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NEWSLETTER – April 2009

Chairman's Chat...

First an apology to any one that turned up at Viglietti's and found no one around, we had to postpone it to April 16th. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter.

This highlights a problem we are having in communication and that few seem bothered with. In the last newsletter we sent out a membership update so that everyone could give us a quick way of getting in touch for just these occurrences. So far we have had less than 10 replies!! Rowan sent out e mails to all the addresses we had and we phoned several people but still the message did not get through. We recognize there is a problem with our distribution lists but we need your help to solve it, if you have changed your e mail address in the last few months we are not going to find you unless you tell us about it!

Tom and Anne Dougan are busy compiling the membership records and have taken over the bank account from Tim Cruise. It would appear that many members have either moved or just lost contact so we are busy trying to get in touch with them. This will be the last newsletter you will receive if you have not renewed your membership, we would really hate to lose you but we can only do so much and that does not include paying your subs!

One very interesting article was Gerhard's chairman's chat in Sabrina and in particular the reference to pride of ownership. Around the same time I received an invitation from the Jaguar club to judge pride of ownership at their concours at Vredenheim wine estate. Even though I am not the greatest lover of concours, the setting and organisation certainly made me think.....!

The Jaguar club also want to encourage more cars to come to a concours show that are not necessarily going to win main prizes but are loved and used. I worked with Rudy Schats the organiser to develop a formula that eliminated some of the problems with multiplier factors and the like. We came up with a format that worked very well and placed a lot of emphasis on the history of the car, how it was set out and the interview with the owner. The car was physically judged on cleanliness but not necessarily on originality, so for example it could have been re upholstered with a non original fabric or similar.

Overall the event was well received and the standard of cars pretty high. There are still a few areas where the scoring needs to be modified but all the participants seemed very happy and there was none of the acrimony that sometimes marks d'etat and similar events. Hopefully the national gathering organisers read this column and it may give them something to think about?

Lastly, I would like to wish Nerina a very speedy recovery from her car accident, hope they find the problem very soon and you will be back to your usual cheerful self. Mike seems fine but it does show us all that our roads are far more hazardous than the race track!!

Enjoy your cars in this lovely late summer weather, see you soon. Jamie

Editorial

We seem to be a bit thin on the ground with articles for this month's newsletter. Dennis's contribution has some interesting info for South African drivers. Be sure to read it. It sounds like you guys have been having a rare old time in your little sports cars. I'm really sorry to be missing out on club events, especially the month end runs. The one for March sounded really good. I do miss those trips, but sadly I work weekends now and seldom have a Sunday free. This one I did have free and went to church for a change. The GT6 was in for work, having a wheel bearing replaced (when it arrives from England) so no joy rides for me at the moment. I am getting around in a borrowed plastic, a navy blue Mazda Etude! Check out the correspondence for 2 stolen cars that we need to be on the lookout for. My car, the renowned GT6 is still for sale. I have a tentative offer from Ronan's brother. Watch this space for further news. Happy motoring.
Ed.

Report back - Month end run to Skilpadvlei by Jamie Hart

This run took place in absolutely perfect autumn conditions, one of those days when the Cape is on its best behavior. The run was organised by Gerhard and Suzette, minor problem was poor Gerhard was sent off to the Lowveld for a meeting on the Monday morning and had to be on a plane instead of in his car.

We met at the N1 Engen and had a wonderful run via Elsenberg agricultural college and the R44 to Stellenbosch. We diverted via the town centre to make sure no one missed us and then blasted out past Stellenbosch Farmers Winery and up the Polkadraai hill to the restaurant at the top. Much easier than doing it on a bike!

Here we joined the Maggs clan and were treated to a really wonderful farm house breakfast with lots of refills of coffee, and a wonderful view of Stellenbosch and the Botteleray Hills as a backdrop. We were looked after very well and when the time came to go, many of us decided that the only route was really the scenic route home.

Many thanks to Gerhard for the organisation, please speak to Mr. Boardman next time to make sure he looks at your diary in future!



Forthcoming Events:

Thursday 16 April - NOGGIN at Viglietti Motors

No, you haven't been mistaken, you are not seeing things either! Please note that the postponed March noggin will take place on **Thursday 16th April at 6.30 pm** prompt at the Viglietti showrooms on the corner of Roeland and Tenant Streets. There is plenty of street parking nearby.

The club will be laying on some snacks, please bring a bottle of wine that we can pool for the evening, or some cool drink for the non drinkers.

Sorry for all the alterations, we know the visit will be worth the wait!!

As many of you know, Viglietti are the South African importers of Ferrari and Maserati cars.

They have kindly offered to host us for the evening and will show us most of their operation including workshops and storage areas.

Please let Jamie know by Tuesday 14th Jamie – 0842200082 or Jamie.hart@kingsley.co.za if you are coming so we can finalise numbers for catering.

Month end run - Sunday 26 April

This run is in the middle of a long weekend so we thought we would try something a little different. We are going to Dixie's in Glencairn for breakfast starting at 10.00 am. This is the same place we went to last January and serves an excellent breakfast. Make your own way there, the difference is that if it is a really good TR day, we will go for a run after the meal to where ever suits us. If the weather is otherwise, we can decide on the spur of the moment what to do.

