



# WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2013.

This club enjoyed a bumper year in 2013 – we visited new places, did different things, welcomed many new members – what a joy! What follows is a terse overview of the past year:

### A: COMMITTEE

During the AGM held at the Hotel School on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013, the following Members were elected into office:

- Chairman: yours truly. Taking over from Steve Ashton meant filling huge boots and I looked forward to the year with more than just a little bit of trepidation. I need not have worried: I was fully supported not only by the Committee but also by all of the Club's Members.
- Secretary:



**Craig Howell** volunteered his services and was duly elected Secretary, taking over from Maureen Paterson who needed more time to attend to her and hubby Alex's businesses. However: Craig could unfortunately not finish his tour of duty, resigning after the June meet for personal reasons.

- Treasurer:



He'd been doing it so well and for so long (since the formation of the Club!) that re-electing **Julian Seymour** was a no-brainer. It is thus with a touch of sadness that I report that Jules will not be available for this position in 2014: all that needs to be said is "Thank you Julian, for your loyalty, commitment and service to the Club." Julian, an Honorary Member, has indicated that he will nominate a successor at this AGM.

- Co-opted member:



At the first Committee meeting following the 2012 AGM, it was realized that Swiss-trained Chef **Deon Labuschagne**, with his vast experience in the catering industry, will be a valuable adjunct to the Committee - especially as regards the arranging of venues. Deon was thus duly co-opted and serves as a Committee Member with the title of "Events Co-ordinator".

## P2.

With our new web-site ([www.mx5wc.co.za](http://www.mx5wc.co.za)) up and running, the Club's office bearers can from now be contacted on the following e-mail addresses:

- Chairperson: [chair@mx5wc.co.za](mailto:chair@mx5wc.co.za).
- Secretary: [secy@mx5wc.co.za](mailto:secy@mx5wc.co.za).
- Treasurer: [treas@mx5wc.co.za](mailto:treas@mx5wc.co.za).
- Events Co-ordinator: [events@mx5wc.co.za](mailto:events@mx5wc.co.za).

### B: MEMBERSHIP

We started the year with 23 members: currently we stand at 51 members. This represents a growth of some 221.7%! Our drive for new members paid off handsomely and we must again in the new year have cards, with the Club's details, re-printed as they seem to bring results.

Members are what gives any Club/Association life: in this particular case, I believe it is what gives *this* Club it's vibrancy.

### C: FINANCES

A full financial report will be given during this AGM by our Treasurer: however, allow me to jump the gun by saying that the Club's finances are indeed in a healthy state. This, in fact, allowed the Club to fund the braai at Mupine in June: apart from this, the Club will also again fund the lunch for Members during this AGM. Working out the value of this alone *vis-à-vis* the Membership Fees, I truly wonder where else on Earth you get this much bang for your membership-buck!

However - here is something for the incoming Committee to consider: Membership fees have been static for a *very* long time. And no, I don't want to be the Grinch that spoils Christmas but I do recommend that we consider an increase in membership fees *as well as* explore other revenue possibilities.

### D: MONTHLY MEETS

All the full reports are out there: however, a short summary of the year's meets to date:

**FEBRUARY:** Our February meet was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and took us to **Mariner's Wharf**. Nice drive, except for the humongous traffic jam on the Foreshore and Steve Ashton's Beemer frying it's clutch on the approach to the Nek. Good food, fair pricing, reserved parking for the Club (at a price) but grumbles re lack of air-conditioning and cramped seating.

**MARCH:** This meet was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April at the **Cattle Baron** in Paarl. Lovely drive (*tho' one of us took a little longer than the rest of us to get there!*) and reserved parking at the venue. What a stunning sight – our gleaming MX-5's parked under massive, ancient oaks in front of the Restaurant and *everybody* taking pics! We lunched *al fresco* – and no complaints re food, service or pricing.



### P3.

APRIL: On the 28<sup>th</sup> April (*we had by now managed to catch up on our dates!*) we trekked to a small dorpie called Philadelphia: another great outing! The drive there was brilliant and the venue, **De Malle Meul**, offered unequalled fare although some felt that the price was a little high at R160-00 per person. (To put the matter straight: no grumbles re the cost of the venue's offering but rather a wish expressed by some members that we should contain costs on such outings. For what the *Meul* offered at that price, nobody had any complaints.) The Committee has empathy with this sentiment and will try it's utmost to keep costs down: Members are, however, asked to keep the times in mind. It is difficult to get decent fare at less than R110-00 to R130-00 per person, as the disaster that was to befall us in July was to confirm...

MAY: The 26<sup>th</sup> was a typical winter's day and the inglenook at **Twist Some More** in Wellington was just what the doctor ordered! Again we had reserved parking: the expression on the faces of the Restaurant's other patrons as we lined up and parked our cars was priceless! And again – lots of photos (*see below*) were taken of our cars. A great outing and we've had requests from Members for a re-visit.



