



King of the Road

August 2025

The marque of friendship



MG Car Club Port Elizabeth Centre

Founded in 1976

Affiliated to the MG Car Club England

MG Midweek Run

20 August 2025





SafetyFast!

"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

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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.***

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 August 2025

Greetings and Salutations to my MG Family.

While I mentioned at the September Noggin that there will not be a Newsletter this month due to our Newsletter Editor gallivanting in Wales, visiting his family, I thought it pertinent that due to so much August activity we should issue a Newsletter. I therefor decided to take the responsibility for writing the August Newsletter to highlight all the fun we had during the month. Therefor the Newsletter may look a little different this month and it is also later than normal. You deserved the break Alan. We all trust that you had a very good holiday overseas bonding with your family, especially your son.

We had another busy MaGic month with three very well organised and well attended events. Our Noggin on 6 August was our traditional Bring and Braai on a very cold winter's night which was, notwithstanding the cold weather, very well attended and enjoyed by all.

At the Noggin we were fortunate enough to introduce not one but two new cars to the club. Congratulations to Andre and Tony on their new acquisitions, we are sure that they will bring many happy driving miles to you. Both cars are stunning as can be seen in the picture below.

We then did something unusual for our Midweek event. Ronnie arranged to have a competing event at the Algoa Grand Prix Go-cart track at Baywest Mall to have some good clean rivalry between members. Four ladies and eight men lined up in three separate races and with the adrenalin pumping challenged each other for the honours. The races were over five laps each and Mientjie came out tops by the proverbial country mile in the ladies race. Well done Mientjie!!! In the men's race there were eight competitors who lined up in two pods. In the men's heats Ronnie was the fastest with Stefan second and Andre third. The three fastest men of the two pods then lined up for the men's honours. Ronnie, Chris and Stefan were the competitors. Andre unfortunately drove himself into a motion sickness frenzy in the heats and could not participate in the men's final. Chris, who was placed fourth had to take his place in the shoot-out. Sorry Andre but we hope to see you up and running in next year's race. The men's shootout was won by Ronnie (he will get a big handicap next year) followed by Stefan and Chris in third place. Congratulations to the winners. It was indeed a great fun event and thanks goes to Ronnie, Desire and Algoa Indoor Go-Karting for the arrangements, including the trophies and medals. Well done to the winners!!!

It seems like August is the month of competition between the club members as our Monthly Run was also a competing event in the guise of the annual Driving Skills tests. We all gathered at the SAA Museum for this event. At our invitation we had a few members from the Morris and Triumph clubs join us.

A track with three challenges was set out scoring points for each success. It was not a timed event and the winners were determined by the highest total points score obtained on the run. The members were very well disciplined and no one wheel spun on the grass!!! The winners were Chris and Mientjie and the runners up Dirk and Sharleen. Again, a well-attended event and enjoyed by all. A social Bring and Braai was held to end off the day. A big thank you to James for making the SAAF facility available to us at no cost. I do however think that the SAAF Bar made a generous amount of money out of the members. We had a lucky draw of two prizes and the proceeds were donated to the Museum. Thanks to the generosity of the members we could donate R900 to the Museum.

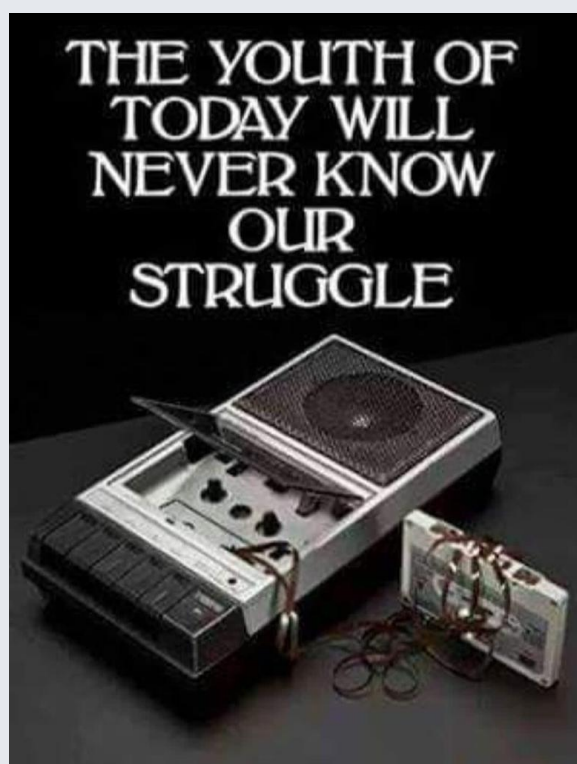
In addition to the three official MGCCPE events for August we were again invited by the MG Dealership to showcase our cars at the official PE launch of the MG3. This is a very attractive car and should make its mark in the motoring fraternity of PE. We had eight classics and one modern attend and was treated to boerrie rolls and water (no coffee, the machine was broken) by the Dealership.

