



WHALE TALES

THE CAPE TOWN TRIUMPH NEWSLETTER

Editor Jamie Hart

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MARCH 2020

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I am very excited about the current state of affairs for our Cape Town centre. We have a strong able, dedicated committee who manages the club affairs and ensures that you, our members and friends get the most out of your membership to one of the best classic car clubs in the country. We also had a number of new members join us in the first couple of months, which is also a huge positive as it not only brings new ideas and cars, but also enthusiasm and participation to club arranged events and outings.

Please refer to the events program in this newsletter, diarize and attend our events, even if you don't have a Triumph or are busy working on it, attend in your regular car. I found that members attending events feels more positive after the event, when they not only drove in convoy with other Triumphs, but also spoke to the owners of certain models about potential challenges or issues that they don't know how to resolve or fix, can now go back and sort it out. Our technical members in the club are always more than willing to give advice, tips and tricks about how to resolve these little problems that you may experience and not know where to turn to.

Our 2020 national gathering arranged by the Johannesburg centre is scheduled for May. Please try to attend this great event as there are still only a couple of spaces available. Also let me know if you are going to attend.

Please also register for our annual British Sports Car Tour that is arranged for 19 April as our invites went out to the other British car clubs last week and we are limited in the numbers for the catering at the Elgin Country club. More details in this newsletter.

We are desperately looking for one of our members to assist us with our club website. We subscribed to Afrihost for hosting and can now build a new website, but need someone to take ownership and make it work, There are also content on our current website that are outdated and needs updating sort of immediately. We would really appreciate your assistance and support in this very important aspect of our club as it showcases what we are all about.

That's pretty much it for now, enjoy the summer months in the most beautiful part of the world and drive your Triumph as this is what it is all about.

Triumphant regards,

Gerhard Vorster

THE EDITOR'S DESK

I can really concur with Gerhard's comment that the club is getting back to its former self. We had a really great turnout for Andre's talk on Saturday and it was wonderful to see new members and visitors at the meeting. My friend Andrew was really impressed, he wasn't too sure of what to expect but was taken back with the friendliness and overall ambience of the meeting!

We mustn't rest on our laurels though, we still have a lot of work to do to get good meeting and runs, once those are in place the rest follows and people want to come along as they know they will have a good time. It is great to have Mike Napoli back on the committee again, Mike was chairman when Gerhard and I joined the club way back when and he also produced the newsletter to boot. He also had a great habit of producing inappropriate (to some senior members) comments and pictures which were a great source of amusement to the younger members of the club!!

I also have included advertising for the National Gathering. Unfortunately we have a family wedding on the first day so would only be able to make the last day which is pretty pointless. The question of gatherings is becoming a problem as it is uncertain who will organise the following one (possibly PE) due to lack of numbers in the local club, and having organised one it is demoralizing when no one pitches up after all the hard work. Possibly it is the right time to look at local regional gatherings with a National one every 4 years or something similar, unfortunately South African roads are getting worse once you have left the Western Cape and driving a classic car on a National road is hardly fun anymore. In the case of the Triumph Nationals, the Knysna car show clashes with them and members who would normally have gone to Golden Gate would, unsurprisingly, prefer to go to Knysna. Some years ago we proposed that the coastal clubs get together on a regular basis, we had a great time in Plettenberg Bay at one gathering, maybe now is the right time to revive the idea.

I am not really too sure how we get round the problem, for example our Sports Car tour clashes with the Swartland rally organise via the Crankhandle club. The mitigating factor is that the participants in our tour are unlikely to want to do the Swartland but it does go to show that some degree of coordination is needed, but do we need yet another committee?

In the meantime, happy motoring as autumn begins to creep in!

REPORT BACKS

RUN TO ZONQUASDRIFT, 9TH FEBRUARY by TIM KENT



Zonquasdrift (the ford of the Zonqua) is a place on the Berg River where the San people lived, their leader Gonema died in 1684. The farm was granted to Dirk Cotzee in 1718. In the 18th Century the farm often changed hands until it was bought by J.C. Redelyinghuys in 1801. Zonquasdrift is said to be the birthplace of Jan Smuts. This part of the Berg River valley is olive oil country.

TIM/ SILAS CRAWLEY'S TR3 (EX TIM CRUISE)

Today the farm belongs to cousins of my daughter-in-law Jenna, who live in Germany, and they readily gave permission for our Club to visit and enjoy it.

There are several reasons why a normal, sane, and rational, human being (usually male) desires to own a motor car which defies logic because it is either too expensive to buy and restore, or it is beyond repair or



HAPPY TR PARTICIPANTS

requires expertise which the owner doesn't have, and it may cause marital tensions. If, at the point of purchase, the asking price is the same as the house you bought 10 years ago, you run the risk of serious altercations with the one you love. It won't cut the mustard when you declare, on bended knee, that you bought it for "you, my love"

Through another pair of dice, they will not turn a double six.. But the desire will not go away. You must and you will own this time warp vehicle.

