



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

Chairman: Bernie Koch | chair@mx5wc.co.za | 083 454 3776 | Secretary: Joanita Koch | secy@mx5wc.co.za | 084 553 3760 | Treasurer: Gerald Poswell | treas@mx5wc.co.za | 083 659 2544 | Events: Brian Roy | events@mx5wc.co.za | 083 763 1291 | Webmaster: Jonathan Dekel | webmaster@mx5wc.co.za | 074 819 6119 | Facebook: Rod Manson | fbook@mx5wc.co.za | 073 661 8613

Please visit us at: www.mx5wc.co.za & on Facebook

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: 2016.

The past year was memorable for so many reasons: Donald Trump and Brexit will be remembered with surprise; tragedy struck with passenger planes disappearing and the ZIKA virus. Europe had problems with migrants / asylum seekers and then there was the bemused reaction to the "Panama Papers".

Closer to home we also had a surprise or two – the Local Government Election results; President Jacob Zuma repays "da munny" . (*Were they indeed such great surprises?!*) We had the Fees Must Fall campaign(s); Pastors of DOOM; floods in Johannesburg and a devastating drought in the Western Cape.

Our Club also had days that will be remembered – some high, some low. The trite saying is that "*the highs outweigh the lows*" and in many cases that is indeed so. However, losing a Member through death is a low that we don't want or need – and we lost the following Members whose memories we cherish:



Daine Kinnear joined the Club during 2014 and after the resignation of the then Secretary, agreed to stand as Acting Secretary till the end of that year. During the 2014 AGM however, she was elected to the permanent position of Secretary which position she held till the end of 2015. She was not available for re-election for 2016 as she had decided to concentrate on her law studies, with a view to eventually qualifying herself as an Attorney.

We lost Daine, as well as her fiancée Willem, as a result of a motor accident in February 2016.



Brian Lewer was a remarkable man. He bought his MX-5 at the age of 80 and immediately joined the Club. We will remember Brian as one of our more active Members – never letting a meeting slip by unless there was a compelling reason. As a retired Engineer, his in-depth knowledge of the mechanical side of motor cars was many times of invaluable assistance to Members trying to trace and remedy small, niggling problems on any type of car.

Have I mentioned Brian's sharp wit and love for a drop of red wine?

Brian passed away peacefully in October 2016.



Pictured here with good friends Jocelyn Poswell (on the left) and Anna-Marie Slade (on the right) **Avril Roy** was wife/friend/mother to the Brian Roy household for more than 4 decades. Diagnosed with a dire illness early in the year, she didn't allow this to break her stride. She attended meetings wearing the same smile as always – her positive attitude was, in the opinion of her many friends in the Club, one of the greatest aids on her path to recovery.

We were all greatly shocked when the news of her passing reached us in December.

During our Annual General Meeting of 2015, the following office bearers were elected unopposed:

Chairman: yours truly. It wasn't a vintage year for me – with problems that developed over years and only fully diagnosed towards the end of the 2016. Fortunately, with the massive support of the Members of this Club everything is over, I'm fully recovered and in "*better than new*" condition!

Secretary:



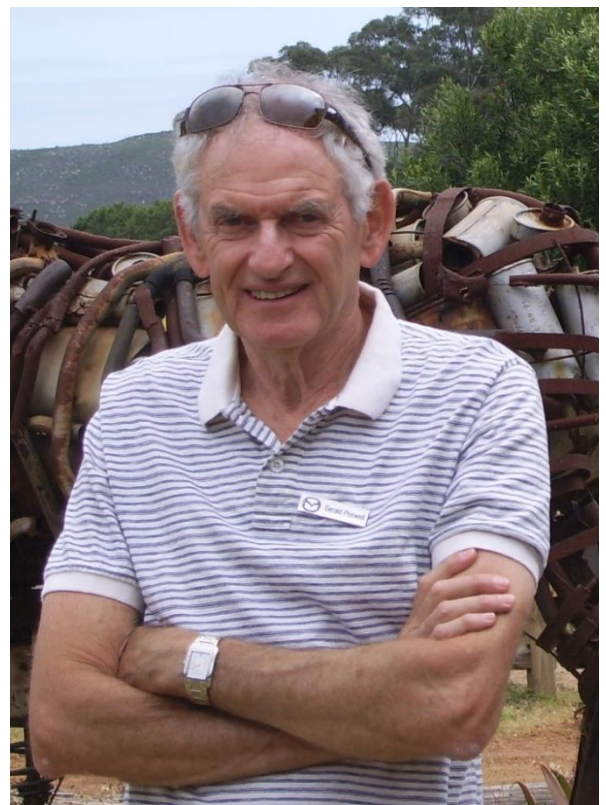
Joanita Koch agreed to do duty as Secretary for 2016. She has indicated that she will not be available for re-election for 2017 and our thanks and appreciation go to her for her services rendered during 2016.

