

NEWSLETTER NO. 9/2019

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Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MgCarClubSC/

Check our Webpage: www.mgcarclubsc.co.za

FROM THE HIGH CHAIR, September 2019.

Unfortunately Diane and I missed this month's club activity as we were watching elephants at Addo Elephant Park with overseas visitors. The MG outing, a fun run, included a treasure hunt again very well organised by Fred and Cheryl Bickley, which was won by Tony and Lorna Lyons-Lewis. I believe that lunch, a braai or pizzas from the restaurant at the Sedge Links Golf Club was well enjoyed by all. We look forward to the Zucchini breakfast on Sunday 29th.

Our visit to Addo coincided with the unseasonable hot weather early this month and the 'ellies' took full advantage of the early spring. Both the camp waterhole and Harpoor Dam provided several hours of most enjoyable entertainment and amusement as herds of these wonderful animals interacted and enjoyed themselves.

On a more MG note, most are aware of the concerns that many have in the movement for the increasing age of its members. The photographs in Safety Fast for instance, especially those of attendees at MG events, tend to show elderly, grey-haired people (although this clearly does not diminish the obvious enjoyment which they are experiencing!). The UK MGCC has formed a 'Young Members Branch' and it was good to read about their activities and their enthusiasm in a recent edition of Safety Fast. It would be great if we could foster interest in more younger members in the South Cape but one reality is that Knysna is very much a retirement town and the second is that younger car enthusiasts seem to have a greater interest in more modern cars. In the UK with the availability of modern 'Chinese' MGs and their use for and success in racing, the marque appears alive and well among younger enthusiasts.

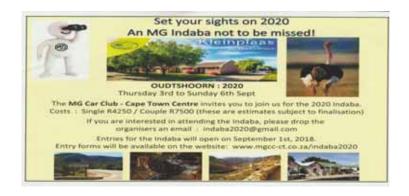
Another article which caught my eye recently was about records on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, USA. Many international speed records were broken there in the late 1950's by BMC development cars, perhaps none more significant than EX 181, an MG "Streamliner" powered by a supercharged MGA Twin Cam motor. Stirling Moss achieved 245 mph over a flying mile and Phil Hill recorded 185mph over 1 km. It has taken another 60 years to make a 'production' car go faster than 300 mph and not 'take off', as was achieved recently by a Bugatti on a closed off autobahn.

Next month's activities include the Glentana Caravan Park 'bring and braai' courtesy Ricky Cooper and the breakfast run to Moss and Maple. We look forward to seeing you at both. The calendar for 2020 is nearing completion and Peter and Jill Morse will soon publish details.

Drive safely and enjoy your MGs,

2020 INDABA

Please consider joining the South Cape group for an enjoyable weekend at Oudtshoorn in September 2020. Email indaba2020@gmail.com to obtain more information and to register or let me know on brucejhenderson@gmail.com and I will forward entry forms to you.



EDITORIAL

Our club has a mouth watering selection of classic MG's, close to 150 in total, ranging from 1929 M's to modern TF's, all exciting to drive but offering varied degrees of comfort. The most comfortable are the MGB GT's, which judging by average purchase price, are the least desirable as collector pieces. However, it is noticeable that as our average membership age increases, so does the popularity of these apparently least exciting examples of our marque. At a winter run to the Roadside Deli on a chilly August day, of the 12 MG's that took part, 8 were snugly warm GT's. But owners of these comfortable examples of our breed need not feel ashamed as they responded very well to a bit of engine upgrading in their final years. The less said about the MG C probably better as it has been observed that all its big six cylinder engine did was to add weight and spoil the handling. But when the Rover V 8 engine was inserted into the engine bay of an MG B, magic happened and these have become very sought after cars. When the talented U.K. engine tuner, Frank Costello, got hold of one he created a Wolf in Sheep's clothing that is truly spectacular. In our club, in case you have not noticed it and you do have to look hard, we have the only known Costello MG B GT in Africa. No difficulty then in selecting Fred Bickley's bright red monster as our Car of the Month.

