



## **MX5 OWNER'S CLUB - WESTERN CAPE CHAPTER**

### **OCTOBER 2012 RUN**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October was a glorious day in Cape Town. We met as usual at Limnos where we were joined by Terry, a new member who lives in Barrydale. Welcome to the club Terry. We had a good turn-out of 24 members and guests. List attached.

We drove along the N1 into Cape Town, up Buitengraacht Street onto Kloofnek Road and up to Tafelberg Road. Unfortunately we lost some of our troop along the way but they eventually they caught up with us. The Tafelberg Road, in retrospect, was not one of my better calls. I have never, (and I've lived in Cape Town since '65), seen this road so busy. The whole of Cape Town and their brothers must have been up there including bus-loads of tourists. Anyway, we finally found a parking place and our stragglers joined us. This allowed for some fab photo opportunities as the whole City is below you.

Due to time constraints, and the possibility of traffic jams in Camp's Bay we decided against driving past The Round House, into Camp's Bay, past Clifton, Seapoint/Mouille Point into Granger Bay and then to the Hotel School, and instead drove straight back down through the City. We still managed to lose one member who caught up with us later.

The Hotel School is, what I like to refer to as, "*Cape Town's Best Kept Secret*". There was ample parking and if you were any closer to the ocean you would get wet. Great ambiance, as we had a room to ourselves, great food and great service. As it is a training venue the service, place settings, crockery, cutlery, napery and everything else are of the highest standard.

The Hotel School used to be the General Botha, which was a training academy for cadets signed on with SAF Marine (SA's Merchant Navy) There was a canal and jetty between the school and where the Radison now is, where a training sailing vessel moored, I can't recall her name but she was a sloop and was manned by selected cadets to take part in the Cape to Rio races. Alas, all gone.

Terry mentioned that he was or had been a member of a Landrover Club and that they had developed a technique of not getting left behind in convoy driving. Basically, any member who gets left behind at a traffic light or whatever, flashes his lights at the car in front of him, who flashes at the guy in front of him, right up to the leader of the pack, who then, if possible, pulls over and waits for the rest to catch up. Good idea, as it is very difficult to stay in convoy on busy highways, there is always some 'idiot' cutting in to show you how quickly he can drive.

Alternatively Alex has offered to lend a pair of two-way radios to the club which could be used by the leader and the caboose to stay in touch.

Thanks Alex, greatly appreciated. We'll accept it as a long term loan.

The next run is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup>. November, at a yet to be identified venue, although, I am looking at The Guinea Fowl Restaurant on the Saxonberg Estate. We will keep you advised and it would be grand to see a full turnout as this will be the last run for 2012.

Our December function will be in January 2013 (I'm Irish so I can understand that). February will be the AGM so start thinking of proposals for the office of Chairman as I will be standing down.

Attached is Julian's experience after our last run which surely bears some consideration.

Stay Safe

**Steve**