



MG CAR CLUB NORTHERN CENTRE NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Issue 434



February Newsletter

About This Issue and a Note from the Treasurer

February month of love

This month we are loving
St. Valentines Day and all Things Red.

We feature Robin's Red Racer, The Ruby Anniversary, The Brooklyn Mall
Timeline and a little Retro.

There is a letter from the Club's new chairman, Pepi Gaspari, Club Events
and a new Re-freshed layout.

Enjoy



Membership fees for 2018

A note from the Treasurer

As the end of the year approaches it is time to consider the membership fees. The Club's finances are relatively healthy at present but as I am sure you are all aware costs are increasing on a daily basis.

Our rent has increased substantially, water and electricity costs have increased, maintenance, gardening and cleaning costs have also increased, as has the security armed response. The falling value of the Rand has also increased our affiliation fees paid to the MG Car Club and MG Owners Club.

In addition, despite our alarm system we suffered another break in, with associated costs due to loss of regalia and repairs to the property. Our security provider has since been changed.

To ensure the ongoing viability of the Club the Committee has reluctantly agreed that fees must increase for 2018.

From January 1, 2018,

- * Full annual membership will increase to **R390, or R350 if paid by EFT**
- * Country/student membership will increase to **R230, or R190 if paid by EFT**
- * Joining fees will increase to R200, remember, this amount is to cover administration costs and a personalised membership badge.

Regards,
Steve Eden

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MG CAR CLUB NORTHERN CENTRE

February 2018 Newsletter

A Warm Welcome to our New Members



GPS S 25 46.495 E 28 16.035

Our 2018– 2019 Committee Members

Pepi Gaspari <i>Chairman, Newsletter + Social Media</i>	082 410 1569	marpepi@iafrica.com
Steve Eden <i>Treasurer, Vice-chair + Membership Admin</i>	082 372 8740	stevejreden@gmail.com
Richard Grover <i>Secretary</i>	082 650 2079 011 896 2627	richardgrover@me.com
Jay Westaway <i>Clubhouse Refreshments + Trophies</i>	079 528 1954	jayw@vodamail.co.za
Dave Westaway <i>Motorsport Liaison + Competition</i>	061 987 5406	Fleetprotection- services@gmail.com
Gary Chapman	082 653 1888	ghachap- man@gmail.com
Robin Clarke	082 902 5119	robin@hdgasa.org.za
Geoff Cunnington	082 644 1621	frodo@telkomsa.net
Stephen Grover <i>Points Register</i>	082 818 0540	Stephend- grover@gmail.com

Club Contact Details

Clubhouse
c/o Umgazi Rd + 26th Ave
Menlo Park, Pretoria

Meetings are usually on the
First Monday of the Month.
Please check by phone.

082 410 1569

www.mgcc-north.co.za

PO Box 11430
Silver Lakes
0054



Current Account: "MG Car Club-Northern Centre"
FNB Bank Account Number 623 6328 4359
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.

**We are
still
No 1**



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your MG.**



INSOMNIA

CREW

Chairman's Letter 40th Anniversary Year Kicked off in Celebration

I would like to start by thanking Stephen for doing such an incredible job as chairman of the club for the last three years. Under his guidance the club has grown in numbers and in strength, despite his lack of grey hair he has proved to be an inspiration to those of us that have been members before he could say MG!

Stephen took the momentum generated by the IN-DABA in 2016 and has kept the enthusiasm alive, fresh and exciting. I am pleased that he is still serving on our committee although with a reduced work load, his time later this year will be soon filled by a "Midget" on the way. Our congratulations to Bronwyn and Stephen as well as the proud grand parents Richard and Avril on the highly anticipated arrival of the third generation MG enthusiast in the Grover household.

Another enthusiast that Stephen will be passing the baton on to is Paul Spencer who has accepted an invitation to take over the Newsletter. We welcome and thank Paul for taking on this important role to keep the members in contact with the club and record our club's activities.

Paul was involve with the production of our first club calendar to commemorate the Club's 40th Anniversary. We only have 12 calendars left in the first 100

*Signed by Andy Green in what is the year
he breaks his own land speed
record, our Ruby Anniversary year!*

that are for sale, for R125 each. The next batch of 25 (numbered 101 to 125) will be signed by Andy Green in what is the year he breaks his own land speed record, our Ruby Anniversary year! These will sell for a minimum of R251 each and proceeds will go towards maintaining the Clubhouse.