Fred's 1972 "Costello" MGB GT is not only genuine but has an intriguing local history as I discovered when I went to photograph it and interview him. Fred has revealed that as early as 1969 MG considered fitting a V8 engine but decided it was too difficult and too expensive. Until Ken Costello did some bonnet reshaping and showed the MG management that it could be done. They promptly went into production with their official V8 version in 1973 and made it impossible for Ken to continue to get hold of engines for own his high performance version, 200 quid cheaper than MG. He sadly went out of production having converted some 50 MGB roadsters and 175 MGB GT's, like Fred's example which has a certificate of authenticity. Ken died in August 2015.





The Costello as posed by Cheryl

But it is the V8 engine that counts

Rather unusually, Fred has been able to trace most of the history of his Costello GT. It was a standard GT with the factory 1800cc motor, taken to Ken Costello in 1972 for conversion to a tuned version of the 3.51 Rover V8. It was subsequently shipped to South Africa and sold to a doctor in Cape Town who seldom used it. On his passing, it went to his son who drove it even less so it was beginning to look neglected. Then in 2005 the eagle eye of Ricky spotted it. He purchased it and did a full restoration (Fred has photos), painting it red from its original white. Ron Hollis then bought the car as a birthday present for his son Peter and they changed it to a higher compression version of the 3.51 engine as the original one was getting tired. But most of the original Costello conversions remain in place with a rear facing Weber 40DCOE side draft carburetor attached to a

custom, highly polished, "Costello" inlet manifold designed to do away with the Bonnet bulge needed to accommodate the more usual twin SU carburetors on the MK1 conversions. It has a custom expansion tank, side fitted oil-filter, electric fan and a modified front suspension. Peter put the car up for sale to make room for other projects and it went to Frost Motors where Fred spotted it and, in Cheryl's words, "it was love at first sight".

The Bickleys use their car a lot, having sold their original GT as too hot in our conditions and being first attracted by the Costello's sun-roof. They refer to it as "our" MG and Fred has already upgraded it with the correct Costello grill and nicer mag wheels. They have now enjoyed two club tours in their pocket rocket, in spite of finding her tricky to start at times. But as Fred comments: "Ken Costello made his cars to go, not to start".





Fred's Certificate of Authenticity

The distinctive Costello grill

Dave Jones

PAST EVENTS

MG Treasure Hunt - Sunday 8th September:

Having celebrated Spring Day with the usual breakfast run to Moss & Maple, the club went very firmly into real spring with this well organized Treasure Hunt on a scorching hot day, good enough for summer. The organizers, Team Bickley, were disappointed at the modest turn-out, but this was probably because it came so soon after the post-phoned Moss 7 maple run. From the participants point of view, an entry of 11 was great as there was no boring wait for your turn in the staggered starts from the Engen Garage in Sedgefield from 10.30 onward and a small enough crowd of friends at the finish venue for all to get welcome seating in the shade.

There were 8 MG's on the run with three "other sorts" from the GRMC, including Tony's brother Jon in his modern, air-conditioned, Hundayi (Jon had some story about his TR 3A being damaged but the invitation did **not** specify that classics were to be used. Indeed no mention at all of "cars" was made, so Team Bickley can perhaps be grateful no donkey carts pitched.)





Fred & Cheryl Bickley ready to start their briefing

"Start your Engines Gentlemen"

(Photos kindly supplied by Fred Bickley and Tony Lyons-Lewis)

Route planner Cheryl clearly went to a great deal of trouble to make sure the 90km mystery route through Wilderness, up the hill to the Silver/Kaaimans Passes, through the George CBD and back to Sedgefield was interesting with 45 challenging spot-questions (for 45 points) on the way. Most completed the course in good time for the finish and lunch-venue at the Sedgefield Links although there was a group of tail-enders who got held up at the Kaaimans Bridge, helping to cool Tony's rather hot MG TC down with fresh river water while searching in vain for a memorial plaque.

1st Place - 39 points - Team Tony & Lorna Lyons-Lewis - MG TC.

2nd - 38 - Team Dave & Heather Holt - MG B Roadster

3rd all on 34 - Teams Alan & Pam Waterston MG B Roadster; Dennis & Jo Cook TR 3; with Peter & Jill Morse MG Midget who nobly stood down from the 2 x prize on offer.

Lucky Draw (set glasses sponsored by Sedge Links)

Jim and Glenda Cleland

Special Prize (chocolates) - Guests Murray & Ann Douglas who have sadly sold their MGB GT.

Cheryl was thanked by the competitors for her hard work with a request to do it again next year. Fred put on record his appreciation to Mike Newbery and his staff of Sedge Links for their hospitality and for the generous use of the venue free-of-charge.

