



WHALE TALES

THE CAPE TOWN TRIUMPH NEWSLETTER

Editor Jamie Hart

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JULY 2020

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I cannot believe how time flies – Last year this time it was only April. We are now past the 100 day mark of the lockdown and I guess most of you are used to the new normal, with having to sanitise hands and wearing masks whenever you leave your house. We are looking forward to the rest of the year and believe that things can only get better.

A number of our members have been working on projects and maintenance of their cars during the lockdown, Tim Kent TR4, me TR7v8, Colin Maggs TR3A, Chris Cockett Spitfire, Roger Tyler Spitfire, Jamie Hart TR4A to name a few and then Frank is working on Andre's Stag, hope to see it on the road soon.... Danie Barkhuisen also had a shoulder operation a couple of weeks ago and we are wishing him a speedy recovery and we are looking forward to catching up with our friends and fellow TRIUMPH enthusiasts. Brian McKirdy's TR3A landed safely in Scotland and Brian is now busy sorting the licensing out.

That's it for now, please do keep safe and join us for the picnic, would love to see you.

Triumphant Regards,

Gerhard Vorster

THE EDITOR'S DESK

Although the pandemic is getting worse, as predicted, in terms of infections, hopefully we are at the point of the curve where things may slow down and we can get back to some sort of normality.

We are getting the club website up and running again through the good services of Roger Tyler. It seems to have been in abeyance for a long time and the committee felt that in this day and age for a new member to go to a website and find it was last updated in 2017 is a no no! There is a fair amount of work to do but we hope that it will be up and running pretty soon. The address is www.capetriumph.za.org

The next important task is to update the information contained in it, those with new projects start writing!!

The zoom meetings seem to be working out reasonably well, some members are having difficulty using the link we send out and there are also issues with bandwidth and general connectivity. Please let us know if you are still having problems and we will see what we can do to get you connected. It is great to see old faces such as Tom Dougan and Brian McKirdy using the new technology but I still miss the good old fashioned personal interaction. We had our Rotary President's induction meeting last week as a virtual meeting and had guests from the UK, Sweden, Australia and the USA. That was really wonderful but somehow it felt second best to a good dinner dance and the ability to chat with real life humans. Maybe this will become the new normal, certainly for certain meetings, but I for one really miss the social interaction at noggins and real live functions!

The other important information regards Timour Hall. As you know this year's car show was affected badly by the weather. This meant lower visitor numbers and overall the takings were badly down. This event was always organised as a fund raiser for funds to run the hall so there was a financial problem even before the Covid pandemic stuck. This then meant the air B and B side could not function at all and all income sources were cut off. The facility is run by the International Police Association and I understand they are busy looking for options as to what to do with the site. The Crankhandle Club uses Timour for their monthly natters and put a fund in place to help, I am not sure whether any further decisions have been made but it may mean there is no show next year. Please if you have any further news as to Timour Hall's status let me know so I can publish accurate information.

FUTURE EVENTS, A PICNIC 12TH JULY!!!

Good news on this front. With the slight reduction in restrictions, we are going to hold a picnic in the car park at the outlook point about 1km on the Hout Bay side from the summit of Chapman's Peak. There is plenty of parking, and also tables (I think) but bring your own chairs just in case!

The time will be from 11.30 onwards, everyone is invited and let us see how it goes. If this works then this may be the route to go until life settles down again.

At this stage I am not sure how the weather is looking so if you have doubts give me a ring, 084 220 0082, and I can advise on what is going on.

NATIONAL GATHERING 23RD TO 27TH APRIL 2021

Norman Bull from the Johannesburg club has been in touch to say the Nationals have been deferred to April 2021. The venue is still the Golden Gate which is a fantastic part of the world. Please do NOT contact Golden Gate but if you have any queries please contact Norman on normanb0147@gmail.com

TECHNICAL TRIVIA

THANKS

Many thanks to all those folks who got in touch regarding the SU's on Roger Tyler's car. I am not sure we are 100% there but have made good progress and discovered what we hope is a good supplier in Johannesburg.