I would like to thank Gary Chapman, another MG stalwart, for the selfless work he has put into this club since we started serving on the committee together. He is taking a breather from the committee this year. I have known Gary for 23 years and have come to depend upon him for advice and support.

2018 has kicked off with a host of important events that have set the tone for the rest of the year and our continued celebration of the clubs 40th year . It is an honour to be in the chair in this special year celebrating this mile stone. I thank the committee and members who have entrusted this to me. However with a strong committee as we currently have and the team of assistants that step up to help, I have every confidence that it will be a MaGic Year.

February began with another good turnout at the Noggin which was also our AGM, ably chaired by Robin Clarke in the absence of Stephen who was away on business. The AGM showed that the club is not only healthy financially but also proved that the Marque of Friendship is alive and well in this Centre.

In the same week we held our Pub Evening which was brought forward by a week to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Club on the 9 February 1978.

Not only was the evening made extra special by the exceptional catering provided by Annette and Tony Cradock but we had the privilege of having Tony, member number 11, enthral us by relating the events that transpired at the Palm Springs Hotel in Silverton, on the evening of the 9th February 1978.

Stephen as only he is able to, eloquently set the scene by reading from the minutes of the very first meeting A very special evening to be a member of this Centre.



2018 Club Calendar Available for R125 each



INSOMNIA

CREW

Chairman's Letter 40th Anniversary Year Kicked off in Celebration

The MG Brooklyn Mall Timeline 2018,
Our official club run for February, displayed 40 cars
to celebrate 40 years at what is the third year we
have partnered with Brooklyn Mall.

All our members' cars displayed were worthy of a world class exhibition. We not only received congratulatory messages from MG enthusiasts world wide, but we also generated huge interest and compliments from local visitors to the exhibition. The event raises the profile of the club, cementing a partnership with the Mall for future sponsorship, and bringing new members. 4 new members have joined, of which 2 are below 25 years of age, ensuring the breed is maintained.

Trevor Beddy, founder of the exhibition in 2015 with his single MG TD displayed over Christmas, celebrated joining the Octogenarian brigade on the 20th February.

We wish you many more happy MG filled years and long may you be driving Father Christmas's MG !

This year we will be having a number of events that will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary. I would like to highlight 3 events that deserve publicity.

At the **5th March Noggin**, there will be a presentation by the first chairman of the club, Rob Breebardt together with Heyns Stead, past chairman and Sandy Sharp who were instrumental in getting the clubhouse built. We are still the only Centre in South Africa that can make this boast.

Bill and Lucille Ten Oever, also long standing Centre members, will also be joining for the evening as part of the contingent from Cape Town.

Annette will be laying on finger food which has been generously sponsored by Trevor Beddy.

Secondly our **Annual Awards Evening** will be held on the evening of the 16th March. This is the Pub Evening for the month and will be catered by Stephen and Bronwyn.



Lastly the **40th Anniversary Weekend** run in August to Mpumalanga is not to be missed. Details of which are published in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at the next MG event, where further information will be provided regarding events celebrating our Ruby Anniversary and the Indaba to be hosted by the KZN Centre in the Drakensberg this year.

Octagonally

Pepi



Magnette 221 Race Report

Robin Clark Reports on his recent racing experience
Back racing at Zwartkops Raceway after a year

A decision was made on New Years Day to apply for a competition license and to prepare the trusty MG Magnette for the new season. This left me 27 days to strip, paint and mechanically refurbish both the Magnette and me!

Unsurprisingly there were not any takers for body work and machining until most businesses opened on the 11TH of January. Some late nights and all weekends later, I was very pleased to roll up to Zwartkops Raceway on Thursday 28 January for the annual international, aptly called the **Passion for Speed** race meeting. It was good to see a strong MG contingent present and ready to compete. The Magnette sailed through documentation and scrutineering and I attempted a shakedown in a late afternoon session.

The brakes were successfully bedded in and tyres scrubbed, but the car felt flat with 300 RPM missing at the end of the back straight and a hint of clutch slip under full load up the hill. The clutch issue was due to a modification done to the pressure plate and actuating mechanism and easily remedied by shortening the push rod by a few mm. I decided not to fiddle with engine settings.



