

MG Car Club Northern Centre Newsletter

November 2016 — Issue 420



A great show of Yellow at the end of the Jacaranda Run at the Clubhouse.

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:

- Scotty Schoeman
- Paul Spencer & Peter Faul
- Morne Liebenberg
- William Kelly
- Jaco du Toit

We are looking forward to seeing you at many events in the future.

Subscriptions

As we near the end of the year subscriptions are becoming due. Please see the note elsewhere in the newsletter regarding the 2017 subs. rates.



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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
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FROM THE WORKBENCH

Another month older as we head towards the end of the year... This past month has been very exciting for Bronwyn and me, as we moved into our new garage, or house rather... This has limited the amount of time available for tinkering on MG's—although the blue MGB is now frustratingly close to complete... It now just has to compete with all sorts of exciting household chores.

The BGT has also been pressed into daily service, as we lent Bronwyn's euro-hatch to family to use for a few weeks. It is great to be back in the driving seat of the B regularly, and it certainly does put a smile on the face after a long day at work—although in this heat it does lead to wet shirts by the time I get home. Unfortunately, the B is looking for a bit of attention, as the electrical to-do list now includes windscreen wipers that don't wipe, an alternator that doesn't fully alternate, and a radio that doesn't radiate... All of these things will hopefully get some attention in the new garage in the near future.

Unfortunately, between moving house and family commitments Bronwyn and I have been more absent than present at the club, but from all reports it seems like October was another good month. A successful Noggin where we de-briefed about the recent Indaba— thanks to all who came and shared memories of the event, as well as those who did not attend the event, but were able to get a good feel for what took place from the photographs presented. Grateful thanks to those who took photographs at the event.

Once again the Jacaranda run was a great success, with strong attendance from the Johannesburg Centre of the MG Car Club, as well as the Pretoria Triumph Sports Car Club. The weather held very well for the day, and a good day was had by all. Thanks to Dave Westaway for compiling the route, and for the interesting notes included regarding the sights (or is that sites?) along the way. We would like to present a new route for next year—is anybody willing to compile a route for the club?

We also hosted a very successful pub evening. A debt of gratitude to Geoff and Bev Cunningham who kindly provided the meal, and to Steve and Hazel for displaying their MG BGT which has been campaigned extensively in competitions, along with a most impressive array of trophies and rally plates from their endeavours'. Thanks to all who made this event so successful. Bronwyn and I were very sad to miss the event, but with the N1 closed, and having spent the entire day moving into our aforementioned new garage, we were in no state to make the trek across the Jukskei.



This coming month has a fair degree of excitement. Firstly, on 6 November Pepi Gaspari is arranging an informal run to the Zonderwater Commemoration Ceremony, a landmark which those who attended the Indaba will be familiar with—or those who read Pepi's article in this month's newsletter. If you would like to attend this event please contact Pepi urgently to make a booking.

We also have the driving test coming up on 20 November. This will be held at Silveroaks shipping centre, and should be a great event. Please join us for a rare opportunity to drive your road-going MG in a competitive environment.

Our annual table-raffle is taking place at the November Noggin. This is always a club favourite event—the details of which are laid out later in the newsletter. Please bring some bits and bobs along and participate in the event. The more that is on the table the more successful the event is.

Looking forward to the end of the year, we are hosting our Christmas Party in December. There will be a jumping castle, braai fires, open bar (no, not that kind of open bar... Just a bar, that is open), and Secret Santa for young and old. Please join us to celebrate the end of a great MG year!

Another new addition to the newsletter from this month is the addition of a feature about getting to know the members. This has kindly been proposed and actioned by Helgard Muller, and I would like to thank him for the initiative and work in getting it started. I am sure that you will enjoy learning something about the other members in the club.

That's all for now. Looking forward to getting some MG's into the new garage!

Octagonally,
Steve Grover

MG INDABA 2016 FROM THE INSIDE

Two months ago the WHEELS WINGS & DIAMONDS Indaba kicked off after more than two years in the planning. The last few days leading up to the start were spent crossing the t's and dotting the i's, making sure the 12 different venues we were going to use for the event were ready and on the same page. To ensure a successful event it was critical that we kept to a tight schedule so as to give the enthusiasts their moneys worth and a memorable event, for this reason we needed all 12 to buy into what we were doing.