Taking a leaf out of Sherlock Holmes book, when the possible doesn't get you there look at the impossible. With that in mind we decided to change the jets and we able to source these from the Sports Car centre in JHB rather than having to import them. Although it is normally the needles that wear, we replaced the jets which was an easy job, adjusted the levels to where they should be and all of a sudden the car will at least idle without producing more smoke than a steam engine! Roger has taken it for a few runs and reports that whilst idling is much better, there is a flat spot at higher revs so we need to go back to the tuning board.

CHECKS BEFORE USE

As many of us have not used our cars too much recently, two areas that we need to check before the next run for the picnic. Check your tyre pressures as these will have certainly gone down and then check those tyres for signs of flatting as they will have stood in one place for quite a while and may have developed flat spots. Whilst you are at it check the dates on the tyres, this is a 4 digit number on the sidewall. The first 2 digits are the week of production and the 3rd and 4th are the year of production. Look carefully at the sidewalls to see if there is any cracking, one problem is that we are unlikely to wear our tyres out on the road, but we may have some seriously out of date tyres that could spell disaster when we are doing some spirited motoring!

The other are to look for any leaks in the braking or clutch system caused by lack of use. Also with the use of modern fuels, check the rubber hoses delivering fuel and also the condition of items such as fuel pump bowls, particularly plastic one, a these may have deteriorated since you last used the car.

A WHALE OF A TALE PART 9 BY TIM KENT

A man has to do what a man has to do, even if, in the opinion of others, it is wrong, stupid, un-necessary, or downright dangerous. Let me explain. Nurse and I had now been married for a long time, almost a year, in fact, when she announced that she thought that she might be pregnant. I, thinking of something to say, asked if her

“thought” was based on any fact, and as a Nurse she should try to be a little more knowledgeable. She then declared emphatically that she may be and we shall have to just wait and see. “Wait? For what? and for how long”? was my response. Yes, my education in these matters left a lot to be desired, obviously. There were cold beads of sweat on my brow because this could be a life changing moment. We didn’t have to wait long before it became obvious, but her pregnancy was trouble free, well, for me at least it was. I jest; it was plain sailing for both of us until 8 months, three weeks and five days later. I was in the shower on that morning when Nurse, from the bedroom, in a voice trembling with anxiety called out “phone Dr. Gordon now !!!” and then added “pleeease”. I towed myself dry, got dressed and did as she commanded. After a brief conversation with Dr. Gordon he said that I should get her to Somerset Hospital without delay, which meant ‘like now”. I took her firmly by the elbow and led her down the stairs to the road and the TR4A, opened the passenger door and helped her in. I ran around to the driver’s side jumped in and started the engine. Then I remembered that a minor water leak had developed, so I got out ran upstairs, got a jug, came back down filled the jug with water from the nearby tap, lifted the bonnet and added the water. The look of abject despair on Nurse’s face told me that I was not the most popular person on the planet, now, or ever would be. My rational, in the heat of the moment, was that the car must not over-heat between Sea Point and Green Point. I already had an over-heated wife and would not be able to deal with an over-heated Triumph as well.

This gut tearing episode happened at about 6am on the morning of March 15th 1977 and at about 9.30am a son was born to us! What joy, what jubilation, especially as I was now the most popular man on the planet, for ever, and mother & son were doing just fine. I was alone that night and I think I had rather too much J&B Rare whisky and spent a small fortune phoning my parents and brothers and sister in the UK to announce the arrival of my son.

So you see, a man has to do what a man has to do, I mean, just supposing, I had forgotten about the minor water leak, or chose to ignore it, supposing the engine had got too hot and we had had to stop to let it cool down, how long would that have taken and what would have been the consequences? That I should have fixed the minor water leak weeks before, knowing that this day would arrive sooner rather than later, I cannot counter- argue convincingly, but, let history be the judge.

What a plonker!

Yes, you’re right. I should have bought a Datsun when I had the opportunity. But I didn’t.

So, I am now approaching my thirties and I have two TRs, one Spitfire, a wife and a son. Do not read that sentence in order of importance, shame on you if that thought crossed your mind!

