Northern Centre's Facebook Page. While Facebook and other new fandangled social media may seem a bit incongruous when so many of our cars predate the development of the microprocessor we have found the medium to be an incredible asset tool for communication with members & contributing to the MG movement.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Pepi Gaspari the MG Car Club Northern Centre's Facebook page is the most active MG-related Facebook page in the Country. At the time of writing we have 169 likes - coming from locations as far afield as Germany, Netherlands, Australia and the US. Facebook also allows the administrators to view the statistics of the members of the page—a few of which are presented below for interest sake.

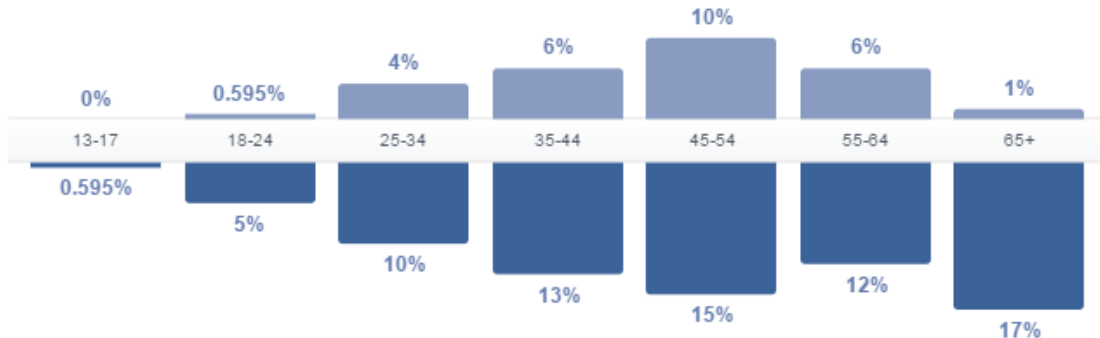
The people who like your Page

Women

27% Your Fans

Men

73% Your Fans



Country	Your Fans	Notes
South Africa	101	This really is incredible publicity for the club - and allows us to contribute to the international MG family in a great way. Also, with so many members of our centre having moved abroad over the past few years Facebook provides a great way to stay in touch with these former members, and remind them of the good time that they had with our club.
United Kingdom	12	
Australia	11	
United States of America	8	Last month we set a new record for the club when we posted a series of photographs from Murray Arundell of the Australian pre-war meeting at Bathurst. This post was viewed by 4737 people from all over the world! If you haven't yet seen the post there are some great photographs of some interesting cars.
Italy	7	We use our Facebook page to communicate the club's activities with the broader, and specifically people who are interested in MG. We post report - generally with many photographs - of club events. These report are often published while the event is actually taking place, and allows enthusiasts to have news much faster than if they were to wait on the monthly newsletter for it. We also advertise upcoming events on the page which allows them to quickly be loaded onto the virtual dairy.
Netherlands	5	
Germany	4	
New Zealand	4	
Portugal	2	In addition to the event reports the page is constantly updated with MG trivia and interesting anecdotes such as "Throw-Back Thursday" and interesting report of what happened in history. These are very interesting and often provide an insight
Switzerland	2	

# facebook

which is not readily available through reading the well known MG histories.

If you are on Facebook please like our page, and share our posts with your friends. Chances are - if they are good friends - they will also be interested in things MG. Increased publicity can only be good for the club, and the MG movement! Our page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/MGCarClubNorthernCentre>



**MG Car Club - Northern Centre** added 40 new photos.

Published by Space-frame Graca Gaspari (🇵🇹) · November 15 at 1:10pm · 🌐

The Australian Pre War register have just had their national meeting in Bathurst.

Thanks to Murray Arundell for allowing us to share the photos of these stunning cars.

Great quality cars ....enjoy !



4,734 people reached

Boost Post

# Upcoming Events

## Natter 'n Noggin

**Monday 7 December 2015**

Please join us for what will be the very last “official” club event of the 2015 year.