As in any event there are always things that could go astray, like the Tiger Moth that was scheduled to fly in, crash landing the day before the event and I got the call on the Friday night during the supper in the Boma, the plane we had sourced and worked so hard in the months leading up to the Indaba was not going to be there ! When that happens you realize that no amount of planning can help. Life has a way of showing us that we do not control everything. I had learnt that lesson 16 years before when a 400 seater marquee was blown down by a severe Highveld thunder storm, 3 hours before the dinner was to start ! All the cutlery and crockery was destroyed, so I guess when I received the call saying our star attraction plane was not coming I should not have been surprised. Thank goodness plan B (*ED: I always find it useful to have a plan (MG)B, for plan (MG)A fails to proceed...*) had already been lined up and Rodney Benn came to the rescue with the German spotter plane.



When first envisaged the idea of the Indaba was to have all at a picnic at the Aerodrome, with cars and planes and people milling about harking back to a pre-war era when it was a weekend outing. Two years ago when we approached Kitty Hawk I asked if they could organize an air show for us. The red tape and cost of an air show that needed to comply with the relevant international regulations was prohibitive ! However as the aerobatic team are based at Kitty Hawk, they volunteered to “practice” on the same day we had our event at “no cost”, no regulations required! I could not have hoped for it to turn out as well as it did, the team were absolutely phenomenal and definitely was the highlight of the day!

As the organization of the event proceeded and I explained to the people at the 12 venues what the Indaba was and what we were hoping to achieve, it was incredible to see how enthusiastic everybody became and how the event started to have a life of its own, in a similar way that the aerobatic team stepped forward with air show.

Byron Phitides of Cullinan Diamond and Mine Tours became very enthusiastic and offered to come through on Friday night and speak to us about the History of the mine and Cullinan. There is definitely something about the “MAGIC OF THE MG MARQUE” it not only infects enthusiasts but all those around us too.



The smallest venue we visited was Zonderwater Cemetery and the little museum inside, it is also the one closest to my heart. It was also almost omitted from the Indaba, after arranging that the venue would be opened especially for us by the custodian, 18 months before the Indaba. When I called a month before the Indaba to make sure that all was fine and he had not forgotten about us, he asked me to move our visit forward by a week because he was going to be in Italy the weekend of the Indaba?! That did put me over the edge and I called the one person that I knew would help, my big sister Renata came to the rescue, within fifteen minutes of telling her what I thought of the curator in “plain” language. She had organized to have Zonderwater opened by her friend who is the curator's cousin, testament to the fact that its who you know in this world and not what you know that counts, it also highlights the

fact that Italians are well connected! My sister then proceeded to sit at Zonderwater with my mom and their friends to welcome my MG FAMILY! That was very special for me.

From the feedback we received to date the 2016 Indaba achieved what we set out to do, create memories with friends old and new from all over the country and overseas, rekindle the MAGIC OF MG and open up our premier showday to members of the general public that are outside of the MG family. We also set out to show that we have incredible history and places of interest right on our door step and that our out of town visitors as well as some our locals saw a different side to our city that goes beyond the Union Buildings and monuments.

To put together an event like we had, you need an incredibly strong committee and a group of workers that make the event happen and give the event its unique character.

We were fortunate to have both, I would like to thank my incredible committee for doing such a great job before, during and after the Indaba.

Hazell & Steve Eden, George Dehlen, Jay & Dave Westaway, Alan Uzzell, Stephen Grover, Gary Chapman, Claus Pille and Bernard Mostert.

Best compliment we received was from Walter & Brigitte Kallenberg from Germany, when I asked them what they liked best about the Indaba, they said it was the Saturday evening dinner. Besides the incredible decoration Sharleen Putter put together, they both said it was the great "feeling" in the hall of people enjoying each others company and wanting to be there, in fact they said of all the MG events they have attended all over the world, that evening was the best MG evening they have ever been to. That speaks volumes to the great nature and comradery we have in the Northern Center.



I am Very proud to be part of such a great center!

Pepi
2016 Indaba
Chairman

Subscriptions 2017

It's that time of the year again, where we need to pass the hat around and gather some funds to allow us to continue into the upcoming year...

Those with reasonably long memories will recall that 2015 was a particularly tough year for the club financially, with a particular burden being the non-members who joined us for an unofficial meeting and left with our regalia, drinks, hi-fi and a fair amount of destruction in their wake. The costs associated with this and the follow-up installation of a radio linked alarm system and armed response made for a tough year for the club and we were left with little option but to increase the subscriptions for 2017 to avoid eating into our savings.

We are very pleased to report that the 2016 year has been much better for the club, financially. We have collected a good number subscriptions from members, have benefitted from good attendance at events at the clubhouse and the bar has turned a tidy profit. We have also not suffered any unexpected capital outlays. All-in-all a good year for the MG Car Club Northern Centre.

