

MG Car Club Northern Centre Newsletter

May 2016 — Issue 414



Stephen Grover's MGA and George Dehlen's TC under the wings
at Kitty Hawk on 24 April 2016.

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

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

We would like to welcome the following members to the club:

- Willem Nel (MGB GT)
- Keith Schroder (MGB, MGB GT & MG TD)
- Rosa Kimber (MGB GT)
- Andrew, Hayden, Douglas Lawson (MG TC, YT and MGC GT)

We look forward to seeing you at events in the future.

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.



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2016-2017 Committee Members

Stephen Grover Chairman & Newsletter	082 818 0540	Stephendgrover@gmail.com
Steve Eden Treasurer, Vice-chair & Membership Admin	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
Bernard Mostert Vehicle Valuations Carel Wilken	082 927 2291 083 391 1611 012 386 2136	Bernard.Mostert @adaptit.co.za Hercar Restorations

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FROM THE WORKBENCH

The evenings are getting earlier and the mornings are getting later... It would appear that we are now well into Autumn, with winter well on it's way. While I can't say that I enjoy the shorter days, the cooler months are certainly my favourite times to drive MG's. The crisp air is invigorating in the MGA, and the MGBGT is less of an oven during the day, and I have been enjoying taking advantage of my favourite seasons to put some miles under the wheels...

The April Pub Evening must be the highlight of the month. We were joined by Norman and Pat Ewing, and Dave and Wendy from the bloodhound project. Pepi, ably assisted by Lynn Stopforth Raymond Kukard, provided a wonderful dinner and Claus and Julie provided a celebratory bloodhound cake. To top it off we had the incredibly neat Goodrum MGB GT in the clubhouse. Thanks to all who were involved in the event and who attended.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control we were unable to use the Watloo testing grounds for the driving tests, so we had to rearrange the event at the last minute. We decided to do a run to one of our favourite venues—Kitty Hawk. What a wonderful day for a run! We were allocated parking in front of the clubhouse and enjoyed a breakfast with members before heading out for the day.

Also last month we were invited to join the Johannesburg Centre for their celebration of Cecil Kimber's birthday. While the Northern Centre turnout was limited, we had a great morning with our friends from across the Jukskei River. It was wonderful to see Bob Wilmot's MG J2 out in the sun - many photographs were taken - as well as Norman's J2 which is currently under construction.

May will have the usual Noggin, Pub Evening and Sunday event in May. We are pleased to be joined by Roger Pierce for the Noggin, and he will be talking to us about his long-distance rally exploits and this promises to be very interesting. The pub evening will be the usual meal and a grog. We will be hosting our annual Condition Concours on 22 May.

The Condition Concour is a great opportunity to see the best cars which the club has to offer on display, and to have your car scored against other cars in the club. The event is of the "Tops Only" format which means that the cars are not judged on originality - but rather on Condition and Cleanliness along. Also, engine-bay and underbody are not judged so it is a very attainable form of concours. We hope to see you, and your clean car, there on the 22nd!

Octagonally,
Steve Grover



MG Enthusiasts & Club members at Kitty Hawk



The Grover & Westaway Iris Blue MGA & MGB at Kitty Hawk



MG's in the Garden at Cecil Kimber's Birthday Party



"Bird's Eye View" at Kitty Hawk



George Dehlen's wonderful TC at Kitty Hawk

A PUB EVENING TO REMEMBER

Steve Grover

The Club's pub evenings really are an event not to be missed! They are wonderfully festive, and a great way to get to know club members.

This past pub evening we said a sad goodbye to Wendy Maxwell and Dave Rowlings, who have become great friends of the MG Car Club in the time that they have been promoting the Bloodhound Project in South Africa.

It was very early on in the Bloodhound project when Norman Ewing and Pepi Gaspari accompanied Dave to MG South Africa, and explained to MG South Africa that they absolutely should give Dave an MG to use while on his travels in South Africa. At the time Dave was using a rental car, and obtaining a car was a challenge. MG came to the party, and the rest is history. Two MG6's and over 100 000km's later, Dave and Wendy only have good things to say about the car.

Sadly Dave and Wendy are returning the UK shores - just in time for Summer - and we felt it was important to say an MG goodbye!