The December Noggin will be a social affair—a chance to discuss plans for the holidays and arrange for December meet-ups.

Date: **Monday 7 December 2015**  
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse  
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road  
Menlo Park**

## Natter 'n Noggin

**Monday 4 January 2016**

The January Noggin will be a social event, and a great opportunity to catch up on the activities over the eventful month preceding the Noggin.

Please join us to provide ideas for the Committee’s planning of the up coming calendar, as we get ready for the year to come and make arrangements to use our cars & further enthusiasm for the marque.

Date: **Monday 4 January 2016**  
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse  
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road  
Menlo Park**

## Pub Evening

**Friday 15 January 2016**

The January pub-evening—the first pub evening of 2016—will follow the standard format, and will be a good opportunity to meet up with friends in the new year.

The cost will be nominal - 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.

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

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Date: **Friday 15 January 2016**  
Time: **17h30 onwards**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse, Corner 26 Avenue and Umgazi Road  
Menlo Park**

# Upcoming Events

## SAA Museum Run

Sunday 24 January 2016

This will be the first mobile event of the year .

The plan will be to leave from Pretoria at around 09:00 and drive through to Rand Airport where we will have a buffet breakfast at the old Transvaal Aviation Club (TAC). Following the breakfast we have arranged for a guided tour of the aircraft and the museum hall. The SAA Museum have a 747SP, a 747 Classic, a Douglas C-54D and a de Havilland Dove on static display, and we have been invited to park our cars around them for photographs.

The cost of the breakfast is R55, and the tour R35.

More details will follow in the January newsletter, but please keep the date diarised at this stage.

Date: **Sunday 24 January 2016**  
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse**  
**Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road**  
**Menlo Park**



# Upcoming Events

## Natter 'n Noggin & AGM

**Monday 1 February 2016**

As announced on Page 6 we will be holding our AGM on 6 February 2016. Please join us to be part of the decisions to be made in taking the club forward into the next year.

Besides the formalities the usual Natter 'n Noggin activities will take place and facilities will be available.

Date: **Monday 1 February 2016**  
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse  
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road  
Menlo Park**

## Clubhouse Workday

**Saturday 6 February 2016**

In order to keep our clubhouse looking as pristine as our cars we need to spend a bit of time giving it a bit of a spit and a polish ahead of another year's activities.

Please diarise February 6th as a clubhouse work day. We are planning to start working early, from say 09:00 and work through to lunch-time. After the work is done, we will light a braai fire and enjoy some club fellowship with a few cold beers (perhaps not the first ones for the day...)

More details will follow in the January and February newsletter as regards the work which needs to be done, and what tools or sundry supplies we would appreciate if you could bring along.

Date: **Saturday 6 February 2016**  
Time: **09h00 onwards**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse  
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road  
Menlo Park**

## Pub Evening Awards Evening

**Friday 12 February 2016**

Following the same successful format as last year, please join us for the Annual Club Awards Evening which will be held during the February Pub Evening in the Clubhouse.

More details will follow closer to the date, but we are looking forward to seeing you there.

Date: **Friday 12 February 2016**  
Time: **17h30 onwards**  
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse, Corner 26 Avenue and Umgazi Road  
Menlo Park**

## Forthcoming Events in Brief

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

### December

Sat 5	Christmas Party	NC	Clubhouse 12:00 onwards See Page 9 for Details	
Mon 7	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 onwards Social Natter & Cold Noggin	c

### January

Mon 4	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 onwards Social Natter	c
Fri 15	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sun 24	Monthly Run Chairman's Run	NC	See Notice on Page 14	C

### February

Mon 1	AGM	NC	See Notice in Newsletter Page 6	c
Sat 6	Clubhouse Workday	NC	Clubhouse from 09h00 onwards See Notice on Page 15 for more details	
Fri 12	Pub Evening and <b>Awards Evening</b>	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sat 21	Monthly Run	NC	Possible Garage Day	c



# Trading Post

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Neil Murray  
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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