

MG Car Club Northern Centre Newsletter

January 2017 — Issue 421



Ashleigh Chapman on her way to winning the ladies section of the driving tests

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

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Notices

Club Banking Details

Account Name "MG Car Club-Northern Centre"
FNB Bank Account Number 62363284359
Branch Code 250655 Menlyn Square

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the MG Car Club Northern Centre or the Executive Committee.

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
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	082 927 2291	Bernard.Mostert @adaptit.co.za
Vehicle Valuations Carel Wilken	083 391 1611 012 386 2136	Hercar Restorations

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FROM THE WORKBENCH

By the time that you are reading this Christmas will be a memory, and we should all be looking forward to our New Years Celebrations. I hope that all our members had a wonderful Christmas, spending time with those who you enjoy the most.

The past year has certainly been a busy year for the MG Car Club Northern Centre. We kicked off the year with a run to the SAA museum in Germiston, which was swiftly followed by a great show which we hosted at Brooklyn Mall, where we presented a time-line of MG cars ranging from a MG K1 Magnette through to a 2005 MG ZR. The usual club runs built up to the National Indaba which we hosted in September and by all accounts was an event which we can be very proud of.

We have also continued to host our regular pub evenings, which have been well supported and continue to generate enthusiasm within the club. All of these events have been catered by members who have given generously of their time and a special thanks goes to those who have assisted with the catering of these events.

The successes of the past year would not have been possible without the assistance and enthusiasm of all of our members, as well as the Club's Exco who have done a great job of keeping the club ticking over. Long meetings and planning has lead to a great year.

More recently, over the past two months since the previous newsletter, we have hosted driving tests at Silveroaks, and the Christmas party at the clubhouse. Driving tests are always exciting, and were enjoyed by all who attended and took part. The "tight" test was revised to make it slightly longer, and more enjoyable, and the "open" test remained the same, allowing access to third gear, and some hard braking from a straight finish. The Christmas party followed the same format as previous years, and was a fitting end to a thoroughly enjoyable club year.



Santa Westaway once again fulfilled the role of Santa, and Rudolf Beddy the role of sleigh captain. Sharleen Putter coordinated the decorating, turning the clubhouse into a summer wonderland for the day. Thank you to all involved.



Bronwyn and I have been very busy over the course of the past few months with the move into the new house and adoption of two dogs which are keeping us out of mischief. There was much excitement in December as the MGB "Project" was briefly back on its wheels, taken out of the garage for a wash, before being wheeled back in to have the front wheels come off the ground. With all of the rear brakes freshly redone it seemed like a good time to make the switch to silicone brake fluid, which involves the overhaul of the full brake system. The callipers are currently stripped awaiting their new seals, and the master cylinder its new kit. The car should be complete and back on it's wheels by early in the new year. It needs to be as the garage space is required—so MGB needs is soon to be evicted from Dad's garage and brought to the Greenside house. We are looking forward to the car being back on the road, so we can enjoy it in 2017. The MGBGT has also been given a new radio, and the MGA is in the process of having its electric fan fitted. Much movement on 3/4 of the fleet—next up to get some attention is the J2... Watch this space.



Looking forward to having good attendance at the club events next year. If you have any ideas for events please contact one of the committee members. Let's get it off on the right foot at the Noggin on 9 January!

Octagonally,
Steve Grover

DRIVING TESTS

On 20 November 2016 the MG Car Club Northern Centre hosted their annual driving tests.

The results were as follows:

Ladies: 1. Ashleigh Chapman — MG ZR 120
 2. Anja Prinz — MG TF 135

Men: 1. Jaco Vermulen — Mazda MX5
 2. Pepi Gaspari — MG ZR 160
 3. Gary Chapman — MG TF 160

The PTSCC joined us for the day, and it was great to see various English sports cars being driven in anger.

Some pictures below of the day's activities.



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.

AGM - 6 February 2017

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 6, 2017 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 2017 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 6, 2017.

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 30 2017.

Nomination Form for 2017 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:

Meet the Members

Esra Martins

Helgard Muller

You are obviously a petrol head but why MG?

By Chance!