Norman and Pat joined us for the evening, and we had a great cake prepared by Julie and Claus and a meal prepared by Pepi, Lynn and Raymond. To top it all off we had the Goodrum's (very clean) MGBGT in the clubhouse as something to look at. It is wonderful to see such a neat GT!

The evening went on well into the night, and while we were sad to leave and to say goodbye to Dave & Wendy, we are sure that we will see them again in the future - hopefully behind the wheel of an MG again!



Jacaranda Jottings

After the rain and cold of the previous day, Freedom Day dawned with clear blue skies and moderate temperatures. Seven o'clock, (yes, pensioners can get up this early), saw Hazell and I, after coffee and toast, on our way in the MGA, to meet the Cunningtons at the One Stop on the N14. The car park was full of 4x4s on their way to Botswana via the Kgalagadi, this made Hazell extremely jealous.



We left the One Stop for the short drive to Maggies Farm, home of the Chicken Pie, in

Lanseria. Here we were met with a huge variety of Classic Cars, from a TC, through Sunbeam Alpines, an Alvis, TR3, Jags and a Roller, to name a few. Interestingly, there were 4 MX5s present, which confirms my feeling that this is a brand new classic.



This was the start point for the Dam Busters Classic Adventure Tour organised by the Sunbeam Sports Car Club. An annual event, it has grown over recent years, and had over 50 entrants this year. Just shows you can have events on public holidays.

After a short driver's briefing we were on our way at around 9.30. A route schedule had been provided which listed 80 Treasure Hunt type clues to be completed during the drive of around 180km.

We travelled via Broedestroom, across the west end of Hartbeespoort Dam, past Kosmos and then turned west along the edge of the Magaliesberg nature area, through Mooi Nooi, (where we were stopped by an attractive police lady, who wished to look at the car!) and finished at Buffelspoort Dam for a pit stop and snack.



After a short break we headed south, past Brau Haus am Damm, then headed east, to finish at the Van Gaalen Cheese Farm where we were allowed to park in the field at the rear.

After a couple of cold drinks, the results were announced, commendably quickly. Neither we, nor the Cunningtons, featured in the top 3, but a score of 67 out of 80 (the winner scored 74) was certainly competitive despite many claims from Hazell that I drove too fast! (but I always do!)

Castrol presented all the entrants with 5l of GTX. Then we made our way home, tired and wind blown but happy to have had

such an enjoyable day out in the MGA. The rally and driving to and from the start and finish ended up at nearly 200 miles according to the A's odo.

Thanks must go to the Sunbeam Sports Car Club for organising the day, the route schedule and questions must have taken a lot of hard work.

The event has inspired Geoff and Bev to organise a similar event for the MG Club next year.

Drive your MG, you know you want to!!
Steve Eden



A MaGical Cruise to Australia

Norman Ewing

In close to fifty years, we met in 1967, my wife Pat has sprung many surprises, but none as incredible as telling me, that she was taking me to Australia, on the Queen Elizabeth, for my 75th birthday. Ever since we met, she has supported my passion for MG and love of all things nautical, even though she could see me and my car club activities far enough on more than a few occasions. But the Queen Elizabeth to see our MG friends in Australia, fantastic!

We loaded up the ZR and Sarah dropped us off at the airport for our flight to Cape Town. There we were met by old MG friends Heyns and Ann Stead. The time we spent with them gave us opportunity to discuss and plan our upcoming trip together to Le Touquet in France, for the European MG event of the year. The following morning we set off for breakfast at Groot Constantia and after a trip to visit a glorious classic car emporium, they took us to the Convention Centre for embarkation, where they wished us well on our way.

After a night and day at sea we steamed into Port Elizabeth complete with a large MG Car Club flag draped over our balcony, in the hope that MGA friends Terry and Lynne Estment would see and photograph it. No chance as with Cape Town, security was such that no one could get near. We were desperate to see the Estments before they set off for New Zealand for good, they came and collected us and took us to a local hotel terrace to enjoy some time together. A night departure saw us set course for the tiny island of Reunion and our first chance to visit this department of France, I was staggered at the traffic and to discover that there are over 50,000 cars on the island, and no time restrictions on ownership as in Singapore and Japan, being part of the EU.