Qualifying was completed on Friday afternoon and we qualified 17th out of 30 entries and 3rd in class. There was a gaggle of cars all within about 1 second lap time gridded around the Magnette. Bring on Saturday!

Just after the very early morning driver briefing on Saturday, the gods smiled on us and a serious rain storm hit the track. Our race was delayed to remove the worst of the standing water, but we eventually got going about 20 minutes after schedule and with heavy rain still falling.

Using the Magnettes torquey motor and finding traction away from some of the usual race lines we were soon up into the top six with fellow club member Franco Resca in the fire breathing MGB in tow.

After a few laps Franco pulled off an inch perfect pass on me on the table top and then pressurized the two in front of us into mistakes. At the end of the first heat Franco was second behind a lightweight GSM DART and I just failed to get by a Mini Cooper that finished in third, 0.2 seconds ahead of the Magnette.

In any event we had won our class and had a lot of fun. Wynand Du Plessis and Rod Green brought their MGB'S home safely in the mid field.

Between heats I had a quick "look see" to try and establish the reason for the flat performance of the motor. This was going to be important since the second heat would be run in the dry. Even on full song, I was going to be a sitting duck against Jaguar E and D types and the other highly tuned lightweight cars coming through the field after they had struggled in the wet first heat. Stephen and Richard Grover as well as a friend and Cape Centers member, John Craig and a few others all assisted with revised ignition settings and re-setting valve clearances.

Unfortunately, Franco had retired his MGB after the first race due to, I think, a broken valve spring. This left the Magnette 3rd on the grid for the second heat.

At the rolling start I was quickly passed by Wynand in his MGB and despite driving with my "elbows out" could not hold off the Jags, Darts et al. Steven

Brits in Roger Houston's MGB also sailed by up the hill on the last lap.

The Magnette ended the second heat in 10th overall and again with a class win. She was slightly crisper on acceleration and I carried a few more revs and speed up the hill. Still lots of work to do before the next meeting to get that 1.5 second a lap back!

The Zwartkops Raceway homepage has photos of the meeting and I see that William had a ding dong with Chris Champions MGA. Nick Parrot was back in the gold MGA. Les McLeod ran into some technical difficulties in the white MGB.

My car of the day every time is Rod Greens immaculate FIA spec'ed MGB, this time shared with Charlotte Verkuijlen from Holland.

There are a number of really good photos on the site and MG's feature in many races. A real throwback to 1960's club racing in Europe!

It was a great day and I enjoyed being back after a year away from racing. There certainly was more fun had in sharing the day with a team of enthusiasts and supporters from the Northern Center. An annual outing?

1978

With 365 days, 1978 was a normal and not a leap year

After nearly 30 years The Volkswagen Beetle stops production having manufactured 20 million cars

Gold reaches an all time high of \$200.00 per ounce

Rhodesia's prime minister Ian Smith and three black leaders agree on the transfer to black majority rule.

Worlds Population Estimated at 4.4 billion

Argentina Wins 1978 World Cup in Argentina

Grease, Saturday Night Fever + Star Wars Episode IV top the box office

Bee Gees with *Night Fever* and *Stayin Alive* tops the charts

2 years of TV in South Africa sees *Little House on the Prairie, CHiPs + Three's Company*