MGCC Breakfast Run – Zucchini's – 29 Septmber:

MG Owners are a tough breed as they turned out in their normal numbers for the regular end-of-month run in spite of dire warning of heavy rain and floods. In all 24 signed the register, of whom 20 were members. So with their partners the venue was pretty well crowded to capacity with about 45 eager diners tucking into their breakfasts and enjoying the log-fire. Not so their cars it would seem, as only four MG's braved the weather. Significantly, three of these were MGB GT's with their weather- kindly roofs.

All credit to the Bickley, Monk and Jones teams, in their GT's, who remembered it was an MG run, and a very special mention to Fritz Reitz who came in his MGA, pulled rank on arrival, and quickly parked in a vacant car-port to escape the rain.





New Members set the example - Monk GT at Zucchini's - Reitz MGA wisely ducks the rain

The usual lucky draw for a free breakfast was won by Ed Parfett, who having won it before generously handed it back for a re-draw. Lucky, 2nd time winner, was Peter Vadas.

NEW MEMBERS

Warm welcome to: Roy & Elizabeth Monk - MGB GT

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to: Dennis Houseman 4th; Keith Jones 7th; Yvonne Slade 9th; Dave Gough & Ken Hirschberg 11th; Norma Bowers 18th; Graham Cross 19th; Ret Orsmond & Akan Warne 20th; Tony Lyons-Lewis 24th.

FUTURE EVENTS

Glentana Bring 'n Braai – Sunday 13th Oct.: Please diarize and support this annual event which has been happening, with Ricky as host, ever since our S. Cape Centre was established. Turn-out for the first ever Glentana Run on 30 August 2007 was seven MG's (see below)



 $T-Type\ Tour\ -18\ \&\ 19^{th}\ Oct.$: Good luck to our brave members in their real M.G.'s as they go on-tour again. May the mechanics and the weather be kind to them.

Moss & Maple Breakfast Run – Sunday 27th Oct. :The committee received a suggestion that a Plettenberg Bay venue be found, a little closer to Knysna for these regular runs. After much discussion, it was decided that the extra distance is worth it because it gives Plett. members a decent run and the venue has proved to be so suitable. (Fried eggs can be ordered at a small extra charge.)

GRMC Century Run–Sun 3rd Nov.: Entries are open. Dennis Cook <u>gardenroutemc@gmail.com</u> Car & Driver must total 100 years and entry restricted to 100 cars. All in aid of charity.

MGCC Events Calendar 2019

Date / Day	Event	Quays Start	Host - Invited		
Dute / Duy	October Start Host - Hivited				
6 Sun	Lunch at Wilderness Hotel	11h15	GRMC - ALL		
13 Sun	Glentana Bring 'n Braai	10h00	MG - ALL		
16 Wed	Pensioners' Lunch, Enrico's	11h30	GRMC - ALL		
18-19 Fri-Sat	T-Type Tour		(Tony Lyons-Lewis)		
27 Sun	Breakfast Run, Moss & Maple, Plett	09h00	MG - ALL		
	November				
3 Sun	Century Charity Run	09h30	GRMC/TSCC - ALL		
10 Sun	Bring & Braai, Woodville Dairy Farm courtesy of Karl & Tilly Reitz	10h15	MG - ALL		
24 Sun	Breakfast Run, Zucchini's, Timberlake	09h00	MG - ALL		
December					
6 Fri	Prawn Braai, Knysna Angling Club	18h00	MG - ONLY		
13 Fri	Gasoline Alley Braai	16h30	MG/GRMC		