A day later it was Mauritius and then a 7 day stretch at sea to Freemantle. Whilst walking around the deck, I was stopped by Greg Hansen, who seeing my MGB 50 shirt told me he owned a 'B' in Perth he was keen to talk, which we did. That same day, Lord Paddy Ashdown gave a brilliant talk on the French resistance fighters, his book on the Cockleshell raid was in the ship's bookshop, I bought it and had it signed for my good MG friend Bob Wilmot, busy at home on my J2. It was all go with great talks on Cunard ships, French lessons, creative writing, walking and gym, interspersed of course with food, keeping us active.

We were met in Freemantle by old MG friends Harry and Deidre Pyle, who wrote the TC book 'Ride them till the roads wear out', MG TC author and friend Mike Sherell and Christine and Doug Bush, who are no strangers to South Africa. Doug an air traffic controller for years at Gatwick was South East Centre Chairman. We took the MG flag ashore for a team photo. Harry and Mike had come with two of the most iconic TCs, while the Bushes were in a black ZR. With the girls in the ZR, Doug and I in the TCs we were able to swop seats on an exhilarating drive up to Cottesloe, then on by way of a motor museum to the Bush's new home. Mike did some book signing, whilst Harry took great delight in describing how he retrieved my hat when it blew off. It was all over far too soon and we were out the harbour on our way to Adelaide. I then met an MG Car Club member Roy Drudge owner of an MGC and a Healy Silverstone who had been on Le Jog with Derek Edwards. Up again to greet the pilot in the dark, I was ready with the flag to no avail, the enormous roof of the terminal ensured that it could only be seen from the bow. I took it there and waved it at Bob and Shelley Bazzica who didn't see it. Dock security asked who they were waiting for "MG friends" they said.

"Oh" he replied "so the MG flag was for you?" "what flag?" asked Shelley. We disembarked and fell about laughing when Shelley described the flag story, I told Pat that they were looking right at the flag and didn't see it.

The day in Adelaide was pure magic after a tour all over Glenelg and the city for Pat we headed to the Bazzica's home, where members of the 1986-1990 and 2000 MG Indaba tour groups were gathered for lunch and a group photo with the club flag. David Pearson, who gave the, then Mayor of Johannesburg carrots for not mentioning the Aussies in his 1986 welcome speech is now 95 his wife, Joy who not only organised the trips, but also that of the South Africans to Aussie in 1995, is 90 and looks fantastic. Must be the water! It was fantastic to see so many old MG friends and to be made so incredibly welcome, it brought home to us how very special this MG family world-wide is. All too soon it was over, and sadly we drove back to the ship with Shelley and Bazz.

Pat is a Melbourne, Derbyshire lass and she wanted to see the 'other' one with just the two of us, we walked, rode trams and really did Melbourne, she loved it.

The planned Sydney get together did not materialise because Steve had to work. We were anchored for the first day and trips ashore were by tender so we agreed to meet Arnold De Castro on Sunday at the Opera house. He arrived and looked after us in the same way his brother has for so many years. We drove all over the city around the harbour to Watsons Bay and then home where Amanda and Michael spoilt us. A tour of their new home and the MGB they took over and it was tea time. In the old days at JC Auto we used to take turns buying pecan pies for tea. Amanda had not only got a pecan pie but insisted we eat something substantial before our flight home. We spent the day laughing as

Arnold described to Pat various incidents when I took him to Silverstone, Scotland and France in 1999, stranded on the Paris Metro platform when the train left without him, with me on board, as only Arnold could describe. We were by now sad to leave and Arnold whisked us off to the airport.

A 28 hour flight through Abu Dhabi and we were home. It truly had been the trip of a lifetime and thanks to Pat my wife, the love of my life, who made it an extra special surprise.



Upcoming Events

Natter 'n Noggin

Monday 9 May 2016

The monthly Natter 'n Noggin will take place on Monday 9 May 2016.

Please join us for a social evening, and to become acquainted with the Club's Activities for the upcoming month.

The month we are going to be joined by Roger Pierce, who will be discussing his exploits doing long distance endurance events in MG's. This promises to be very interesting, and a great opportunity to share in the enthusiasm which is generated by these unique events.

Date: **Monday 9 May 2016**
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse**
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road
Menlo Park

Pub Evening

Friday 13 May 2016

Please join us for a social evening at the clubhouse when we have our May Pub Evening.