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

My first MG was a TC bought 40 years ago in 1976 and still with me. On a Wednesday in 1976, my wife and I went to Jhb for our weekly town day from the farm at Bapsfontein. I saw advertised a Burchmore Auction where a pre war Rolls Royce was on offer. I parked at the basement parking of the Carlton Hotel and made my way to Burchmore. On the way, I walked passed TAK Motors and noticed a beautiful MG TC on their floor. At the auction there was a man with a bush of grey, almost white, hair when the bidding on the Rolls began. I was hesitating with bidding and the Rolls was sold for R5000.00. When walking back to my car, I passed TAK Motors again and noticed the same man with the white hair standing close to the TC. I went in and asked about the price for the TC. It was R6500.00. I became very attracted to it and asked for thinking time. Inside the hotel lobby, I bumped into Fred Gillchrest, the managing director at John Deere SA. I knew him well and often saw him racing his TC at Kyalami. He is a tall man and I remember how funny it looked with his head above the windscreen. I told him about the TC on offer and asked for his advice. He thought that the asking price of R6500.00 was a bit high, but advised that I should go ahead and buy it anyway. After a light lunch at the hotel coffee shop, I made my way back to TAK Motors and ended up buying the TC for R6000.00. I paid R1000.00 more than what the Rolls fetched. The next day I collected the TC and made my way back to the farm. I had never driven a TC before and remember when passing the old Jan Smut Airport that I found it very difficult to keep the car going straight. The steering wheel had about 180 degrees free play. Remember that TC's do not have rack and pinion steering like the TD. It was then when I asked myself the question, "What on earth have you done?" Nevertheless, the little car grew on me and I got to love it despite its shortcomings. .

Restoration work done on this MG?

Steering improved. Rebuilt and repainted, now green. New leather upholstery. New top etc. New tires. Nothing to engine. First full engine overhaul only during 2015.

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

Yes, MGA 1600 Roadster. Before: TF 1500, MGB Rubber bumper, MGB GT V8, and a Y Type. Other: Mercedes Benz 190 SL and Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint.

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!

What does the MG Club mean to you?

Fellowship!!

What do you like about your MG?

Charm character and history.

What frustrates/annoys you on your MG?

There are some. But, because of the love we acquire for these little cars, we discover that how easy it becomes to live with the shortcomings. And, with a TC one will develop a tremendous capacity to forgive.

Before driving off on a run what items are on your checklist?

Not much.

Do you drive with a full set of spanners?

What essential tools do you take along on a run? Not a set of spanners, only a jack and the hammer to change a wheel.

With R 20 000 what would you add or modify on your MG?

I would not know what to do with the R20000.00 other than blow it on something like a trip somewhere.

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?

A barn find? A 6 cylinder L1 or L2 with supercharger.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Run—Rietvlei Dam

Sunday 22 January 2017

The first event of 2017 is to be a relaxed breakfast at Rietvlei dam. We will meet at the club to drive in convoy from there.

More details are to follow during the course of the month. Keep an eye on your e-mail.

Date: **Sunday 22 January 2017**
Time: **08h30 for departure from Clubhouse to Rietvlei Dam**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse**
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road
Menlo Park

Passion for Speed - Zwartkops

Saturday 28 January 2017

This event marks the opening of the historic racing year.

Please contact Stephen Grover if you are interested in attending as part of a MG Car Club Group.

The poster features a green background with various racing vehicles. At the top left, it says 'Legends of 9 Hour'. The main title is 'ZWARTKOPS INTERNATIONAL WORLD OF MOTORING'. Below that, it lists 'ZWARTKOPS RACEWAY 27/28/29th Jan 2017' and 'Killarney - 3rd / 4th FEB 2017'. The central text reads 'The 16th Passion For Speed' in a large, stylized font. Below this, there are images of a red and white open-wheel car, a blue and white open-wheel car, a red and white classic car, a blue classic car, a yellow and red classic car, and a blue and white open-wheel car with the number 2. A Suzuki logo and 'SUZUKI Day of the Champion' are also present. At the bottom, it says 'SUNDAY 29th JAN 2017 - DAY OF THE CHAMPION' and 'www.zwartkops.co.za'. The bottom of the poster is filled with logos for sponsors: Castrol EDGE, Castrol Racing, SKF, Suzuki, Marlboro, The Citizen, and Trans Africa Racing.

Upcoming Events

Trading Post

FOR SALE

Trevor Beddy has stumbled upon a 1974 MGB GT in Muckleneuk Ridge. The car is in presentable condition, and is an unusual Automatic, which may appeal to some.

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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stephendgrover@gmail.com

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Forthcoming Events in Brief

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

January

Mon 9	Natter 'n Noggin.	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	c
Fri 13	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sun 22	Riefvlei Dam Breakfast Run	NC	Meet at Clubhouse at 08:30 for departure to Rietvlei dam for breakfast	c

February

Mon 6	Natter 'n Noggin AGM	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00 See page 6 for details	c
Fri 17	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sun 26	Monthly Run	NC	Details to follow in upcoming newsletter	c