Good on 'yer , you deserve a medal for “ persevering, under heavy enemy fire to rescue a fellow combatant in need of urgent medical attention” In military terms you would be awarded the VC, (Victoria Cross) but in Club terms a TR medal, T for terrific and R for rescue. Anyone who owns a Triumph, especially a TR will know what I am talking about. “The amount of money you have spent on that car could have paid for a new bathroom” “yes Darling, but you can't drive a bathroom to Riebeck Kasteel” And, you don't get any sense of achievement, nor the thrill of the wind in your hair, (even if you haven't got any), by sitting in a new bath.

This is what three proud TR owners did on the trip to Zonquasdrift near Riebeck Kasteel. This trip, though was a bit different because although there were not many TR's the “loved ones” children and grand children were in the majority and every bit as passionate about their TR as anyone I have ever met. Take Eddie Hughes, for example, whose TR7 wins every prize at every concours, every year, but its restoration has, I believe, cost more than his late model Mercedes Benz E class is worth. But, Lynne, his loved



one, never misses an outing even though she has never driven the perfect TR7.



We were very proud and honoured to welcome a new TR, in fact a dove grey TR3 owned by Silas Crawley, who has expressed a desire to become a member of TSCC. His Father, Tim (what a lovely name) restored this car and he

and Silas are as keen as mustard to join in forthcoming trips. He, Tim, is a serious mushroom farmer supplying all the major retailers in SA. Could his mushroom farm be a venue for a run out to Stellenbosch?

We met at the Swartland One Stop on the N7, most had a full (Wimpey) English breakfast some just had coffee. Frank and Sonja went straight up the N1 and got lost but arrived in Riebeck Kasteel before we did, that's because they were in a Volvo S3 with a T5 turbo engine. The newly re-furbished N7 is a joy to drive on, and we cruised at 100, 110kph until we turned off at Malmesbury. Eventually we hit a 7km un-made road which wasn't too bad although the pace was not much more than 40kph. Silas's TR3 got bit hot under the collar but quickly cooled down under the spreading chestnut tree.

Rob, my son and Jenna did us proud by providing on our arrival, tea, coffee and fruit juice meticulously laid out on the ancient yellow wood kitchen table, and they had already lit the braai fires. Everyone wanted a guided tour of the Homestead and adjacent school room which Rob and Jenna performed very professionally. To them a huge vote of thanks.

It was a blistering hot day so it wasn't long before the hiss of opening cold beers and the pop of a cork leaving the neck of a Chenin Blanc were un-mistakable and the stories, jokes and laughter around the fire, under the trees was pure South African joie de vivre. And all because we love our TRs. They are what brought us together and how we inter-acted with people we scarcely knew, or had never met before. It was just one big happy family, surrounded by the history of this magnificent Homestead. We were about twenty people and I think it fair to say that everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time, but alas, tempus fugit and it was time to take our leave, but not before the obligatory photo-shoot, with cars and people. The backdrop of the house with its 1801 Cape Dutch gable front created some beautiful shots.

I followed Silas and once we hit the tar road I could not catch him. I, in my "not too slovenly" TR7 was clocking, at one point 130kph, but the TR3 was out of sight, all I could see was small grey dot disappearing over the brow of the hill in front. "C'est la vie"

My thanks to all who braved the 220km round trip and to Rob and Jenna who really did put their best foot forward.

NOGGIN 29TH FEBRUARY, ANDRE BREDENKAMP ON GUY MARTIN



There was a last minute change to Andre's topic, which was a series of clips on the life and racing career of Guy Martin. For those not fortunate in attending, Guy Martin is a very successful motor bike rider who has had numerous podium finishes in the Isle of Mann TT. He is entirely amateur, being a truck mechanic

by trade, so he has finished second or third on many occasions but has never been on the top step as the professional teams always have better resources!

The Isle of Man TT is actually a time trial over a course of approximately 60km run on normal roads on the island. Contestants start at 1 minute intervals so you are never sure who is winning until you get to the finish! All the pavement furniture is still in place



(road signs etc) and to say that it is pretty dangerous is an understatement! The current death toll is nearly 250 including the Max TT over the same course. The clip of what the riders see makes you hair stand on end, going at plus 180 km/hr through a 30mph area is scary even from a seat in the clubhouse!!

ROB TYLER'S SPITFIRE

Guy's other passion is he has a 27 litre Merlin engine taken from a Lancaster bomber that he has restored and put on a trailer so he can take it into a nearby field and fire it up. His tales of the restoration and incidents such as when it broke loose in his workshop and caused major damage, put the



whole exercise in perspective and to see Guy's enjoyment at the power and noise of a Merlin as he fires it up and runs it at full power was an absolute joy to behold!!

