

MG Car Club Northern Centre Newsletter

October 2014 — Issue 395



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.

Help

Is there a member out there with a fridge freezer, single width, freezer on top, in working condition that they no longer need? Our storeroom fridge has ceased to function. This may mean no ice or warm beer - what a calamity that would be!!!

Alternatively, is there a member who can fix it? Please contact Jay if you can help.

2014-2015 Committee Members

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairman / Treasurer Steve Eden | 082 372 8740 | stevejreden@gmail.com |
| Secretary George Dehlen | 082 492 1806 012 991 1754 | gdehlen@iafrica.com |
| Records Management Jennifer Bradley | | bradley.jen@gmail.com |
| Clubhouse Refreshments & Trophies Jay Westaway | 079 528 1954 012 329 5533 | jayw@vodamail.co.za |
| Motorsport Liaison and Competition | 078 936 6853 | dvwestaway@gmail.com |
| Newsletter Stephen Grover | 082 818 0540 | Stephend-grover@gmail.com |
| Vehicle Valuations Carel Wilken | 083 391 1611 012 386 2136 | Hercar Restorations |

Notice from the Treasurer

Projections on the future financial well being of your Club indicate that ongoing increases in rent, electricity, Clubhouse maintenance costs, affiliation fees and insurance etc, combined with a reduction in membership, mean that an increase in annual subscriptions is required. This is not an issue to be taken lightly as we know some of our members may find this a challenge. An increase of R50 to R250 per annum from January 2015 has been approved by the Exco. Hopefully, this will stem the tide for a few years.

Taken logically, the increase is around the cost of 3l of petrol, bringing the subs to an equivalent of 16l of petrol per year, or 2 cases of beer. A bargain surely.

Renew early to avoid the increase for another year.

Steve

Jacaranda Jottings



Another busy MG month, starting with a very quiet noggin on the first day of spring, perhaps we should move this from Monday nights? The Friday Pub night saw the unveiling of Trevor Beddy's newly restored TD. This restoration, by Dave Wheeler, has taken about 3 years, but is well worth the time spent. This car belonged to the late Fanie Geyser, known as "Vinniger Fanie" because of the way he drove. Much to our delight, his widow, Suzette, was present and much emotion was apparent from her and Trevor. Members turned out in force and the pub stayed open till late. Is this is the sort of event we need?



Saturday saw a few of us travel to Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum for the HVTEC Plaasfees, report elsewhere.



The monthly run, on a Saturday this month saw us congregate at the Keg & Knight in Rynfield prior to a trip to see Shawn Tyler's vehicle and memorabilia collection. A very eclectic one, with some workshop equipment I remember from my days as an appie. There were some cars I had not seen in a long time, including a Nash Metropolitan, Riley 1.5, Austin 7, and a Singer Gazelle. Parked outside was a collection of wrecks including a Scammel Scarab. I felt it a shame that most of the cars seemed to be non-runners. Thanks to Dave for organising and to Shawn for letting us visit. Another poor turnout though.



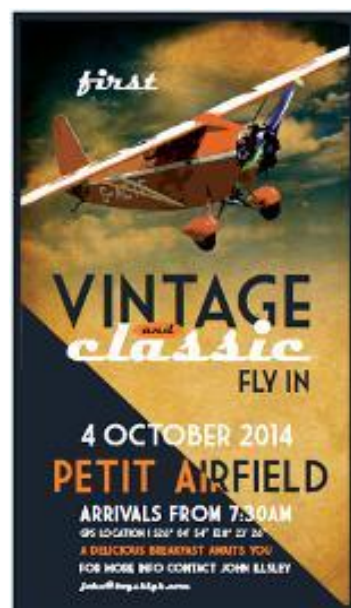
We had an invitation from PTSCC to attend the TR7 40th anniversary at the Armscor sports ground, there were 74 Triumphs present with 34 TR7s, not bad for a small club. We have an invitation to a Classic and Historic aircraft fly in at Petit Airfield. Bearing in mind our plans for 2016 this is well worth a visit to make contacts and see what symbiosis may be possible.



Following my appeal to a few members for volunteers to fill vacant exco posts, I pleased to say that Claus Pille and Pepi Gaspari have agreed to join us, many thanks guys. Thanks to Des Oliver and Jennifer Bradley for their support whilst on the Committee.



Our October noggin will have a table raffle. Here is the opportunity to recycle the junk you bought at the last one, R5 a ticket will give you the chance to get a bargain. Please bring along anything you want to get rid of along. Any items considered too valuable to be sold for R5 will either be auctioned on the night or, on another occasion.



The end of the year is approaching and I have been thinking about what we should do to celebrate. I am not sure that the traditional bring, share and eat is the best solution. Personally, I would prefer to see a bring and braai, combined with a shine and show at the clubhouse, on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in early December. Your input would be appreciated.

