

King of the Road

"The Marque of Friendship"



MGB

**MG CAR CLUB
PORT ELIZABETH
CENTRE**



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Port Elizabeth
Centre



"King of the Road"

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

Founded 1976

Affiliated to the MG Car Club Limited, Abingdon on Thames, England

Website: www.mgccpe.co.za

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Please identify any deposits with your name.

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.

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

Informal Meetings each **Friday** from 17.00H onwards also at the EPVCC CLUBHOUSE.

Excellent meals are available.



King of the Road

March 2023

Welcome to March's edition of King of the Road. I must admit the editor was otherwise occupied entertaining family from overseas in February so K of R this month will be very much a pictorial edition.

Our monthly noggin took place on the 1st February followed by a midweek run to Blue Vibes in Seaview on the 15th. Blue Vibes always serves a good meal which is complemented by an outstanding sea view.





EASTERN PROVINCE VETERAN CAR CLUB



ALL CLUBS DAY SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023

All Clubs Day at the EPVCC gives one the opportunity to see vehicles from other motoring clubs and meet their owners. This year it turned out to be a glorious day not only weather wise but also the variety of cars on view.

Probably the MGCC had the most cars.



Judging by its number plate Leon van Loggerenberg's Triumph TR6 is a MGBGT "want to be."

Sorry Leon the TR6 has the most beautiful lines.



The 1972 Ford Capri 3.0 litre V6 is completely original. There is something about that car!



What about a Ford Thunderbird. Now that's a real car and a "chick magnet" if ever you have seen one. Those rear seats are really cool!





Probably the most interesting vehicle on display was this 1902 De Dion Bouton with its single cylinder engine that purred like a sewing machine.





Note the shape of those front and rear wings - rolled by hand, one to match the other.

Everything so simple and it works but I am told it just made it up the hill that is Mount Road.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 1st March Noggin at EPVCC. Fire ready at 7.00pm

Wednesday 15th March. Annual AGM of MGCC at 7.00pm Snacks will be served.

Notice of meeting, proxy forms and nomination forms will be distributed at least seven days beforehand.

Please note that one must be a paid up member for 2023 to nominate or vote. Non paid up members may attend but cannot vote. The annual subscription is R290 for a family member and R260 for a single. Please make an EFT to the FNB account on the second page of the newsletter. To date we have only received payment from 34 members.

Sunday 19th March. We have been requested to support the following event.

Dear Chairperson & Club Members

We want to do a fundraiser for the East Cape Horse Care Unit (horses & donkeys) and SANCCOB (penguins & other sea birds) and we want it to be big.

When I say "we", it means me and Grass Roof Restaurant, at Grass Roof, cnr Heron & Seaview Rd.

It will be a whole day family event that will include live music, non food markets, food stalls, wine and gin tasting, a kiddy's play area and ... you!

We would absolutely love and genuinely appreciate your participation. Our hopes are to include a motor show/display of cars. We have secure parking for approximately 30 vehicles. You will be able to remain with your vehicles.

The gates will open at 07h00 and it will be fantastic if you and your car could be available from 09h00 - 13h00ish for looking, no touching.

We need you for this event to be successful and to be as big as we hope it will be.

Please be there around 9.00am until lunchtime. It is a good cause so make every effort to attend if you can.

Wednesday 5th April **Noggin**

Sunday 30th April **Annual Showday**

For Sale



The late Robin Dunstan's MGBGT is for sale.

Sylvia Dunstan tells me that the car is in running order but needs some TLC. For example the one wire wheel has 4 broken spokes so is using the spare at present.

It is advertised at R50 000

Contact Sylvia on 072 846 9607

- My Most Treasured Safety Fast! by Norman Ewing

I was born a child of the British Empire, and brought up to love King and Country. Then at the age of seven, having seen the lovely Princess Elizabeth drive past our home Kingsway Mansions, with the rest of the family in an open Armstrong-Siddeley Hurricane, as I stood there waving my little Union Jack, I would be a Royalist for life when she became my Queen!

At an early age I grew up with Beano's Desperate Dan and Biggles as heroes, progressing in the early fifties with the onset of Pan soft cover books like 'Wooden Horse', 'Dam Busters' and 'Boldness Be My Friend' to Paul Brickhill's, 'Reach for the Sky', and the real world, thus introducing me to a whole new group of boyhood heroes. South Africans like 'Sailor' Malan and Marmaduke Pattle, but also the likes of Douglas Bader and Johnnie Johnson whom I longed to meet in my youth and years later.

