



King of the Road

October 2024

The marque of friendship



MG Car Club Port Elizabeth Centre

Founded in 1976

Affiliated to the MG Car Club England





Safety Fast

"King of the Road"

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

Website: www.mgccpe.co.za

Facebook page:

Meeting Venue: EPVCC CLUBHOUSE, Conyngham Street, PE

HONARARY LIFE MEMBER Ron Doubell

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	Dirk Putter	083 293 1195	chairman@mgccpe.co.za
TREASURER & REGALIA	Chris Hanekom	083 299 0492	treasurer@mgccpe.co.za
SECRETARY	Tracy Yoko	072 261 5121	secretary@mgccpe.co.za
MEMBER	Peter Reebein	0826549145	reebein@intekom.co.za
MEMBER	Andre Nienaber	063 247 9852	elpeandre@gmail.com
MEMBER	Leon van Loggerenberg	0826529699	leonvanlog@gmail.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Alan Froom	082 432 8857	newsletter@mgccpe.co.za

**Monthly Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the EPVCC CLUBHOUSE,
Conyngham Street, PE from 18.30H onwards.**

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.

Chairman's Chirp October 2024

Greetings and Salutations to my MG Family.

I start this month's newsletter on a sad note. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Leon and Carol van Loggerenberg who lost their son after a short illness. You are in our thoughts and prayers in this very difficult time. In times of sadness joy can also be found. Congratulations to Carol's mother for turning 100 years of age during October, what an achievement.

After a very busy September full of events, we have come back to earth enjoying a "normal" month of MG activities in October.

The October Noggin was well attended and we all enjoyed each other's company around a braai fire where the stories of the Houw Hoek Indaba and other events were shared with lots of laughter and amusement.

The midweek was at Barnacles Restaurant, a favorite spot of our members with a stunning view over the Indian Ocean and comes highly recommended, serving scrumptious seafood. Fourteen members arrived at the gathering spot in an array of transport. Five MGs, one Mini, one Porsche (yes, we have a member with one of these – no names, no pack drill), one Sunbeam and a BMW motorbike. The drive of about 20km to the Restaurant was a nice run for the cars. While we were there some dolphins decided to make an appearance and were frolicking in the water giving us a very nice show.

Our month end run to Gamtoos Ferry Hotel was not a great success and was attended by only 10 members. I'm not sure whether the inclement weather had something to do with it but it was nevertheless again a nice 100km round trip for our cars. The food was good. But more importantly the friendship, fun and laughter was once again enjoyed by all.

Our events for November is the usual, Noggin, Midweek and Monthly Run. Details of each event will be communicated in due course.

Very important; please diarise 15 December which is the date for our Christmas function. Details for this event will also follow in due course.

While most newsletters start off with a local weather report, I decided that I will end my chirp off with the PE weather report this month because our luck may change and summer will arrive!! While we were hoping for spring to arrive in September, here we are at the end of October and still no sign of spring or summer. PE is still reeling under winter conditions and it remains cold, windy and rainy here in the friendly city. We probably say this every year, but this year's wind just seems to be more and stronger than previous years. We do live in the windy city after all, but we can fame ourselves by being called the friendly city.

Octagonally yours, until next time.



Or is it???

Events October 2024

Distinguished Gentlemen's Drive 29th September

This was not an official club event nor was it in October. Anyone with an older mode of transport is invited to partake to gather funds for the treatment of prostate cancer and dress in a distinguished manner. However some club members did gather with about a hundred other participants at the Ford agency on Walker Drive and drive in convoy to firstly Sacramento and then to the restaurant Elements. There one could order a meal and also a lucky draw took place in which Peter Reebein won a very smart tool set.



Which one did the editor want to take home. Had to be the Aston Martin!



Not only were the gentlemen distinguished but the ladies also as seen by the picture on our cover photo.

And the most distinguished of all was Carol van Loggerenberg's mother who turned 100 years of age last month. Received a birthday card from the King and all.

Many congratulations to the van Loggerenberg's family.

Midweek Drive to Barnacles 16th October.

Barnacles always provides a splendid meal and this one was no exception with a plate of prawns. And of course there is the view of the sea from your table and congenial company. Tough life!!



Gamtoos Ferry Hotel 27th October

Readers of the this newsletter may think that our membership does a lot of eating, some drinking and no driving. This is not quite true as one needs an excuse to drive somewhere so let it be food and drink.

The Gamtoos Ferry Hotel is a goodly drive and a pleasant one if you go through the back lanes and through the Pass.

On the way home you can 'give it a burn' along the freeway to clean those pistons out.



Useful Tool for the Workshop



It is a piece of rubber tubing with a connector to a compressor at one end and the other screws into the sparking plug aperture.

Remove the tappet cover and the carburettor air filter. Give it a squirt of air. If you hear a leak through the carburettor intake you may have a piston ring problem. If it is from a valve, maybe the seating.

Or like the editor's TC if you have both, you have a problem!

HOW MG WAS CAPTURED BY BRAND ENGINEERING.

Cars as much as clothes are all about style and utility. The rounded all-enveloping designs considered so modern in the early 1950s were by the end of the decade giving way to cars of more angular shape with larger window areas. The ZA and ZB Magnettes were typical examples of designs of the 1950s.



