

MG Car Club  
Port Elizabeth  
Centre



# King of the Road

June 2024

*The marque of friendship*



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**MG Car Club Port Elizabeth Centre**

Founded in 1976

*Affiliated to the MG Car Club England*

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**SafetyFast!**

**“King of the Road”**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
M.G. CAR CLUB - PORT ELIZABETH CENTRE**

Website: [www.mgccpe.co.za](http://www.mgccpe.co.za)

Facebook page:

Meeting Venue: EPVCC CLUBHOUSE, Conyngham Street, PE

HONARARY LIFE MEMBER      Ron Doubell

**COMMITTEE**

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<b>TREASURER &amp; REGALIA</b>	Chris Hanekom	083 299 0492	treasurer@mgccpe.co.za
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Tracy Yoko	072 261 5121	secretary@mgccpe.co.za
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**Monthly Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the EPVCC CLUBHOUSE,  
Conyngham Street, PE from 18.30H onwards.**

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**Legal Disclaimer:** Every effort is made to ensure that all information contained in this Newsletter is correct. The Club however does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of articles and readers are required to verify all information before undertaking any operations that may have safety and legal implications.

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## Chairman's Chirp June 2024

Greetings and Salutations to my MG Family.

The year's longest night and shortest day has passed us by, so it is now downhill to summertime. The year has gone by rapidly and there are now only 24 Fridays left before it is Christmas.

I am very pleased to inform you that in the last month our club membership grew. We have new members in Dave Gough who is a long standing MG enthusiast and has relocated to Jeffries Bay from Knysna. Dave owns a ZR which used to belong to our late National President, Tony Cradock. Our other member is the family Hugo with father Andre (and his son David) owning a very nice B which he recently acquired in Cape Town. While these are Country members, I'm sure that we will see them at some of our events from time to time.

Our June events was once again successful and well attended and enjoyed by our members. The Noggin was a "bring and braai" at the club. The midweek was held at PEDSAC, which is a favorite spot amongst many of our members. The highlight of the month was undoubtedly our monthly run, entitled the "Combined MG/Alfa Aloe Run" as the aloes are in full bloom and made for some spectacular photo opportunities. A good number of MGs participated in the run. The Eastern Cape Alfa club joined us and they too had a good number of cars accompanying us. The run took us past clusters of aloes in full bloom and on to Jeffries Bay for a delightful lunch at Tapas restaurant.

There was also a non-official event during June to African Sky in Theescombe for their Father's day market. Thanks to the members who brought their cars out to display. It was a most enjoyable day in the sun, but of course the usual suspects of the MGCCPE misbehaved once again (no names, no pack-drill – but you know who you are!!!).

Alan will provide more detailed information and publish some great photos in his events report.

Our July events will be as exciting as ever. Wednesday 3 July is our club Noggin and it will take the format of a soup and sherry evening. The midweek will be an evening event at the Greek club which will enable the "working class" of the club members to join the geriatric pensioners. The month end run is on 28 July at EPVCC where we will participate in their British car day. More details of all these events to follow on our social media platforms.

We have been requested by some other event organisers to display our cars at their events, so please diarise the following dates:

August 17 and 18 – The Great Escape Outdoor Show at D F Malherbe High School.

August 17 – Concept Crew Car Club show at HTS Daniel Pienaar (clash with above event).

September 29 – Distinguished Gentleman's Drive (not to be confused with the Distinguished Gentleman's ride for motor cycles). More information on these events to follow on our social media platforms.

After our discussion at the June noggin, the refreshed logo has been finalised and the committee will inform members of the next steps regarding the logo and other regalia. The most important brief from the members is that we don't lose our club identity with the new logo. I think that we have succeeded in that. The logo will be revealed at the July Noggin.

## June Events

### 15<sup>th</sup> June Fathers Day Market at African Sky

The Club was invited to show some cars. There were a lot of stalls selling the ideal gift for Fathers Day plus plenty to eat and drink. The beer tent was well occupied and entertained by a one man band which got us in the party mood. One of the members in fact had a try at the “bucking bronco”.

Together with the Alfa Cub the cars were parked in an area behind the stalls and they created some interest.



Tony should really work out which end of the bucking bronco is the right end.

In case of any MG mechanical problems the organisers had provided some horse power to get us home. Although as you can see it wasn't a Mustang.

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June Midweek Lunch**

Not to be called a midweek run but a meet at the Port Elizabeth Deep Sea Angling Club at the Harbour. Without doubt they serve the best fish and chips in town so as one can imagine the event drew a good crowd.



### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June Aloe Run to Jeffries Bay**

This was the day to give the cars a good run and clean out those pistons. We met members of the Alfa Club on the Kragga Kamma Road and a parade of approximately fifteen cars made its way westwards. It is aloe time and hence the name. Our first stop was at a hedge of magnificent aloes and aloes decorated our entire route.

Then through the back lanes over the Gamtoos River to the Tapas Restaurant in Jeffries Bay.



It turned out to be an excellent venue. The food was good and the company excellent. We had the opportunity to meet and greet new members Andre Hugo and family from St Francis and Dave Gough from Jeffries Bay. The weather played its part and the run home along the freeway was just what the doctor ordered.



## Forthcoming Events

Thursday July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Supper at the Greek Club	<b>Evening Event</b>
Sunday July 28 <sup>th</sup>	British Car Day at the EPVCC	
Wednesday August 7 <sup>th</sup>	Noggin Bring and Braai	
Wednesday August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Midweek Run Blue horizon Bay	
Sunday August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Concourse including driving skills at SAAF Museum	

## A New badge at EPVCC



This MG Centenary badge has been purchased by the club and has pride of place above the bar at the EPVCC,

The following article has been submitted by Deon Rousseau .

## MG in South Africa. A brief History.

American cars dominated the South African market during the 1930's. Yet, many British cars were imported during this era such as Austin, Morris, Wolseley and sports cars such as MG and Riley. One of the first post war sports cars available in South Africa was the MG TC. This car made the average South African aware of the fun that could be had in a sports car. Basil Landau, MD of Leyland South Africa owned one of the first models. The MG TC was also one of the first post war models displayed in showrooms in 1946. The MG TC looked slightly old fashioned compared to American cars, but it had a strange fascination which could not be explained. It is strange that something that looks right also is right!

The merger of several overseas motor companies in the early 1950's also had their influence on the South African car industry. During the early 1950's the Austin Motor Company established a plant at Blackheath, near Kuils River in the Cape and around 1960 Wolseley MG and Riley cars were also assembled at Blackheath. The MG's assembled were only small saloon cars. No MG sports cars were assembled locally, and they had to be fully imported such as the MGA and MGB's of which few reached our shores.

One of the mainstays of motor sport in South Africa between 1930 and the mid-Sixties was MGs. In the early years you could still drive a sports car to a motor race or rally, take part, sometimes win, and drive home. However, after the second world war motor sport had a quiet slow start in South Africa. Occasionally MGs could often be seen raced by car enthusiasts on closed public roads such as Paarden Eiland, Cunners Circle and Sacks Circle in Cape Town during handicap races.

In the 1990's Leyland South Africa's pangs for imminent death caused rumours of their own making that they intended manufacturing the MG Montego and Metro in South Africa which of course never materialised.

It is hard to tell when the first MG arrived on our shores. A noticeable MG was the 18/80 of Drummond de Villiers which bought his MG TC in Abingdon in 1931, shipped it to Nairobi whence he drove it to Bloemfontein. Albert Stegmann from Bloemfontein also owned an early M-type Midget and several J types have survived in car collections in South Africa. After World War Two the TC, TD, TF as well as the MGA, MGB were some of the few sports cars generally available as imports in the country.

Motor Assemblies in Durban which later became Toyota South Africa built a great variety of cars during the 1950's, mainly CKD (completely knocked down) kits from overseas. They assembled amongst others the MG TD (345 units) from 1950's. Later from 1957 they also assembled the MGA's in South Africa, first the 1500, later also the 1600 and Twin Cam, both roadster and coupe models.

In 1995 the MGF arose from the grave in the UK and in 2002 were welcomed back in South Africa, followed by the MG TF as imports. These new MGs were imported by MG Rover South Africa until 2005.



### References:

Robson, G. *The MGA, MGB and MGC*. 1982, Motor Racing Publications.

Schnetler, F. *A Century of Cars*. 1997. Tafelberg Uitgewers.



Yours truly racing on new roads in Port Elizabeth

### WORLDWIDE INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICA'S BARN FIND AUCTION

The recent auction of a barn find in the Eastern Cape of more than 150 old cars attracted in excess of 1 500 bidders, according to an article in Die Burger. The auction took place over 10 days and bidding heated up as the days went by. A total of 2 958 bids were received.

The auctioneers, Creative Rides, devised a special digital app for bidders and it was downloaded by 11 000 potential participants. As many as 30 bids a second were made during the last 15 minutes of the auction. Bids came from countries as far afield as Iran, Indonesia, and Russia, besides the expected interest from American, German, and British collectors.

These cars were only a portion of the collection of 600-odd collected by Oom Lous Coetzer and stored in various barns and warehouses. The discovery was only made when preparations were underway to sell portions of land owned by Coetzer and a barn door was opened. The collection was made up mainly of cars that were in everyday use during in the 1960s and '70s and were not scarce exotics.