Talking about the Clubhouse, thanks must go to Trevor Beddy for his work on the Clubhouse and grounds, They are looking MaGnificent.

Indaba planning is continuing at a pace. The first Indaba Newsletter has been issued and should be included in this issue. We are about to start approaching sponsors, any suitable contacts would be appreciated. What we would really like to see are some more Northern's entries!!

What has slipped through the slats this year has been welcoming new members in the newsletter, sorry guys, welcome to :-
Claus Pille, Gerhard de Jager, Peter Posniak and Geoff Cunnington. May you have enjoy many years of MG camaraderie.

Drive your MG,

Steve Eden

Trevor Beddy's Restored TD

George Dehlen

The Pub Evening of 12th September was the best-attended yet – over 60 persons were at the Clubhouse and enjoyed the Prego Rolls prepared by Gary Chapman, Claus Pille, and their families and friends. In addition to the rolls, drinks, and socializing, the drawcard was the unveiling of Trevor Beddy's restored TD, with Trevor providing champagne and drinks all round.

The car has a history in the Club – an interesting story which hopefully Trevor will write up. Martin te Groen was the first of the Club members to own the car and carried out its first restoration. He sold it to the late Fanie Geyser who enthusiastically participated in many Club events with the car – including the historic Tusker Tour in September 2003. After Fanie's sad passing, the car was bought by Trevor who has spent the past three years in carrying out a full restoration with the aid of Dave Wheeler.

The three past and present owners were represented at the pub evening – Martin te Groen, Fanie's widow Suzette Geyser, and Trevor Beddy – with Dave Wheeler assisting Trevor with the unveiling.

The Club looks forward to seeing the car on many coming concours events and club runs.



Upcoming Events

Petit Vintage and Classic Fly-in

Saturday 4 October 2014

We have been invited to join the Tiger Moth Club of South Africa for their fly-in on Saturday 4 October.

See the end of the newsletter for the full "flier".

Date: **Saturday 4 October 2014**
Time: **07h30 onwards**
Where: **Petit Airfield**
S26°04'54" E28°23'26"

Table Raffle

Noggin on 6 October 2014

Remember the Table Raffle in the Clubhouse at 8pm Monday 6th October.

Please 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 at all.

Either bring them to the Noggin at around 7pm that evening, or preferably deliver them to the Clubhouse on the afternoon (2pm to 5pm) of Monday 7th October to allow time for the organizers to set up the tables before the Noggin. Peter and George will be waiting for you. Alternatively contact George at 0824921806 to collect them from you.

Buy raffle tickets (singles or books of ten tickets). 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 6 October 2014**
Time: **19h30 for 20h00**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse
Corner of 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road
Menlo Park**

Pub Evening

Friday 17 October 2014

Home-made Hamburgers

Following the success of last month's prego rolls, this month's pub-evening will feature home-made ham burgers, kind courtesy of Claus.

Costs will be R25 per burger, and the bar will be open as usual.

Date: **Friday 17 October 2014**
Time: **17h30 onwards**
Where: **MGCC Northern Centre Clubhouse
Corner 26th Avenue and Umgazi Road
Menlo Park**

Jacaranda Run

Sunday 19 October 2014

The club's annual Jacaranda Run will be run on 19 October, from the Union Buildings.

Dave Westaway has planned a wonderful and historic route for us to follow, ending at the clubhouse for a braai and a beer.

For more details please contact Dave - 078 936 6853

Date: **Sunday 19 October 2014**
Time: **Meet at 09h00 for departure at 10h00**
Where: **Union Buildings
Government Avenue
Pretoria**

Fork The Clutch-Plate

Firstly, I must start my editorial by thanking Steve Eden for assembling the newsletter in my absence last month. It was never going to be possible to find time to put together the newsletter while travelling the UK with Bronwyn's family and then going onward to the DRC. It is great that somebody could step in to fill the lurch.

While I was away I missed the best pub evening in recent memory, and must extend a huge thank-you to Claus and Gary for making that happen. A considerable effort was put into both the logistics and the marketing of the evening, and it certainly paid dividends! I don't think that unveiling what is surely the club's best restoration since I have been a member did the event any harm. I am very much looking forward to seeing Trevor's TD at the earliest available opportunity.



While the trip to the UK was dominated by family activities, I did manage to arrive a few days ahead of the clan and put myself onto a train to Brooklands for the day. It is incredible to be in a place where so much history has gone before. Standing on the banking you can almost feel the vibrations and hear the noise that would have reverberated around the Surrey countryside

over 100 years ago. Brooklands is only a short train trip out of London, and if you ever find yourself with a day to kill in London it surely beats a day spent on the big red bus!