Attendance Register Members name	Partner	YTD Sept. 2019 TOTAL
Baker Lew	Heather	4
Battison Dave		0
Bechlars Philipp	Martina	0
Betton Dave	Astrid	2
Bickley Fred	Cheryl	29
Bowers Geoff	Norma	11
Bruce Brian	Gwendolyn	9
Burton Keith	Ella	3
Bush Marion	Gavin	0
Cairns David	Susie	2
Clary George	Carole	7
Cleland Jim	Glen	4
Clough Pat	Ali	15
Cool Wilhelm	Joeleen	12
Cooper Ray	Pat	6
Cooper Ricky	Tersia	23
Cox Stuart	Dottie	2
Craig John	Tracy	0
Cross Graham	Joan	4
Davey George	Margie	11
Davidson Brian	Jose	13
Davidson II Brian	Bernie	20
Davies John	Babs	0
Day John	Margaret	5
Douglas Murray	Anne	7
Etridge Derek	Jil	4
Fisher Roger	Alva	9
Friedman Frank	Merle	2
Frost Norman	Jennie	1
Giersing Bo	Donna	0
Gough Dave		0
Gregory Mike	Jan	2
Hamilton Allan	Brenda	0
Hardcastle Stephen	Jeanette	0
Hartzenberg Louw	Sarah	0
Henderson Bruce	Dianne	25
Hewitt Lionel	Rose	8
Hirschberg	Ken	6
Hodgson David	Kathy	5
1 loagson David	Radity	5

		© YTD Sept. 2019 TOTAL
Koncki Heinz	Paula	
Konig Harold	Andree	6
Krahe Alexander	Andrea	8
Kruger Johan	llse	9
Lawson Ross	Antoinette	1
Le Feuvre Tim	Sheila	4
Lodder Hugo		0
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna	30
Mackey Ray	Angela	14
Madeley Brian	Lyn	11
Malan	Niel	0
Marsden Susan	Kevin	1
Marucci Oscar		0
McGee James	Gene	6
McMahon Tony	Vicky	0
Mentz Bunny	Jan	11
Metelerkamp Neil	Norma	14
Miller Garth	Shirley	17
Miller Tom	Jenny	17
Milton Podge	Merrill	7
Monk Roy	Elizabeth	2
Morse Peter	Jill	32
Mullany Fred	Jo	22
Orsmond Ret	Julie	0
Parfett Ed	Jennie	6
Parker Wilf	Jenny	6
Posniak Peter	Patti	0
Pretorius Peter		11
Putter Willie	Linnea	0
Reitz Fritz	Madene	11
Reitz Karl	Tilly	9
Rist Beth	Chris	8
Rosser Phillip	Amanda	0
Scheepers Bert	Renate	0
Slade Keith	Yvonne	8
Smart Laurie	Kate	2
Spencer Mike	Jill	0
Stead Heyns	Ann	1
Stockdale Brian	Dawn	0
	<u> </u>	

Holliday Clive	Charlotte	8
Hollis Peter		1
Hollis Ron	Dee	12
Holt Dave	Heather	11
Horak Leish	Ingrid	5
Houseman	Dennis	
Marilyn		9
Jeuschenak		
Hermann		9
Jeuschenak		
Hermann	Nicola	0
Jones Dave	Fay	27
Jones lan	Gay	0
Jones Keith	Elmarie	6
Keefer Jimmy		0
Kells Trevor	Hilary	0
Koch John	Jillian	0

Tops Paul	Barbie	2
Vadas Peter	Vivian	12
Vadas Robert	Annabel	4
von Zeil Margie		13
Warne Alan	Jill	0
Waterston Allan	Pam	
		18
Wessels Jane	John	
		0
Whisken Doug	Irene	
		11
Whitehead Neville	Enid	3
Williams Denny	Pat	10
Winter George	Liesel	2
Woodgate Geoff	Merceda	8

POINTS TO DATE:

			Atte	endance
No.	Event	Date	Mbrs.	Non Mbrs
1	Sundowner Picnic	2019/01/15	28	6
2	Zucchini's B'fast	2019/01/27	45	14
3	Forever Young games	2019/02/17	10	1(C.T.)
3	Moss & Maple B'fast	2019/03/03	29	4
4	AGM	2019/03/05	26	
5	Let's Lunch	2019/03/20	19	5
6	Zucchini's B'fast	2019/03/31	27	5
7	Ebb & Flow braai	2019/04/07	16	6
8	Moss & Maple B'fast	2019/04/21	18	7
9	Knysna Hill Climb	3-5/5/2019	27	
10	Cape Centres Cradock	15- 20/5/2019	19	
11	Zucchini's B'fast	2019/05/26	29	12
12	Sop 'n Dop, Pembrey's	2019/06/12	18	7
13	Moss & Maple B'fast	2019/06/30	20	9
14	Lunch, Fat Fish	2019/07/18	16	2
15	Zucchini's B'fast	2019/07/28	35	6
16	Roadside Deli Outeniqua	2019/08/14	19	5
17	Moss & Maple B'fast	2019/09/01	18	4
18	Treasure Hunt	2019/09/08	11	2
19	Zucchini's B'fast	2019/09/29	20	4
20	Glentana Braai	2019/10/13		