Illinois Bell Company introduces first ever Cellular Mobile Phone System

Space Invaders Launches Craze for Computer Video Games

First Test Tube Baby is born on July 25th in England

John Vorster / Lukasrand Tower Completed in Pretoria

MG Northern Centre is formed 9 February

Margaret Gardiner is crowned Miss Universe

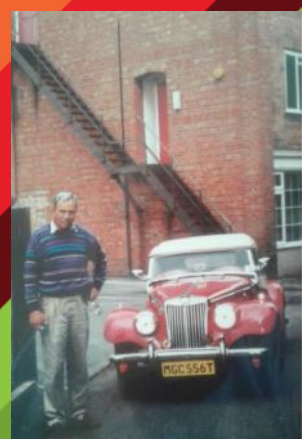
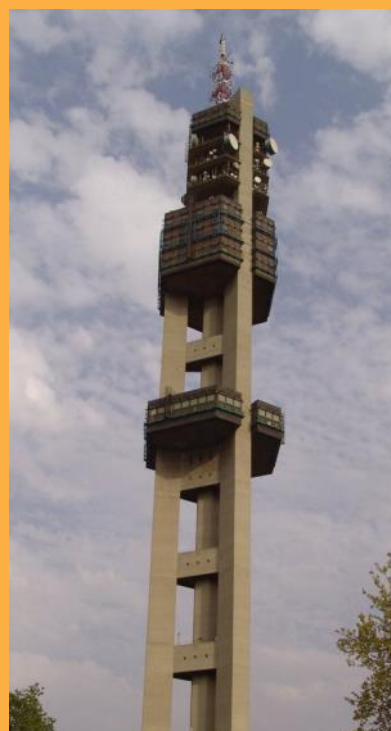
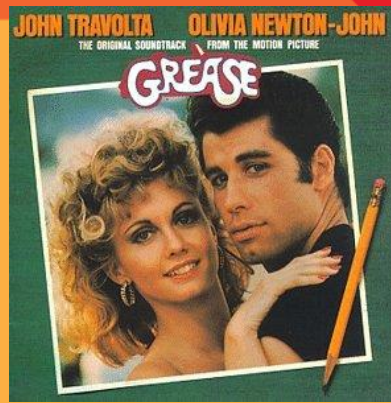
First Garfield comic strip debuts in the newspapers, voicing everyone's main grievance with Mondays for the first time

A loaf of bread costs about 25c

A new Toyota Cressida will cost around R 5 400

Dolly Parton appears on the cover of Playboy.
The first country singer to do so

Ronnie Peterson, in the Lotus 78 takes a victory in the Kyalami Grand Prix



MG CAR CLUB
NORTHERN CENTRE



February Social Evening

Catered by Tony and Annette, the club celebrated our 40th Anniversary with good cheer



MG CAR CLUB
NORTHERN CENTRE





MG Brooklyn Mall Timeline 2018

40 cars on display for the 3rd Annual Timeline Exhibition culminating in a Cocktail Evening and Trevor's Birthday.

The MG Brooklyn Mall Pageant

There was much excitement around the third annual Brooklyn Mall timeline display planned for the weekend of 17 February. The invitations were sent to the club members inviting them to get ready for the pageant of the year.

This year was going to be a special one; the celebration of the MG Northern Centre's 40th anniversary. 40 years of motoring, friendships and adventures. 40 MGs to mark the occasion.

Folks were running around with buckets of warm soapy water, sponges, special cloths and polish. When the day of the pageant arrived, the grand old ladies, duchesses, matrons of honour, princesses, damsels, mistresses, and tomboys, were dressed to impress showing off their finest, ready to party.

The staging area was a buzz as the last of the finishing touches were being made before their grand entrance.

The stage was set, banners hung, stories written and displayed. In the public realm we had to mind our Ps and Qs as the As, Ts, Ds and Fs graced the stage first, followed by some topless buxom lasses, strutting their stuff.

Racy tomboys took charge next and displayed their enthusiasm and energy, rather loudly.

The elegance of the grand dames brought some pride, sensibility and decorum to the event as they posed very stately for all to see. The youngsters crowded together dominating their space with colour and fun, attracting some attention as they flirted with passers-by.

Everything looked beautiful. Club members chatted and engaged enthusiastically with everyone sharing the love they feel their MGs. Fun was had by all.

The celebration was shared with Trevor Beddy who was turning 80 and who had been very instrumental in starting the tradition.

The event ended with wonderful food, wine and beer sponsored by Brooklyn Mall. The National President, National Chairman and Club Chairman spoke, thanking people for their effort and contribution in making the even such a success.





MG Brooklyn Mall Timeline 2018

40 cars on display for the 3rd Annual Timeline Exhibition culminating in a Cocktail Evening and Trevor's Birthday.



MG 40TH BIRTHDAY DISPLAY
17 & 18 FEBRUARY 2018
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MG Car Club Northern's

Alan, Annette And Tony, Avril, Bernard, Beverl...

Spotted by Dirk in Abu Dabi



Timeline Preparation at Garys.



Carved by Roger's Father



James off to school in style



Club Anniversary Mugs from Dave



Gavin found a factory fitted...spoiler?