September will also be quite a busy month as four cars are attending the National MG Gathering at Goudini Spa close to Rawsonville in the Western Cape. Ronnie and Desire, Dirk and Sharleen, Graeme and Colleen and Tony will set off on Sunday the 14th for the three day event. A full report on this event will appear in next month's Newsletter.

For those staying behind, the Midweek will be at Old Grey Club for a lunch on the 17th. On the 28th is the Distinguished Gentleman's Drive in which quite a few of the MGCCPE cars will be participating. It seems like the PE classic car fraternity's participation in this event is one of the largest in the country, if not the largest. Last year a large number of cars participated and this year the entries already stands at 76 cars. The proceeds go to vital research and programs for prostate cancer and men's mental health to support the wellbeing of men all around the world. A worthy cause indeed.

In view of this event there will not be an official MG monthly run in September.

Until next time!!!



Congratulations to Tony and Andre with their new acquisitions



Monthly Events Feedback
Go-Cart Event





Driving Skills Tests

Our Cars

Checking the Course



Placed 1st

Placed 2nd



Lucky Draw



Donation to the Museum



Our Visitors



Ons gaan nou braai!!!



MG3 Launch



A lovely picture of our members enjoying an evening at the German Club in July



Upcoming Events

Wednesday 17 September – Midweek: Lunch at Old Grey Club 12:00 (meet at the club)

Sunday 28 September – Distinguished Gentleman's Drive

Wednesday 1 October – Noggin: Bring and Braai

Thursday 16 October – Greek Club (evening event)

Sunday 26 October – Monthly Run (Kimber Run): Thornhill

Wednesday 5 November – Noggin: Prego Rolls

MGB GT V8 ONE OF A KIND



MGs are sports cars and should possess performance and roadholding that is superior to the average run-of-the-mill family saloon. However, as the cost of development inexorably rose with each successive new model, manufacturers tended to spend more money on improving their mainstream cars and less on changes to slower selling sports cars, often resulting in the average family saloon performing as well as the sports cars in the range. However, Abingdon was aware of the need to give the sports car buying public more performance and the MGC was the first move in this direction.

Unfortunately, the MGC was not as successful as the makers had hoped and the idea of having a more powerful MGB has been shelved. Moreover, few customers were willing to have their present Bs tuned for improved performance which meant that Abingdon needed to produce something suitable to satisfy the demand. The problem for the company was getting sufficient funds to improve the car. Abingdon engineers examined various options by fitting different engines but most of these needed considerable re-engineering which ruled out the cost.

The impetus behind the eventual adoption of the Rover V8 for use in the MGB was the efforts of an independent engineer Ken Costello. He succeeded in fitting the small-block aluminum V8 into the MGB engine bay, which was ideally suited for the car. However, the V8 engine was a tight fit for the engine bay and Costello's car had a rather ugly fiberglass bulge on the bonnet. Costello's conversion of the MGB with a Rover V8 powerhouse inspired the Abingdon engineers to develop their own car using the Rover V8 engine

The car they built had a lower compression ratio and produced 137bhp at 5000 rpm. The rather unnecessary (ugly) bonnet bulge inspired the engineers to work on an alternative smooth bonnet by placing the carburetors at the back of the engine bay which looked much neater. Furthermore, the engineers decided to modify the gearbox, suspension and brakes. The gearbox was mated to a different clutch and bell housing. Stiffer springs were also fitted, and brakes uprated by using thicker front brake calipers.



The motoring press praised the performance of the V8 but criticized the lack of any interior or exterior changes to the car to justify the higher price tag. Once again, here was the criticism that haunted the MGC five years earlier. It seemed that although the company assumed that it was only extra performance that buyers craved. The buyers also demanded more comfort, less wind-noise and a newer dashboard to justify the higher price tag. However, the car did have tinted glass, a heated rear window and overdrive as standard. The car was launched in 1973 at a price of 2293 pounds, 1856 chrome-bumper cars and 735 rubber bumpers were built, the latter mainly for export.

Today the MGB GT V8 is a truly "one-of-a-kind" classic. The club is fortunate to have a prime example of these fine cars in our midst. This car is owned by Ronny van Eck, who. bought it 30 years ago, rebuilt it completely and in immaculate condition!

Deon Rousseau.

REFERENCE.

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

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
PE Paint Correction. Andre Meyer	067 3896 042	meyerlunen6@gmail.com	Paint reconditioning
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	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
Adrian Conte Classic Car Lenses Knysna	083 702 0128		Classic Vehicle Light Lenses
Wheeltech, 31 Fettes Road N End P E	0413733052		Bushes etc
Classic Car Windscreens		julien@classiccarwindscreens.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
Ludick Trailers	0878222978	john@ludicktrailers.co.za 491 Cape Rd Westering	Car Trailers Reasonable rates