JUNE: On the 26<sup>th</sup> we had what must rate as one of the Club's most successful and popular outings yet. With the Club supplying the eats, we got together at **Mupine Golf Club** for a traditional South African braai. Such a meet allows Members to mix freely and informally: no wonder it was the most requested event by Members and remains the most requested for a re-visit. (Perhaps that should read "re-do" – the braai-and-socializing seems the main thing; the venue seems almost secondary to that!) Also during this meet, the Members unanimously rejected a suggestion that the Club only convenes every second month during the winter months. After earlier threatening to do so, our Secretary, Craig Howell, finally resigns as Secretary and Member after this meet.

JULY: An unmitigated disaster at **De Kelder Restaurant** in Platteklouf. Every good year has it's low point and this was ours for 2013. But: so one lives and learns. I thought "*never again a joint that offers food at R100-00 per person*" – but just look at how I was to be proven wrong in October!

AUGUST: Everyone has that "epiphanous moment" in their life: Joanita had hers when she discovered **L' Auberge du Paysan** in the Helderberg where we lunched on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Everything played along: the weather, the drive, and especially the venue. Good food and service at a reasonable price – with a record turn-out as bonus!



#### P4.

SEPTEMBER: On the 29<sup>th</sup> we traversed du Toit's Kloof Pass to **Opstal Restaurant and Winery** in the Slanghoek Valley, near Rawsonville. A pleasant and professionally presented wine-tasting was followed by a splendid lunch: the setting and the day simply great. Case-loads of wine bought by the Members!

OCTOBER: On the 27<sup>th</sup>, the **Italian Club** in Brooklyn proved just what excellent fare *can* in fact be had for a measly R100-00! And judging by the numbers attending, this venue is well-known to and popular amongst our Members: a re-visit is on the cards.

NOVEMBER: The 24<sup>th</sup> brought yet another record turn-out! An enjoyable run until we hit the streets of Atlantis: no problems, except the drabness (*sadness?*) of the place. But that, folks, is reality I suppose. The venue in Darling, **Bistro 7**, was fully booked by us (for once, we can brag about "closing down the joint"!) and we enjoyed every moment.



As far as our regular monthly meets are concerned, the Committee urges Members to give their views on venues visited: any opinions as to the fare offered, prices charged, service, etc. are welcome. Also, and perhaps even more important: Members are urged to put forward the names of venues that they think are suitable for the Club to visit. Venues need also not necessarily be eateries: any place considered interesting to visit could/should be put forward for consideration - we can always dust off the picnic baskets if needed. (*Hey – now there's a novel idea!*) Also remember that we are primarily a Motoring Club: the route to the venue should ideally be something for us to enjoy our cars on. (With no Gendarmerie in attendance, please .....)

#### E: GENERAL

APPAREL: During our previous AGM mention was made in regard to again getting Club apparel and, in this regard, the Committee worked hard to get price quotes for this. The problem that exists is of course that fact that when we do order something like this, our order will be so "small" that suppliers of these dedicated items are either not interested in quoting or that the quotes given are so high as to discourage the relevant Club/Organisation to confirm the order. We have succeeded, however, to get some quotes and will request the incoming Committee to further pursue the matter in the new year. A special word of thanks goes to Allan Sheard who, at his own initiative and cost, had sample name-tags made for Club use: with the growth in Membership, this will quite probably be one of the first things the new Committee will (have to!) attend to in the new year.

BOMA AT KILLARNEY: It also was suggested during the previous AGM that we rent a boma at the Killarney Motor Race Track during a race for a meet – a braai (something like we enjoyed at Mupine) was mooted. However, the rent (reputedly some R10,000-00 for the day) was considered totally prohibitive. And: As far as everyone is concerned, Mupine was such an excellent venue for our braai that I would not be surprised if our little cavalcade heads that way again – soon! (*Oops: delete "little"!*)

## **P5.**

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Many noble thoughts were expressed at the previous AGM regarding our involvement in the Community. This could involve toy-runs, taking youngsters for spins in our cars, etc. A caveat was expressed, however, regarding insurance: this would include extending our personal insurance, public liability insurance, all manner of personal/3<sup>rd</sup> party/accident insurance: in the end, it was decided that the legal and cost implications are such that it best be left to individual members to each express their community involvement in their own ways.

## **F: CONCLUSION**

This Club is ready to move forward and thrive: I know, for I've seen the enthusiasm and commitment that exists here. I am looking forward to 2014 with lots of excitement!

## **G: AND FINALLY**

My sincere thanks go the following for making my task as Chairman a pleasure:

- Past Chair Steve Ashton for his trust in, and patient mentorship of, a total greenhorn.
- Fellow Committee Members Julian Seymour and Deon Labuschagne for their support and advice.
- You, the Club Member, for your support, ideas, suggestions, criticisms, oh hell – delete all of that and simply read “thanks for being here”.

The Committee wishes you and yours a blessed Christmas and the very best of new years for 2014!

Regards

**Bernie Koch | Chairman**  
**Western Cape Mazda MX-5 Club**  
**Annual General Meeting: 2013-12-22.**