Please let Jamie know - 084 220 0082 by midday on Thursday 23rd April if you are coming so we can reserve places, latecomers will have to take their chances!

Plett Long Weekend - 12 - 16 June

This is a joint long weekend with the PE and Border clubs, it promises to be a lot of fun. The Border guys have done a lot of home work and there are scenic drives, driving tests, spit braais and a lot of good chit chat.

The venue is the Beau Rivage timeshare complex near the Beacon Island hotel and within walking distance to the beach and other places of interest and amusement.

The price for units is approximately R750 per night, these sleep 3 couples so the price is R250 per couple per night depending on the level of accommodation you are looking for. Accommodation is going fast and currently we have 4 cars going from here so please let me know asap so we can reserve you a room.

Delirious in the Desert - April 2008

I rely a lot on the Internet; to keep touch with my business back home, continually work on optimisation of our guest house website and even answer enquiries for accommodation; do my banking; but I rely on it to keep informed on news from South Africa.

I recently found this useful website where you can check if you have any traffic fines outstanding and even pay them on line: www.payfine.co.za .You can view them (often with camera pictures) and pay them via credit card on the Payfine website; but currently only Johannesburg, the Free State, Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Paarl are covered. I registered with the website and checked my fines and luckily I found one dated 15 October 2008, which was obviously transgressed just before I left RSA, and I was able to pay it by credit card. The transaction cost of R5 per fine is nominal in comparison to the hassle and travel costs saved in having to go to a municipal office, never mind take care of it from outside the country. As you know, there is now a move to a national demerit points system, so it is as well to pay your fines.

The website offers - "if you want to know more about the AARTO ("Demerit Points") system (currently in force on a pilot basis in Tshwane, and due for a national rollout later this year), have a look at Payfine's FAQ page www.payfine.co.za/FAQ.aspx."

Here in Saudi Arabia they have a similar national system of recording fines, although no on line payments as yet. One can phone a toll free number, or send an SMS; give your ID number and see if there are any outstanding fines. This is as well because if one leaves the country to go out on R & R, and you have any fines outstanding, they will refuse to let you through immigration, which could prove more costly than annoying if you lose your flight as you can't pay the fines at any border or airport immigration office, so you would have to return home to take care of it.

I mentioned last month that I would make mention of what is happening in neighbouring Dubai , which has relatively little oil and has built itself as a centre for financial services, tourism and property largely on the back of borrowing; but the property market has crashed, and the economy is suffering , like most, with property prices falling in some areas by as much as 50%. The investment banks and construction companies have been cutting staff, and building has slowed with many projects postponed or brought to a halt. For many expatriate workers in Dubai the ultimate symbol of their tax-free wealth was a luxury car or 4 x 4; usually purchased on low interest rate credit. 60 % of homes in Dubai are owned by expats, also usually heavily mortgaged with no care as growth rates have been phenomenal up to 2008. Now, faced with crippling debts as a result of the downturn, many expatriates are abandoning their cars at the

airport and fleeing home rather than risk jail for defaulting on loans as they are laid off in large numbers. In fact I recently saw a report that said that the property market in Cape Town has remained buoyant thanks to those returning from all over the globe, as a result of the recession, as Cape Town is their city of choice. See pic attached.

Police are finding large numbers of cars abandoned at Dubai's international airport in recent months. Most of the cars have keys left in the ignition. Some had left their credit cards in the glove box. Others had notes of apology attached to the windscreen. The Airport parking has become swamped with abandoned cars bought on credit as expats flee the country and leave their debts behind. Under Sharia law, which prevails in Dubai, the punishment for defaulting on a debt is severe, with even a bouncing cheque punishable with jail. Those who skip can never return, as warrants will have been issued for their arrest.

Some interesting figures on: in 2008 there were 864,000 nationals, and 62 million expatriates in Dubai. It is not all doom and gloom, however, for either South Africa or Dubai. In September 2008 our home grown hotel magnate Sol Kersner opened his new luxury Atlantis resort on the Palm Jumeirah island in Dubai where rooms start at over R 3000 per night. Visitors reach Atlantis, The Palm, by using either the six lane underwater vehicle tunnel which surfaces next to the resort or leave their cars and board the monorail. Soon he will commence to build an even more luxurious hotel adjacent to the Palm Atlantis. As you undoubtedly know, Sol is also building in the CT Waterfront – there is just no stopping the guy!

Following their successful \$1 billion bid for Cape Town's Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Dubai World Africa will be implementing their 4 year development strategy, which will see them spending a further \$1 billion in the Waterfront and the City. They have acquired a major shareholding in the wildlife reserves Shamwari Game Reserve, Sanbona Wildlife Reserve and the Pearl Valley Signature Golf Estate and Spa.

Is this good or bad, you may ask? Well, I did not intend to start a debate about foreign ownership of our heritage, but at a time when global investments are in steep decline, having someone prepared to pump this sort of money into our economy can't be too bad!