The pub evening is a great way to relax at the end of a week, enjoy somebody else's cooking, and catch up with MG friends. The event is open to all family and friends of members.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Date: **Friday 13 May 2016**
Time: **17h30 onwards**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse, Corner 26 Avenue and Umgazi Road**
Menlo Park



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Upcoming Events

To be held at the MG Northern Centre Clubhouse, this will take the usual form of bring-and-braai (fires will be available) or bring a picnic lunch. The bar will be open, of course. The gates will be open at 08h30, and cars should be in place by 09h30.

The Condition Concours is not as serious as Concours d'Etat as it uses the straightforward "Tops Only" Judging format. This means that only the exterior and interior of the cars are judged for cleanliness and condition

– authenticity is not judged. The engine compartment, boot and chassis are also not judged.

So – get stuck in and see how your pride and joy fares against maybe one or two new restorations that we might see for the first time.

If you can assist Jay Westaway (he still needs some helpers) please call him on 079 528 1954.



Combined Centre's Showday

19 June 2016

This year's annual showday will be hosted by the Johannesburg Centre. This is always a highlight of the MG calendar, and a great opportunity to see a great many MG's out in the winter sun!

The Johannesburg Centre is in the final stages of negotiating a venue for the event. The venue is new, exciting, and will need a great many cars to fill!

Please encourage members, non-members and past-members to attend!

Date: **Sunday 19 June 2016**
Time: **09h00 onwards**
Where: **Details to follow**

Forthcoming Events in Brief

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

May

Mon 9	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	c
Fri 13	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sun 22	Condition Concours	NC	08:30 onwards. See page 7 for details	c

June

Mon 6	Natter 'n Noggin Talk by Roger Pierce	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	c
Fri 17	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sun 19	Combined Showday	NC	08:30 onwards. See page 7 for details	c

July

Mon 4	Natter 'n Noggin Talk by Stephen Grover on MG European Event.	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	c
Fri 15	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sat 23	Cat's Eye Trial	NC	This year to be organised by MG Car Club. Details to be confirmed closer to time	c/v

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**MG CAR CLUB COMBINED CAPE CENTRES
2017 GATHERING**

25th – 28th MAY, 2017

REGISTRATION FORM

The 2017 CAPE CENTRES GATHERING will take place from Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th May 2017 based at the Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness and will be hosted by the MG Car Club (South Cape). The number of participants will be limited to 60 cars. Your registration for this event is now invited. Registration will open on 4th March, 2016 and close on 31st August, 2016.

Personal details

	Entrant	Partner
Surname		
First name		
Postal address		
E-mail address		
Cell phone		
Landline		
MG Centre		
MG Model		

Accommodation

- All participants will be accommodated at the Wilderness Hotel in Wilderness, more details of which can be found at www.thewildernesshotel.co.za.
- Adequate and secure parking will be available.
- A number, but not all, of the hotel rooms are front-facing. These will be allocated on a "first-come-first-served" basis.
- Local entrants are strongly encouraged to stay at the hotel.

- Please advise if you have any special dietary requirements.
- Accommodation consists of double or twin bedded rooms, each with their own shower and toilet.
- The costs given below include the registration fee, organised activities, dinner on the 25th, 26th and 27th May, 2017, breakfast on the 26th, 27th and 28th May, 2017 and all service fees and taxes.

	Per couple	Single
Accommodation, meals & activities	R 4,200-00	R 2,250-00
No accommodation (meals & activities only)	R 1,980-00	R 1,140-00

Payment

Payments are required as follows:-

On registration		R 300-00
First 1/3 of balance	No later than 31 st Aug., 2016	
Second 1/3 of balance	No later than 30 th Nov., 2016	
Remainder	No later than 28 th Feb., 2017	

In the event of a cancellation the registration fee is non-refundable.

The club's bank details are as follows:-

Bank	Nedbank (Knysna branch)
Account No	1149032774 (Current account)
Account name	MG Car Club

Please ensure that your deposit reflects your name so that you can be identified on our bank statement.

Return

On completion this form should be sent by e-mail to lionsden@netactive.co.za or to **P.O.Box 732, Knysna, 6570.**

Confirmation

By submission of this form I hereby confirm my intention to attend the gathering and accept that the Organising Committee reserves the right to change package costs should unforeseen circumstances arise.