Zebra Crossing at Breakfast



Heather lost Wally



Stuart had a roll



Alex gets help washing his B





Club Notices + Announcements

Trading Post for Wanted Items and Those For Sale

Wanted

- 1 MG Related Magazines, General Classic Car Books + Magazines
- 2 MG, Motoring + Motorsport Related Books
- 3 TA / TB / TC parts for long term build project. Bare chassis + body have been acquired...
- 1 MGB GT V8 Gearbox
- 2 EMCO Lathe

Stephen Grover 082 818 0540 stephendgrover@gmail.com

Wanted

MGA Luggage Rack

Terrance Weiher
083 452 0316

For Sale

MG Midget Boot Rack

Stainless steel OE pattern Midget boot rack.
Never fitted. £204 from the owners club.
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Club Notices + Announcements

Upcoming Events, Social Evenings + Club Activities

Pub Evening + Awards Evening

Friday 16 March 2018

Annual Awards Presentation and Social Evening.
The evening will be hosted by Stephen and Bronwyn.



ALL WELCOME Friday 16 March 2018 17:30 onwards MG Car Club Northern Centre Clubhouse

COME ALONG & GRAB A BARGAIN!

CAR BOOT SALE



BRAAI FIRES!

SUNDAY 25 March from 10:30 at MG Car Club Northern Centre Clubhouse

All things



and motoring orientated
Meet - Swop - Sell - Buy



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Club Notices + Announcements

Forthcoming Events in Brief

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

MARCH

Monday 5	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	C
Friday 16	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sunday 25	MG Boot Sale + Swop Meet	NC	Clubhouse 10:30 onwards	C

APRIL

Sunday 1	Angela's Picnic		Details to Follow Delta Park Johannesburg	
Monday 2	Family Day Public Holiday	-	-	
Monday 9	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	C
Friday 13	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sunday 22	Monthly Run	NC	TBD	C

MAY

3-6	National Indaba	National	TBD Drakensville KZN	C
Friday 18	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sunday 27	Monthly Run	NC	TBD	C

JUNE

Monday 4	Natter 'n Noggin	National	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	C
Friday 15	Pub Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	
Sunday 24	Monthly Run	NC	TBD	C

AUGUST

23-26	40th Anniversary Run		Numbi Hotel Hazyview, Mpumalanga	
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MG Car Club Northern Centre

Ruby Anniversary

23 - 26 August 2018



The MG Car Club Northern Centre reaches the age of 40 in 2018.

To celebrate this milestone it has been decided to have a weekend away in Mpumalanga. The roads in this area are scenic, extremely enjoyable to drive in an MG, and the views magnificent.

We will stay at the Numbi Hotel in Hazyview, this hotel has been used for Magnum Rallies and other motoring events and the owner is a keen motoring enthusiast.

The proposed programme for the weekend is :-

- Thursday 23/8 Drive from Pretoria to Hazyview, individually or in small groups via Lydenburg & Long Tom Pass. Evening meal at Hotel
- Friday 24/8 Breakfast at Hotel
Morning - visit White River Motor Museum, lunch at Casterbridge Centre for own account.
Afternoon - free time.
Evening meal at Hotel
- Saturday 25/8 Breakfast at Hotel
Scenic Drive with possible "Treasure Hunt". Lunch at Blyde Canyon Forever Resort.
"Gala evening" and prize giving at Hotel
- Sunday 26/8 Breakfast at Hotel, depart for home in own time

All this for only R6500 per couple, R3900 single, R3300 single sharing

- * Accommodation Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- * Breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday,
- * Supper on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- * Lunch at Blyde River Canyon on Saturday.

Entries are limited. We have 25 twin bedded rooms available, ie a maximum of 50 persons. The event is restricted to MG Northern Centre Members driving MGs and their partners only. Single persons sharing may bring their own MG. If you wish to share, please indicate with whom.

Ensure your place by registering and paying a R500 intent deposit before end January 2018. Final payment details to be issued later.

Payment may be made to the Club's account "MG Car Club-Northern Centre" with First National Bank, Branch Number 252045, Account Number 62363284359. Please put your name and 40th as the reference. Please supply the following information to mgarclub.nc@gmail.com when you pay your deposit.

MG Car Club - Northern Centre 40th Anniversary - 23rd to 26th August 2018					
Please indicate	Name	Member no	E mail address	Car	Cost
Entrant					Per couple R6500
Partner					n/a
Single					Single R3900pp
Single sharing					R3300pp
Sharing with					R3300pp