Being an avid collector of all things maritime in my early years, I soon became an expert in my subject, displaying and talking about my collection of ship post cards. However what really interested me, was people, in particular my boyhood heroes. My interests were to grow even wider as my interest in cars, and in particular MGs grew, and again it enabled me to approach, and then invite the likes Phil Hill, Stirling Moss, Paddy Hopkirk and Henry Stone to visit South Africa.

However what REALLY excited me, was when I read in the evening papers, that Johnnie Johnson the 'Battle of Britain' fighter ace would come as a guest of the South African Airforce for a special event. Not only was he the top scoring RAF fighter pilot, but he was Douglas Bader's wingman, so this would be really special!

Henry Stone had us all in fits of laughter when he stayed, describing how the apprentices at Abingdon had been tormented when the Bader MG arrived for a service. Because he had lost one leg above the knee

and one below, it had been found beneficial by Henry to change the pedals around, which information he kept to himself with obvious consequences!

Telling the apprentices when they lost control, that “The only way to drive that car is to cross your bloody legs!”

So now, besides getting Johnnie’s two books “Full Circle” and “Wing Leader” signed, I really wanted to know if he ever went in Douglas Bader’s MG. I was determined to meet him.

Having used the entire Johannesburg Sun for our MG Indaba the year before, it was easy to confirm where the Johnson’s were staying. I made telephonic contact only for him to tell me that meeting was impossible, as they were shortly off to Pretoria. The second call was met with a similar rebuff the next day, so not to be beaten, the last attempt I made was from the Hotel foyer, using the house phone. I was told they were leaving in fifteen minutes. I was at the door in less than half!

I was greeted with “You really are a persistent little bugger!” I just smiled and said “You got the ‘little’ bit right!” His wife, who was sitting at a small table against the wall putting on her make up, burst out laughing and told me to “Come in.”

I produced both books which he then signed. Then I asked him, as he was Bader’s wingman, if he had ever been in his MG. “Yes often” he replied. “Did you ever drive it?” He shook his head and laughed when I told him what Henry had told me. “Well that is maybe why he never drove mine” he said. “YOU HAD AN MG?” I responded. He smiled and said “It was almost obligatory to have an MG in the RAF...it was THE CAR!” I produced my copy of “Safety Fast!” with a cover picture of a TC and a Spitfire, asking him to just write something on it.

He took it, sat down on the stool beside his wife and wrote

“To a fellow MG Driver Johnnie Johnson 3 May 1987”

I was overjoyed! I had just met the great Johnnie Johnson and his lovely wife! AND Air Vice Marshal James E Johnson CB, CBE, DSO & Two Bars, DFC & Bar, DL had just greeted me as a “fellow MG Driver”...how fantastic was that! In my book that really was a coup...or in his terms a ‘kill’. I was thrilled with my MG Trophy, and years later I was able to tell another RAF Ace and friend, Andy Green the story when he came to stay in 2000, but I could not find that “Safety Fast!”...
...I found it today!

Norman Ewing



For Sale



Hi,

I am wanting to sell my 1967 MGB GT as arthritis now makes it hard for me to enter and exit the car.

I have drafted the following advertisement which I would like you to put in the newsletter / magazine please.

FOR SALE

1967 MGB GT Damask Red. Block upholstery wire wheels

One Owner since 1985

Sound mechanics but will require a re-spray otherwise very presentable and in good running order

Asking price R110 000

Robin Taylor

0829573720

robtay@iafrica.com

7 Yellowwood Lane

Amber Ridge

Howick 3290

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 Atomotive, 25 King Edward Street Newton Park PE	0413641017	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
Etching Foundry, 1A Reith St Sidwell PE	0414532573	etchingfoundry@mweb.co.za www.etchingfoundry.co.za	Metal Badges
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 (MGCC Member)
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
Speedyquip 3 Prince Alfred Rd	0414841506	sales@speedyquip.co.za www.speedyquip.co.za	Accessories
Pop's Auto Shop	0829012442 041 0040349	www.popsauto.co.za	Vehicle Repair and Maitenance