Members are urged to put forward names of Members to take up this rather busy portfolio for 2017.

Treasurer:

Nominated by outgoing Treasurer George Slade, **Gerald Poswell** took up duties as Treasurer for 2016. A "not-quite" retired Engineer, Gerald's was a popular nomination and he acquitted himself well of this very responsible task in 2016.

Happily, Gerald is available for re-election for 2017.





Events:

Brian Roy was re-elected to handle what is possibly the most important portfolio – organising the Club’ events and outings. Early during the year his beloved Avril was diagnosed with a dire illness and as we know, Brian lost her in December.

Our appreciation goes to Brian not only for handling this portfolio but doing so under the most trying of circumstances.

Brian has indicated that he is available to stand for this position again in 2017.

Club Membership:

Good news! Our Membership continues to grow: currently, we have some 100+ Members registered. It’s perhaps a little crazy when we realise that our Club is in fact bigger, and arguably more active, than the “official” MX-5 Club of South Africa.

And this brings me to one of my favorite gripes: Mazda South Africa. What must we do to get some recognition from them?

No, we are not standing in front of MD David Hughes with a begging bowl – but a simple bit of co-operation and recognition from them will do just fine, I think. I have often said this in the past: our Club *must* be one of Mazda SA’s best PR tools – *and they get it all for free!*

Witness the following: during our trip to Villiersdorp on 2016-05-29, we travelled in convoy through Franschhoek, a tourist trap if ever there was one – especially on a long week-end such as this was. Speaking to Kevin Vianello (Dealer Principal, Mekor Mazda Tijger Valley) the following week, I learned that he had been in Franschhoek that day on a biker’s breakfast run. Kevin told me how people craned their necks to watch our procession thru’ the town, with cameras flashing and videos whirring. I believe that when the last of our cars passed thru’ the Main Street, there was spontaneous applause.

Surely some-one was made aware of Brand Mazda that day, as in almost every one of our outings. Surely Mazda SA can see the value of this and perhaps, like Mazda in overseas countries, become actively involved with and promote their supporters’ clubs.

OK – now that I’ve unloaded that bit of baggage: the other good news regarding Membership is that, upon Treasurer Gerald Poswell’s insistence, there will be no increase in subs for 2017. What we get for our of membership fees is simply phenomenal – a bargain in anybody’s books! But I’ll leave this to Gerald to go into more fully in his Treasurer’s Report.

Club activities.

As always, the Club had a full roster of activities during the year. Our scheduled meets are published on our website (www.mx5wc.co.za) and are regularly updated. Apart from this, every Member is informed

of meetings approximately three weeks in advance with the Members asked to reply and confirm their attendance.

It seems as if our meetings this year drew better attendance than last year – perhaps this can be ascribed to our increased membership. I prefer to think, however, that it is simply because our outings are so well-organised and entertaining: no matter how big the total Membership, if dull and boring outings are on offer, members will very soon start losing interest!

Brian's full report for the year is attached hereto. Also remember that after every outing, a full report will be published on our website: simply go to the website, then to "CLUB REPORTS" > "MONTHLY" then select the year and month.

Finances.

With the Club's finances in a healthy position, it was decided amongst other things that Membership Fees will not be increased for 2017. We have also succeeded in raising some extra cash thru' selling adverts on our website - Treasurer Gerald Poswell's report for 2016 will give all the info relevant as at the end of 2016.

Thank you's

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to a huge lot of people – the Committee, to start with, as well as every Member out there who helped making my job as easy and as pleasant as it indeed was. Perhaps a special "thank you" to the following would not be out of order:

- Alan Sheard: whenever new members enroll, Alan gets a mail from me requesting him to have name tags made for those new members. Alan does this in his own time and then pays for it out of personal funds, waiting patiently to be reimbursed by the Club. *Thank you, Alan! And thank you, Alison, for indulging us!*
- Dr Uys van Zijl for his invaluable – and free! - guidance pertaining to aspects of the Protection of Personal Information Act (4/2013) and Promotion of Access to Information Act (2/2000) - *Baie dankie, Prof!*
- Although they are not part of the Committee any more, Rod Manson and Jonathan Dekel still toil away at our FaceBook page and Website. Thank goodness for that – can you imagine the disaster if a computer dunce like yours truly were to handle those little chores?!
- And finally: not just for holding my hand for two almost months while I cowered anxious and afraid in hospital, but also for looking after the Club's affairs during that time - *Baie dankie, my vrou. Ek hoop jy besef hoe opreg dit waardeer word.*

2017

The past year has proven that our Club is going – and growing! - in the right direction. I can therefore see nothing but good for 2017 and look forward to the new year with a great sense of excitement!

BERNIE KOCH
CHAIRMAN

083 454 3776

Western Cape Mazda MX-5 Club
11 Atalanta Str., Melkbosstrand 7441 ZAR

AGM 2016.