It was also great to see the turnout for the talk. A special welcome to Roger Tyler for arriving in his beautiful Spitfire mark 4, to Rob Windebank a new member from Simon's Town, Chris Cockett who has re joined the club, and a special welcome to Andrew Wilmott from Devon, UK who has a TR4 and I have known for many years since my cycling days. Andrew runs the garage talk section on the Devon TR Register page so expect some good articles from that source soon. There was also sadness as Brian McKirdy has decided to return to his native Scotland complete with his lovely TR3. We wish him well.

A very big thank you to Andre for the change in topic!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH, RUN TO SIMON'S TOWN

We meet at Constantia Village 10.30am for a 11ish departure. Route is via Ou Kaapse Weg, Kommetjie, Misty Cliffs and Scarborough to Simonstown Country Club. We need to be seated by 12.30 at the latest.

The cost is R105/head (including tip) for a 3 course meal consisting of soup, carvery buffet, sweet, tea or coffee. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS CASH ONLY** which I will collect as we are getting seated.

Bring family and friends!

Replies to me by the latest Wednesday 11th

Regards, Eddie Hughes

NOGGIN AT THE CLUBHOUSE MARCH 28TH 10 AM

Our speaker at the noggin will be none other than Mike Napoli who will talk on his Macau Spitfire project. Some 15 years ago Mike built a Spitfire based on a project car from Hong Kong with a Spitfire chassis and a Triumph 2.5 litre engine from a Chicane. To say that it was a wonderful car with bodywork to match is to understate the project, come and see what I mean!!

Boerie rolls will be provided!!

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL BRITISH SPORTS CAR TOUR

We are the organisers of this annual event since 2004 and is open to all sports cars made in the UK from old to new.

We will start at the Pot Belly restaurant on the R44 near Klapmuts and make our way to the Elgin Country Club in Grabouw for one of their splendid lunches. We meet at 9.30 onwards with the last cars leaving at around 10.30 for a leisurely trip up to Grabouw, this is NOT a race.

The cost is R165 per head for the lunch. Please pay your money into the Triumph Sports Car Club account at Standard Bank Constantia account number 078226929 branch code 020909. Please mark your payment with your NAME and BSCT so we can trace participants. The cut off date will be Wednesday 15th April so we can organise catering etc.

NATIONAL GATHERING 1st TO 4th MAY

This year's gathering is at the Golden Gate resort in the eastern Free State near Clarens. The scenery is spectacular in that part of the world. A gathering in the early eighties was my first contact with the club. I was photographing steam engines on the line from Bethlehem to Bloemfontein via Ficksburg and went to grab a beer at the old hotel. The guys were busy doing a speed test and as a previous Triumph owner I was hooked!

NATIONAL GATHERING: GOLDEN GATE HOTEL and CHALETS, CLARENS

Friday 1st May 2020 – Monday 4th May 2020

REGISTRATION FORM

Surname First Name

Partner First Name

Postal Address.....

Telephone/cell No..... Email.....

TSCC Membership No Region

Details of Triumph – Attending Concourse:

D'Elegance: Model Year Reg No

D'Etat: Model Year Reg No

Show only: Model Year Reg No

Fees:

Registration: (per car) R200

Welcome Function (Braai): Friday 1st May 2020

R170.00 per person..... No. of people..... R.....

Ladies Tea:..... Saturday 2nd May (sponsored by Jo'burg) No. of people.....

Dinner/Entertainment: Saturday 2nd May (sponsored by Jo'burg) No. of people.....

Gala Evening Dinner:..... Monday 4th May

R180 per person..... No of people..... R.....

Total Amount..... R.....

Banking Details: Triumph Sports Car Club-Johannesburg

Nedbank Account No: 1978331193 Branch: 190605.....ref: (your name)

Email Registration form to: goldengatetr2020@gmail.com

Indemnities will have to be signed by all those attending the event to ensure they are all covered from our point.

2020 PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME FOR 2020				
MARCH	15th	R	Pennisula run to Simon's Town golf club	Eddie Hughes
	29th	N	The Macau Spitfire	Mike Napoli
APRIL	19th	R	British Sports Car Tour	Jamie Hart
	26th		National gathering or Knysna show	
MAY	10th	R	TBA	Frank Dreyer
	30th	N	My motor racing career	Ashley Ellis
JUNE	14th	R	Somerset West venue	Gerhard Vorster
	28th	N	I Scratch- Body repairs done at home	Andre Smart
JULY	12th	R	Christmas in July	Eddie Hughes
	25th	N	Motoring Quiz	Tim Kent
AUGUST	16th	R	Run to Scarborough	Alan Harris
	29th	N	Andre's Mountaineering trips	Andre Brdenkamp
SEPTEMBER	13th	R	Darling Wild Flower Show	Daanie Barkhuisen
	26th	N	To be arranged	
OCTOBER	11th	R		Jamie Hart
	25th		Killarney Motor Show	Gerhard Vorster
NOVEMBER	8th	R		Peter Lloyd
	22nd	N	Concours, AGM and Braai	
DECEMBER	12th		Year end function and prize giving	

TAIL PIECE



This appealed to my sense of humour, many thanks to Eddie and Lynne for their determination in getting the photo to me!!