We are therefore glad to report that as an Exco we have taken the decision not to increase the subscriptions for next year, but have decided that they will remain at R330 for the year, with a R30 discount being offered to those who are able to pay by means of EFT and limit the banking charges that we have to pay to process the payment.

As with any entity, we would appreciate payment as early as possible—so please include us in your next payment run! Furthermore, we would like to raise the option of *Life Membership*. In terms of our constitution it is possible for members of long and good standing to apply to the Exco to purchase *Life Membership* for the equivalent of ten years annual subscription. Please contact the club Secretary, George Dehlen, if you are interested in applying for Life Membership.

Meet the Members

George Dehlen

Helgard Muller

You are obviously a petrol head but why MG?

I first became aware of MGs when I was a student in the early 1950s. The Cottesloe Men's Residence housed a number of ex-servicemen "studying" with government bursaries who spent more time on rowing (the Wits Eights were leaders in those days), drinking, and lady friends than they did on studying. That must have been why they were still there when the war had ended seven years previously! Being a small-town boy and having known only Fords and Chevs during my school years, what impressed me most was their cars – Renault 4CVs, Citroen Travants, DKWs, Morris Minors, and above all, MGs. I did not know anything about MGs at the time, but they must have been TCs and TDs. In about 1955 one of them brought what must have been a TF with its impressive more rounded styling. Then in 1958 one appeared with a red



MGA. There was much discussion about it – we admired the sleek styling, but having been accustomed to the boxy T-Types felt that it was not a "proper" MG and that the factory had lost its way. Not only were the cars awesome but so too were the intrepid journeys they undertook. Several of the ex-servicemen came from the then string of British colonies in central Africa, and they drove home in those cars during the three month summer vacations - to Salisbury, the Copper Belt, Blantyre, Nairobi - journeys which we today consider as odysseys for classic cars, but which must have been even more so on the dirt roads of the time.

What was your first MG and how and when did you get hold of it?

When I could afford to buy a car it had to be something practical, so it was a Morris Minor – which was then very much in the same family as MG. My MG dreams had to wait until I retired and I bought my 1958 MGA 1500 in 2000. The car was in Port Shepstone on the Natal South Coast. It was rust-free which suggests that it had not been there all its life, but the rest of its early history is unknown. It is a 1500 Roadster built in Abingdon, Orient Red like the first one seen so many years previously. Chassis and engine numbers, and the markings on various components are consistent with a production date around April 1958. The MGA was basically sound but I did a lot in tidying up the engine compartment and body, and fitted an aftermarket hardtop. The car participated in the Tusker Tour in 2003 (commemorating 50 years of the MG TF, on which it was the only non-T-Type), the MGA African Adventure in 2005 (one of 50 MGAs commemorating 50 years of the MGA), the Spridget Tour in 2008 (one of three MGAs helping to commemorate 50 years of the Sprite and the Midgets), the 2015 MGA 60th Anniversary Tour, and three Indabas.

Are there any other MGs or any other classics in your garages?

Next was a one-owner 1980 MGBGT which I bought in 2002. The Russet Brown colour was not liked by the family and I had it resprayed Old English White – which I regret now - I should have kept it original. Dave Wheeler did an engine rebuild for me. The car was used for three Cape Centres events, two Indabas, many CRRASA rallies, the Polana Rally to Maputo, and most memorably the 2006 African Odyssey to the Equator and beyond to Isiolo "where the road ran out". The MGBGT is the most practical of all the classic MGs and was often a stand-in for my modern car when that was unavailable.



After that came TC 7404 which had been produced at Abingdon on 16 December 1948, shipped to South Africa, and sold by the Johannesburg Agent, Connock's (S.A.) Motor Co. Ltd in 1949. Its early history is unknown, but

from 1967 to 1976 it was owned by John Meyer, a student attorney in Clubview and later Bethal, who used the car for transport while a student. He modified the car by cutting air scoops in the bonnet, and fitting some Wolseley components. Eventually the car became unused, was abandoned and lay in his back yard under a sheet for several years. The car in a poor state was bought by Robert Ketjen in 1976 who restored the car in Pretoria together with his father, registering it in 1985. In 2004 with support from the late Rodger Lawson I bought it, and over four years carried out a complete restoration focusing on originality with the help of Dave Wheeler and guidance from Rodger. The car has since been entered for Concours d'Etat events, and driven on several long tours in Mpumalanga, the Western Cape, the Ibhayi Indaba in Port Elizabeth in 2008, the Johannesburg Centre's 40th Anniversary Tour of the "old Transvaal" in 2009, and the Clarens Indaba in 2012.



Do you drive with a full set of spanners? What essential tools do you take along on a run?