Shortly before leaving for the UK I managed to find some time to spend on the MGB GT - a commodity which has been rather difficult to find lately. A good day's progress saw the engine and gearbox together, installed in the car, and all bolted up and secure. As the "one last thing" for the evening I decided to put the slave cylinder onto the gearbox and see how the clutch felt. After a single depression of the clutch pedal there was a thud from the gearbox and no more clutch actuation. Needless to say I was rather disheartened by the incident, and was quite unsure what was going on with it. Following a 6 week break I found myself back in the garage removing the engine and gearbox again - splitting the engine and gearbox revealed that I had installed the clutch actuation for the wrong way around, so as soon as the force was applied to the thrust bearing it dismounted from the fork. I have included two photographs for a game of "Spot-the-Difference" for anybody who is game, and have also changed the name of my editorial to commemorate my most frustrating self-induced set back.

Fortunately, the fault was put right in 10 minutes (excluding engine out and engine in time!), and the process of reinstalling the engine and gearbox was begun. At the moment she is waiting the reinstallation of the exhaust, carburation, ancillaries, and other related equipment. However, it certainly feels like I have broken the back of the job, and am very much looking forward to having my "Daily Driver" back on the road. Hopefully in amongst the wedding planning and the ongoing threat of having to return to the DRC I will be able to get her back on the road and enjoy some of the great spring weather we are experiencing at the moment.



This upcoming Noggin is the Table Raffle, which is always a fun event. It's success is determined by the quality of the items on the table so please bring along whatever has been collecting dust in your garage for the last 12 months and redistribute it. Last year I won a bright orange MG reflective vest, which has now seen service at various locations across Africa and down some of the deepest mine in the world - not that the MG has been that deep, or far from home. Hopefully we will have some worthwhile items available - certainly Bronwyn is enthusiastic at clearing out our place of some of my "treasures". Although I have hidden the coil-over kit I brought back from the UK for the Blue 'B, so that won't be on the table...

Finally, thank-you to George Dehlen and Trevor Beddy for their submissions of content for this month's newsletter. It is much appreciated.

Octagonally, Steve Grover

SCISSORS CUTS PAPER: A MGB STORY

Trevor Beddy

We all have different reasons for owning our wonderful machines based on the versatility these beautiful little cars offer us. There are those who are keen to push these car's hardy technical limits to the utmost by rallying, racing and otherwise performing. Others will enjoy the freedom of spirit that these cars afford them. Fast tops-down country driving, visiting interesting places and socializing over a meal and good wine and so on. In the end it's all about MG people enjoying the same thrill albeit in different ways.

Personally, I enjoy the social side, lots of driving at speed, with a bit of showmanship tossed in for good measure, hence my story that follows:

A while ago, on a Tuesday in August, I was in 13TH Street, Menlo Park shopping center buying some stock for MG Club maintenance. I had parked my shiny "tops down" and nice sounding MGB across the road from the SPAR store in an enclosed area which is also home to numerous restaurants/ cafes, the Brooklyn Theatre and a large nursery. Directly ahead of my parking bay was the outside dining area of a well known restaurant aptly named, Boer'geoisie. Incidentally, I have eaten local fare there on occasion and always enjoyed my meal as well as their interesting collection of historical and sometimes tongue in cheek Africana memorabilia.

Anyway, while I was parking I noticed a brand new and very expensive looking Porsche 911 Carrera parked on my left. Right ahead of me, sitting on the restaurant stoep, was obviously its smug owner and his bird enjoying a drink. I say obviously, because his lady friend saw my car, smiled, nudged her boyfriend's elbow and nodded in my direction. I think he must have glimpsed my arrival from the corner of his eye because he studiously ignored his girlfriend's gesture as well as my arrival and stared straight ahead of him – pretending not to notice.

I had hardly come to a stop a few yards off the seated couple and was struggling to extricate myself from my seat, when a very attractive lady approached me from the direction of the nursery on my right. She had a serene smile on her face, looked directly at me and said quite loudly - and within easy earshot of the Porsche couple "Your car is beautiful". She never even glanced at the Porsche, but swept serenely past and in so doing cast another backward glance in "our" direction and smiled (Unfortunately I don't handle these situations very well - and neither do I have a name for my car, hence "our").