The revival of the MG Magnette brand for a car quite unlike the famous pre-war K3 Magnettes that had brought such glory to the MG name, may seem strange. However, one must remember that these pre-war Magnettes were purely touring cars. No wonder that Abingdon thought it a good idea to bring back a four-door family performance touring MG in the 1950's



The Magnette was an attractive car with the Palmer-designed body looking fresh and stylish. It had a showroom appeal, and a sportier image compared to many of its rivalries such as the Wolseley4/44. The latter as well as the Austin and Riley was typical examples of how MG was captured (high jacked) by badge engineering.* These cars were in most cases identical in shape and size.

The most prominent difference between the Wolseley and MG Magnette for instance, was the Wolseley badge stuck to the front grill. Furthermore, the Wolseley had a smaller engine with a single carburettor Nuffield power unit. The MG Magnette in contrast, had a lower suspension to give it a more sporting appearance and performance. From 1953 to 1956 the ZA Magnette was build followed by the ZB Magnette, 1956 to 1958. The latter model was slightly faster (68 bhp, 86mph) compared to the earlier model (60bhp, 81mph).



The car on the left in the picture below is a Wolseley while the red and white car is a MG with a different grill and badge.



Another example of how the MG brand name was captured or high-jacked through brand engineering was when the MG 1100 was announced in October 1962. This car was highly advanced with a transverse engine layout, front-wheel drive and truly revolutionary suspension system. It also had “Hydro-elastic” spring units to reduce bounce, pitch and roll.

The MG 1100 and MG 1300 were soon copied by the Austin Apache and Wolseley designs which could only be distinguished by different badges and grills.



Brand Engineering became a nick name for Abingdons' attempt to fool the British motoring public by manufacturing and marketing cars which were almost identical except for here and there a few cosmetic changes. It remains sad that the MG brand name which by far manufactured a superior mark had to suffer under these under performance models.

* *Brand or badge engineering refers to the practice of taking one product (ie a car) and rebranding it as another brand or identity. It is often used in the auto industry to increase sales, leading to a lot of confusion amongst the buying public.*

Reference:

Green, M. MG Britain's Favourite Sports Car. *Haynes Classic Makes Series. 1998.*

Many thanks to our member Deon Rousseau for his interesting article.



The editor has plagiarised this cartoon from the recent Morris Minor magazine for which he apologises but it so funny and apt.

The sign could so easily read MG SPARES

The following article has been sent across the pond from our Canadian correspondent Rodger Webb.

Many thanks Rodger!

OAKVILLE BRITISH CAR SHOW

17 September 2024

Every year, towards the end of summer, the Toronto Triumph Club organizes the British Car Show, in Oakville. Staged at the Bronte Park, this year the weather was perfect. A hot (24C) cloudless sky day and boy, did the people come out in their droves. In the order of 850 cars, of all ages were entered and I read a report the approximately 10,000 people visited the show!

Recently I found a programme on UTube of a fellow, building from scratch, a Jaguar D Type in aluminum, I was intrigued. Right at the entrance to the show was a similar part completed project. Mounted on a space frame chasis all body panels are in aluminum rolled on an English Wheel.



V12



A couple of early '65 Mk2s. Mark 10.



There were even a couple of MGs.



Some of the "old" kind and one of the "new"!



A good showing of Triumphs.



Sunbeam Tigers and Alpines.



Morgans were well represented.



The obligatory Morris Minor.



A couple of "Oldies".



There were several McLarens on show.



A wonderful selection of Lotus.



2009 Aston Martin Vantage V8



Rolls Royce, not everyone's cup-o-tea!

I had a wonderful morning strolling through this great collection of British engineering classics. I would estimate in excess of 200 MGs were on show and probably a similar number of Triumphs.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 6th November	Noggin at EPVCC Prego rolls on sale See WhatsApp
Wednesday 13th November	Lunch at Three Legged Pig Meet Checkers Lorraine @ 11.30am
Sunday 24th November	Lunch at River Front Restaurant Colchester Meet EPVCC @ 11.00am
Wednesday 4th December	Noggin EPVCC Bring and Braai
Sunday 15th December	Christmas lunch at German Club This is to be subsidised by the Club. Members are requested to contribute R100 per person
Other Events	
Sunday 17th November	Alfa Showday at Lee Gold Music Please support this event
February 5th 2025	George Old Car Show Spend the weekend in George and see the cars.

Editor's Ramblings

2. The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions.
3. I thought the window was down, but I found out it was up, when I put my head through
4. I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.
5. A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face.
6. A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.
7. I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.
8. In an attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.
9. I had been shopping for plants and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection, a hedge sprang up, obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car.
10. I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an Accident.
11. I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident
13. To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian.
14. My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.
15. An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished.
16. The indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.
17. I saw a slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he slid off my roof.
18. I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him
19. I was thrown from my car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some cows.
20. The telephone pole was approaching. I was attempting to swerve out of its way when it struck the front end.
21. The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.

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	www.theauto.co.za/generator-house	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
Motor Mod		Fettes Road N End P E	Mechanical Modifications
Nel's Motor Trimmers, 21 Hancock Street N End	041484222	nelsmotorspe@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
Classic Car Windcreens		julien@classiccarwindcreens.co.za	
Pop's Auto Shop	0829012442 041 0040349	www.popsauto.co.za	Vehicle Repair and Maintainance Club Member
Instrument Technician Richard Grover	011 8962627 082 650 2079	RichardGrover@me.com	MGCC Northerns Member Ex Aero Instr. Technician
A & B Differential & Gearbox	041 2050920 0823896936		Diff & Gearbox repairs