Louis and his wife died in a car crash in 2020 and the discovery of cars that had been parked on a farm in Barkly East for more than 40 years was made only a year later.

A Mercedes-Benz 220 SE Fintail from the 1960s was eventually the car that fetched the highest price of R101 000. Some other prices were R81 750 for a GMC truck, R85 750 for a Chevrolet Impala and R61 750 for a Chevy Nova convertible.

### Editor's Note



The editor must apologise. It is not an MG but a Mercedes 300SL. It was produced between 1954 and 1963.

It featured at the recent car show at the Knysna Oyster Festival and it just the most beautiful thing!

## Service Providers

Service Provider and Address	Telephone	Email/Website	Type of Service
Ace Auto Electrical 3 Todd St North End P E	0414842640		Good diagnostics (Paul Allen)
Bearing Man 320 Kempston Road Holland Park P E	0414537330		
Cableman, 303 Kempston Rd Sidwell PE	0414536007	cablemanpe@ telkomsa.net	Cables for speedos rev counters and Accelerator
Cape Parts Distributors 11 Paterson Rd North End PE	0414871471		Brake & Clutch Hydraulic Components
Chromeworks,(Peter Rist), 6A Sidwell Avenue Sidwell	0414841533 0828558628	chromeworkspe@ yahoo.co.za	Chroming (PETSCC Member)
D N Automotive, 25 King Edward Street Newton Park PE	0413641017 Dave Heckroodt	dnauto@lantic.net	Service and repairs on modern MG's(F & TF)Also Electronic diagnosis
East Cape Clutch and Brake	17 Rundle Street Sidwell	0414511669	clutch and brake components fitment
East Cape Mountings, 39 Rundlell St Sidwell PE	0414515968		Re- manufacture of engine mountings
Edwards (John), 20 Murrel Cresc. Framesby PE	0724444398		Retired autoelectrician Experience with classics
Emgee Workshop Cameron or Paige	0828220175 071 938 8027		MG Spares
Generator House, 5 Goldsmith St North End PE	0414845867	<a href="http://www.theauto.co.za/generator-house">www.theauto.co.za/ generator-house</a>	Aubrey Autoelectrical Repairs
Guscott's Engine Rebuilders 55 Kempston Road Sidwell.	0413747300		Specific engineering work on engines of classic cars by Jeff Guscott
Holden- Jones (Russell), MGCC Member	0832566927	russellholdenjones@gmail .com	Water pump and other components repair
Industrial Rubber, 15 Richard Street sidwell	0414534437/0837491876	peindrubber@telkomsa.net	wide selection of rubber profiles
Lokhose, (A & A Murphy), - MGCC Members, 18 Sutton Rd Sidwell PE	0414532974 0825683605		Hydraulics & Pneumatics
<b>Motor Mod</b>		Fettes Road N End P E	Mechanical Modifications
Nel's Motor Trimmers, 21 Hancock Street N End	041484222	nelmotorspe@gmail.com	Upholsterer
P E Hydraulics, 46 Sidwell Ave. , Sidwell P E	041451 4332	rakesh@pehydraulics.co.za	Hydraulics components
Powerflow, Frank Street Newton Park P E	0413655855	newtonpark@powerflowexhausts.com	Stainless steel exhausts and repairs
Pro Seals and Bearings, 2 Commercial Centre Commercial Rd PE	0414534678	sales@proseals.co.za	Good selection of seals & Bearings Take sample
Pro Tek Heads, 6 Hammond Street Sidwell	0414539765		aluminium welding ie. Thermostat housing
Ronnie Reed Clutch	75 Haupt Street Sidwell	041 4532227	brake and clutch
The Sports Car Centre, 11 Westmeath Rd Parkview Jo'brg	0116461631 0114860021	sportscar@mweb.co.za	MG Parts Alan & Denise Uzell
Tyler (George) 17 Gonubie St. Sherwood	0829617601		Upholsterer
Wheeltech, 31 Fettes Road N End P E	0413733052		bushes etc
<b>Classic Car Windscreens</b>		julien@classiccarwindscreens.co.za	
<b>Pop's Auto Shop</b>	0829012442 041 0040349	www.popsauto.co.za	Vehicle Repair and Maintainance Club Member
<b>Instrument Technician</b> Richard Grover	011 8962627 082 650 2079	RichardGrover@me.com	MGCC Northerns Member Ex Aero Instr. Technician
<b>A &amp; B Differential &amp; Gearbox</b>	041 2050920 0823896936		Diff & Gearbox repairs