21	Moss & Maple B'fast	2019/10/27	
22	Woodville Farm braai	2019/11/10	
23	Zucchini's B'fast	2019/11/24	
24	Prawn Braai	2019/12/06	
25	Bodge Street Party	2019/12/13	

REGALIA

A sample view of what is on offer to MGCC S.Cape Members:







The following are the current regalia prices:

(All garments carry the MGSCCC badge and approved wording where applicable.)

Item	Price
Fleece Beanie – blue (see above)	R 65.00
Golf Shirts – navy/white (see above)	R 250.00
Caps with peak - navy/white	R 75.00
Embroidery of badge on own clothing (see below)	R 50.00

(Please note that the above regalia pricing includes the embroidery of one logo only)

Special orders can be arranged to have the approved badge embroidered on any garment of your choice. Contact Liesel Winter - 073 721 8922

Club accessories (bumper badges, key rings, special orders, name tags etc.) via Ross Lawson.

(See below for photos of the sort of hard-badges, available.)

Official Club Bumper badge



Club Key Ring



Special Order Bumper Badge



MEMBERS'ADVERTS:

(Would members please contact the Editor if they have any MG cars or spares for sale)

For Sale:

For used MG /MG Magnette spares and repairs. Contact Ricky Cooper 082 822 2146 rickycooper111@yahoo.com

For Sale:

Trunk full of MGA spares plus a spare half engine (1500cc). Too much to list, but can be emailed on request. Prices negotiable but prefer sale in one lot.

Jaguar E Type Workshop Manual. Hard backed Haynes manual bought new in the UK and in excellent, unmolested condition. R 400

Contact Ray Mackey 082 922 6106 or brmprojects@telkomsa.net

For Sale (other centres):

MG Magnette 1957. Maroon, in excellent running order, contact Dave Hawkins 082 453 2618. (Advert. at request of Alan Froom - Port Elizabeth Centre)





MGB V 8. Totally original with only 50 000 miles and fully re-commissioned at a cost in excess of R 100 000 after 20 years in storage. Five new Michelin tyres. An urgent sale. R 400 000. Contact Jolyon Simpson 082 416 2527. (Advert. at request of Mike Johnson – C. Town Centre)

SERVICE PROVIDERS:

(If members are aware of other reputable service providers, please let me know. Ed)

Car Care Products:

For all your **Autoglym** requirements contact Sylvia at: 082 958 2498

email: sylvia.vintagerose@gmail.com

Mechanical Repairs and Servicing

Bodge Engineering, Ron Hollis 0828598771

Classic Car Storage:

Ricky Cooper 082 822 2146 <u>rickycooper111@yahoo.com</u>

Radiators and Fuel Tank repairs

Silverton Radiators, Knysna Industria

MG Spares

Sports Car Centre Alan or Denise 011 4860021

Teds Spares, Knysna (parts/consumables for older cars) Oscar 044 3821335

Panel beating, Spray painting.

Tino 0782543643 Sedgefield/Karatara area – (including full restorations)

Spotless Knysna Industria Hein 0824706213/0793807337 (including valet service)

Rubber seals/sections

Rubberman 61 Albert St., George 044 8732502 <u>sales@rubberman.co.za</u>

Ash framing, dashboards, door cappings, veneer repairs & refinishing etc.

Classic-Dash Ray Mackey 0829226106 brmprojects@telkomsa.net

Chrome plating

African Electroplating Peter Posniak 0825535032

Supreme Bumpers Glen Brits 011 6262304/5/6 or 0834503745

Chromeworks Peter Rist 041 4841533 / 0828558628 or chromeworkspe@yahoo.co.za

Exhausts, brakes, suspension, steering etc

De Graaf Undercar, Knysna Industria, Johan/Doreen 0820993164 / 044 3820806

Windscreens and Glass

Classic Car Windscreens - Contact julien@classiccarwindscreens.co.za

Disclaimer: The above list of service providers is included in good faith and no responsibility will be accepted for inferior workmanship or poor service. Members availing themselves of these services do so entirely at their own risk













www.rickycooperstorage.co.za