No sooner had she wafted on her way when two more mature and decidedly attractive ladies approached, again from the nursery's direction just as I was putting my cap in the boot. (It suddenly occurred to me that Pretoria has more than its fair share of beautiful women). Imagine my surprise when they stopped immediately in front of the Porsche couple, turned in my direction and crooned in unison, "My what a lovely little car". I responded with a severe blush and a modest "thank you". But that was not enough for them as one of them rather boldly said, "What does one have to do to have a ride in your beautiful car?" Well, I must confess that a hundred options rushed through my head. However, sanity prevailed and I managed to babble, "Maam, I'm always willing to take an attractive lady for a spin". I realized immediately that I had used the antiquated term "spin" and had dated myself irretrievably. Oh well, I thought, that would be the end of it, but to my surprise they pressed on relentlessly saying, "Which one of us would you choose?" At this stage I caught a glimpse of the Porsche owner beginning to squirm in his seat as his girl friend smiled ever more broadly. Lamely I diplomatically stammered, "I'm afraid I would have to, eeny-meeny-miney-mo". "That's just not good enough", they said emphatically with a laugh and with a toss of their heads - off they went chirping and glancing back in "our" direction. The Porsche owner just gaped and I swear he had steam blowing from his ears.

A lost opportunity for an ageing roué? Who knows? Suffice to say I gave the snotty Porsche owner the metaphorical finger and could almost hear my car saying to his "plastic", "Eat my shorts mate". Such are the delightful situations that our wonderfully attractive little cars create for us. "Viva MG, Viva!"



Shawn Tyler's Motor Museum

George Dehlen



Dave Westaway organized the September Club Run to Shawn Tyler's Motor Museum in Rynfield on 13 September. Twelve Northern Centre members participated, along with enthusiasts from the Triumph Sports Car Club and the Benoni Heritage Vehicle Club. What we saw was an amazing collection of old vehicles, memorabilia, workshop equipment, and models in a large barn which brought back memories of the early and mid '90s. The photos are of some of the items which would be of particular interest to MG members – rare 1:43 MG models, a Rover resplendent with "King of the Road" lamps, and a Bullnose Radiator from a Morris Cowley car of the mid 1920s which was modified into the first MG – the "MG One"



Spring is in the air

Steve Eden



Oh for the smells of spring, blooming flowers and newly mown grass, birds flying and singing in the clear warm air under an azure sky. The sights of green grass, fresh flowers and happy people, dressed in shorts, tee shirts and summer dresses, enjoying the sunshine after the cold and dark of winter.



Hmmm - not if you went to HVTEC day!

The smells of diesel, petrol, oil and unburnt hydro carbons filled the air, the rhythmical sounds of single cylinder stationary engines going chuff, chuff, chuff drowned out any bird song, the sights were of, mainly, gleaming newly restored stationary engines, lawn mowers and tractors, some emitting clouds of politically incorrect black smoke. And yes, a row of shiny MGs. The exhibitors were mainly dressed in overalls, rubbing their hands with oily rags, whilst the public looked on in wonder at these relics of the past.



Heaven for Petrolheads.

Thanks to Ivan for inviting the Club to this exhibition and fun day at Willem Prinsloo, organised by the Highveld Tractor and Engine Club. Thanks to those MG members who attended.



Forthcoming Events

Point allocation c=Clubman, v= Victrix/tor Ludorum

October 2014

| | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|----|--|---|
| Sat 4 | Tiger Moth Club Petit Fly-in | | Petit Airfield Arrivals from 07h30 | |
| Mon 6 | Natter 'n Noggin Table Raffle | NC | MGCC NC Clubhouse 19h30 for 20h00 | C |
| Fri 17 | Pub Evening | NC | MGCC NC Clubhouse 17h30 onwards | |
| Sun 19 | Jacaranda Run | NC | Union Buildings 09h00 onwards | C |

November 2014

| | | | | |
|--------|------------------|----|--|---|
| Mon 3 | Natter 'n Noggin | NC | MGCC NC Clubhouse 19h30 for 20h00 | c |
| Sun 16 | Monthly Run | NC | Possibly a run to Fort Klapperkop To be Confirmed | c |

December 2014

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Mon 1 | Natter 'n Noggin Year-end Social | NC | MGCC NC Clubhouse Details to follow | c |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|

first



VINTAGE
and
classic
FLY IN

4 OCTOBER 2014

PETIT AIRFIELD

ARRIVALS FROM 7:30AM

GPS LOCATION | S26° 04' 54" E28° 23' 26"

A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST AWAITS YOU

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT JOHN ILLSLEY

john@bropshigh.com



Our Sponsors so far - get your Logo in here ASAP!



You are invited to join us for the 2016 Indaba.

The event will be held over 3 days, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 2nd, 3rd and 4th September 2016.

Registration forms are available on the Club Website

Concours, and other competitive events will take place, we will provide you with the opportunity to visit some places of interest in and around Pretoria.

Web-site; www.mgcc-north.co.za/Indaba2016
E-mail: indaba2016@gmail.com

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WAYFARERS GUEST HOUSE Chris Colverd



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