Cheers – Dennis



Tri-Ads For Sale

- GT6 - 1973 mimosa yellow, very good condition. Price - R60,000 onco. Contact Eileen Cruise on 082 560 2589 or 021 558 4632
- 1963/registered in 1964, Triumph Spitfire for MK1. The car comes standard with the following items: Soft top, Cabin Cover, 1 Set of chrome rims. The car comes with her original engine and also a complete spare engine and gearbox which I bought as a back-up. Excellent condition: Price R 32 000.00 (Permanently stored in Garage). Please feel free to contact me for further details. Chris Horne Cell 082 558 9475
- 1963 Triumph Spitfire Chassis in excellent condition. Bare chassis only no wheels. Ideal for somebody re building a Spitfire. Price negotiable. Arthur Wiffen 021-8529630 office hours 021-9052337 Home
- 1 complete TR7 convertible. 2 x TR7 convertible that has been broken up for spares. For sale as parts or complete job lot. Any offers? Phone Carey 083 297 3268

Wanted

- Second-hand gearbox for TR6. If anyone knows of a good second-hand gearbox that would fit a TR6, please get in touch. Mine is apparently stuffed. Paul Mitchell: 082 33 55 634 / paul@cirrusconsulting.co.za
- TR3 Cylinder liners wanted, any condition set of 4 x 83 mm for reboring to 85mm, or 85 mm in good nick. Pistons not required. Dipswitch housing TR 2- 3. Required to complete a rebuild email Dennis at cook.dennis@gmail.com

Correspondence

FRED MULLER'S FROGEYE SPRITE HAS BEEN STOLEN.

Fred Muller has had his Frogeye Sprite which he has owned since new, as well as a Lotus Seven style homebuilt, stolen from his residential property in Walmer, Port Elizabeth on the morning of 2nd March 2009. Neighbours saw five white guys putting the two vehicles on a truck.

Fred is especially upset about the Sprite which he had planned to start restoring when he retires in June of this year.

The Sprite is cream with a red interior. Its original registration no. is painted onto the bonnet.

A modification on the car which makes it easily recognisable, is the lack of seams between the body and the wings.

If anyone is offered this car or knows of its whereabouts, Fred would be most grateful to hear about it. His contact no's are 041 4074124w or 041 3731755h.

From: Dibble [mailto:dibble1@web-hq.com]

Sent: 27 March 2009 10:50 AM

Many thanks for the Newsletters for February and March. Also for the hospitality at Killarney. The track laps were much appreciated by Sue and me.

While we were with you, someone mentioned your National event in the Drakensburg mountains, is that this year or next? Could we have the dates please?

I thought it might be a good idea to put you in touch with the Triumph Sports Six Club here in the UK, and likewise, them with you. Do you have any thoughts on this before I go ahead?

Anyone coming to UK and needing a point of contact call us on 0044 1483 473998 or in UK 01483 473998

Best wishes,

Dave & Sue Bayliss.

BIRTHDAY CHEER!

Celebrating birthdays this month are Peter du Sautoy on the 6th Nerina Napoli on the 18th Colleen Draycott on the 22nd and Marion Went on the 23rd. Many happy returns of the day to you all. May you each have a Triumphant year ahead of you. Ed.

EVENTS CALENDAR 2009 – TRIUMPH SPORTS CAR CLUB CAPE TOWN

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISER
16TH APRIL	NOGGIN VIGLIETTI'S	Jamie Hart
26TH APRIL	DIXIE'S GLENCAIRN 10AM	JH/NC/PS
20TH MAY	KOOSIE SWANEOPOEL	Volunteer required
31ST MAY	MONTH END RUN	Volunteer required
12 - 16 JUNE	PLETT WEEKEND	JH / BORDER
17TH JUNE	NOGGIN	Volunteer required
28TH JUNE	MONTH END RUN	Volunteer required
15TH JULY	NOGGIN	Volunteer required
26TH JULY	MONTH END RUN	PETER DU SAUTOY
19TH AUGUST	NOGGIN	Volunteer required
30TH AUGUST	GO CARTING CHALLENGE	TIM CRUISE
16TH SEPT	NOGGIN	Volunteer required
26/27 SEPT	HERMANUS WHEELS AND WHALES	Jamie Hart
21ST OCT	NOGGIN	Volunteer required
31/1 NOV	WORCESTER WHEELS + AWAY	Jamie Hart
18TH NOV	AGM	Triumph Committee
15TH NOV	BRITISH SPORTS CAR TOUR	JH - The Barn@Riebeeck
28TH NOV	YEAR END FUNCTION	Triumph Committee

2009 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Committee member	Anne Dougan	021-852-1589		
Clubhouse	Theo Brand	021-948-6392	083-320-4820	
Regalia	Gidion Snyman	021-591-9890		
Sabrina Scribe	Margaret Young	021-434-8243		
National Chairman	Gerhard Vorster	021-852-3350	082-807-8011	GerhardVor@Nedbank.co.za

TRIUMPH CLUB POSTAL ADDRESS. PO Box 12197, N1 City, 7463.

Website – www.capetriumph.za.org



A period advert for the Herald Estate, some loved the shape - the car that is!