In fact that thought crossed my mind many times, that a happy life is all about “balance”. A Balance between mental and physical activity, a balance between your bank balance and someone else’s, a balance between work and play, this is especially true if your work life takes precedence over every other aspect of your life. And, that was my situation and it was wrong. At roughly this point, my parents in law

came to Cape Town to cuddle their first grand-child and couldn't help noticing that our flat was furnished in what might be called a minimalistic style. It had all the essentials but it was not what one might call opulent. One evening after dinner, and nappy changes, father-in-law enquired if the TR4 might be for sale and if so I should name my price.

Mother-law 's eyes swirled around the sparsely furnished flat and muttered something about the range of curtains she had seen at Woolworths that afternoon and which one would look perfect in the baby's bedroom. I was very fond of my Mother-in-law except when she had an opinion, because none made any sense. And this case was no exception. Was she suggesting that I should sell the TR4 for some dreadful bedroom curtains? Apparently, she was. Father-in-law and I finished our Remy Martin Cognac and retired to bed.

My mind shot back to the night of the Massey Ferguson Director's dinner party (when his wife tried to snog me in the middle of Strangers in the Night) when I was told, nay, instructed to sell the TR4A because it would never be the same after the horrendous meeting with a Holden in Heidelberg.

A short while before this inter-locution with my in-laws, the landlord had sent a letter to all his tenants which instructed that only one car per flat was allowed to park on the street below. I think other tenants had complained about my "fleet" occupying three bays. I, therefore enquired among all my neighbours and searched the 'To let' columns in the local press to find parking for two cars, in Sea Point. I was about to give up looking when a fellow elderly German tenant, with a Ford Anglia(105E) informed me of a basement "dug out" nearby and which was available. I accepted, readily, even though the rental was about the same as the flat. I quickly removed the TR4 and the Spitfire to their new abodes. They were safely ensconced there when the in-laws came to visit.

The following morning Father-in law and I went to the dug out to start the cars and perhaps take them for a spin. He, stood behind the TR4, took out his cheque book, laid it flat on the boot lid and said that I should fill in the figures, which I did, eye watering numbers, and he signed it. Job done. Oh woe is me.

But the trauma and drama has only just started, it cannot get much more tear-jerking, but it does. Honest.

Till the next episode, go well, go in Triumph.

Tim Kent.

P.S. For Sale: Triumph TR7 breaking for spares,

And, a Triumph Spitfire, in pieces, chassis and all mechanical parts but no body.

Contact Tim Kent on 0767152383 or timokent57@gmail.com

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

2004 NATIONAL GATHERING AT PORT EDWARD

Gerhard sent me some good photos of this event, I am enclosing them for the sake of old times and so that newer members can put names to faces and cars. It is sobering to think of who is no longer around!



**TSCC WINNERS, BACK L>R BRIAN AND SHEILA MAGS, GORDON WARING, YOURS TRULY, TIM CRUISE
FRONT MIKE AND NERINA NAPOLI, KEN BOSS, DENNIS COOK**



DAVE GORDON



DAVE'S CAR, "BUSHPIG"



GIAN MANI AND TIM CRUISE AT CONCOURS



CHRIS SCHULTZ AND MARION WENT



GEOFF DAVIS KNEELING IN ADMIRATION!



MIKE NAPOLI CONGRATULATING GIAN MANI

TRIADS

This advert is from the Crankhandle Journal.

For those of you wanting some more projects, there are a TR2, TR3 and a TR3A all as project cars plus probably enough parts for a 4th car. All this for R175k!

Contact Dave on 082 565 5752 for information, he is acting on behalf of Ken Dugmore who I believe is Di's brother.

Triumph TR7

I got a call from Rod Mitchell at Prompt Auto in Somerset West (083 455 3498 or 021 852 5973) who is selling a TR7 on behalf of one of his customers. Rod says it is in good condition, a touch of rust in the usual places, and is asking R40k for the car.

Rod did send me some great pics of the car which I seem to have misfiled so if you are interested I will dig them out.

TAIL PIECE



MIKE NAPOLI'S MACAU SPITFIRE

Unfortunately you were denied the talk by Mike on this fascinating car due to Chinese flue! It will be on our programme for the future!!