The small sizes of MG trunks do not leave much space for tools, but yes, I do carry comprehensive toolkits, lubricants and spares on longer runs. Fortunately only twice have I needed them. It is the personal possessions which have to stay at home. Unfortunately my passengers have difficulty in understanding why!

If you can wish for a "barn find" like stumbling on this absolute classic beauty in restorable condition available at an affordable price-highly unlikely but- what car would be your wish?

Any of the T-Types. The improvements and subtle differences between the cars during the nineteen years from 1936 to 1955 are enough for them to occupy a special niche.

What does the MG Club mean to you?

Being a member of the MG Car Club and particularly the Northern Centre has brought many benefits – new friends, guidance on restoring and maintaining the old cars, seeing parts of Africa I would never have seen otherwise. It has proved a wonderful journey for me.

Upcoming Events

Table Raffle

Noggin on Monday 7 November 2016

This is an event which has proved very popular during the past few years. At the Noggin on Monday 7th November we will be holding a Table Raffle in the Clubhouse at 8pm.

What?

Donate any MG items for which you no longer have a need (spares, tools, memorabilia, books, regalia, . . .) but also any other items which might interest members. Anything.

When?

Bring them to September Noggin or deliver them to the Clubhouse before the afternoon of Monday 7 November to allow time for the organizers to set up the tables before the Noggin that evening. Alternatively contact George at 0824921806 to collect them from you.

How does it work?

Buy raffle tickets (R2 each) – many of them preferably – 10 is a good start. The raffle master will draw numbers at random, and the ticket holder may come forward and select any (yes ANY) one item to take home. And so on until the tables are empty.

Date **Monday 7 November 2016**
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse**
 Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road
 Menlo Park

Driving Tests

Sunday 20 November 2016

We will be hosting our annual driving tests at Silver Oaks Shopping Centre on the morning of 20 November 2016.

The driving tests are relatively low speed events, and enjoyable in all manner of MG's. Please join us for an enjoyable morning which will be followed by a meal in the shopping centre.

More details to follow in the next newsletter.

Date **Sunday 20 November 2016**
Time: **09:00 for 09:30 Start**
Where: **Silver Oaks Shopping Centre**
 Corner Solomon Mahlangu (M10) and Von Backstrom Blvd
 Willow Acres

Upcoming Events

Pub Evening Friday 18 November 2016

Please join us for a social evening at the clubhouse when we have our August 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 from 17:30 onwards.

Christmas Party Saturday 3 December 2016

The MG Car Club Northern Centre's Christmas party is beginning to become a regular appearance on the club's calendar, and after the great time that we have had at the past two running's long may it continue.

For the uninitiated, here is the synopsis of the events planned for the day:

1. Arrange for access, if available, to children or grand-children for the day
2. Procure, ahead of time, one gift per person attending.
For Magnas and Magnettes: Unisex gift of value between R80 and R100.
For Midgets: Child specific gift of value max R150. All Scaletrix cars will be confiscated by the chairman...
3. **Boldly and Clearly** label Child's give with name. Santa's eyes are not what they used to be...
4. Arrive at the clubhouse, around 12:00, with food for Braai, and aforementioned gifts.
5. Place Adult Gift into "Gift Box".
6. Release children in an uncontrolled manner onto Jumping Castle.
7. Place Child's gift into Santa's Sack—which will be located subtly behind the bar—where no kids are allowed.
8. During course of the morning Santa Will arrive aboard Brightly Coloured MG Roadster.
9. Children will get very excited and gifts will be presented.
10. Meat Will be braai'd, and food will be eaten. Salad's will be provided, or please contact Stephen Grover if you are prepared to offer a salad.
11. Gifts will be distributed to all those in attendance. Methodology to be determined...
12. Great fun will be had by all.
13. Adults will end up on the Jumping Castle.
14. Toasts and Cheers to a great Year for the MG Car Club Northern Centre.



This will be a great event, and it is a wonderful opportunity to get the whole family involved in an MG event—extended family included. A prize will be given to the person who is most festively attired!

In summary—here are the details.

Date: **Saturday 3 December 2016**
Time: **12h00 onwards**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road
Menlo Park**

Upcoming Events

Trading Post

FOR SALE

Trevor Beddy has stumbled upon a 1974 MGB GT in Muckleneuk Ridge. The car is in presentable condition.

If you are interested in the car please contact Stephen Grover or Trevor Beddy for the seller's details.

WANTED

1. MG Related Mazaines & General Classic Car Magazines
2. MG, Motoring & Motorsport Related Books.
3. 1622cc B-Series Connecting Rods

Stephen Grover
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