



# WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: CLUB RUN 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013.

Wow! What a topsy-turvy week: from one venue to the next and then to a third – fortunately, everything turned out fine as *De Malle Meul* lived up to the high reputation it had earned for itself.

Things developed more or less as follows: we were tentatively booked at the *Pepper Tree* in Philadelphia. A visit then revealed that the indoor space could accommodate (say) 16 diners at a pinch: if more came, it would have meant dining *al fresco*. Nothing wrong with that, except that this is the Cape and we were not sure what the weather gods were planning for the day. It was decided to rather plan a visit to this popular venue for sometime in Spring or Summer.

So another venue was found: plenty of space, menu and pricing looked OK but, after a visit, it was felt that perhaps the owners needed a little more experience in catering for groups. So we booked at *De Malle Meul* – which proved to be a hugely popular choice as far as our Members were concerned!

The run: A short-ish run from Limnos through Durbanville and then onto Koeberg Road and onward to Philadelphia. I was leading with Craig and Deon doing sweeping duties (he!he!he!he!he!) The weather was cool when we left: I noticed, though, that all had their tops off. (Err – let's rather try: "I noticed that all the cars' tops were stowed") On the run were yours truly and Joanita, Derril Papendorf (Barbara could unfortunately not make it); Diane Novitzkas and ever-so-handsome *nephew*; Julian and Jenny Seymour; Brian and Avril Roy; Deon Labuschagne and Craig Howell.

Apologies were received from Paul and Joy Crane; Alex and Maureen Paterson; Gerald and Jocelyn Poswell; Dr Craig Hastings (New Member – Welcome!); André and Nerine Davis; Keith Clark; George and Anne-Marie Slade; Mike and Mary-Anne Little; Steve and Mari Ashton; Liz Morgan; Duncan Mackintosh and Terry Andrew. Eric and Jill Solman made a "tentative booking" but could unfortunately not make it on the day.

The venue: *De Malle Meul* is situated in Philadelphia – a real "plattelandse dorpie" from way back when with (almost) all the charms that go with country life. The dorpie was founded in 1863 (it celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 27<sup>th</sup> April) when farmers in the area felt that attending church in Durbanville and Malmesbury was a schlep: they then built the magnificent church around which the town of Philadelphia then formed. The usual businesses were established: from the ubiquitous "Negosiewinkel" (General Dealer, to you and me!), Butcher, Post Office, Bank (Joanita still fondly remembers the Standard Bank's agency next to the Post Office!), Hotel and the inevitable Co-Op. What used to be the grain mill is of course what we today know and love as *De Malle Meul*.

The *Meul* has a relaxed, convivial atmosphere: space is ample and your table is yours until you are done! It is licensed and has a cash bar. Some of us went for a walk through the Town after lunch: there are curious shops a-plenty but the usual caveat holds: pricing is tourist oriented!

And as to the menu: If you have not yet tried the *Meul's* Buffet, go and experience it for yourself! Even at the heady price of R160-00 p.p., you will not be disappointed – none of us were!

Road Safety Tip: It's a good idea to have your car's speedo checked every once in a while. I had mine done this morning and it's still 100% in order! (*Thanks for that valuable tip, Diane Novitzkas: now please have yours done.....*)

..... But Seriously: (\*)

**1:** We left Limnos at 11h00 for our booking at 12h00. Some members feel that we could/should arrange bookings for 12h30 or perhaps even 13h00. That means we can leave Limnos a little later: I certainly have no problems with that. Please let us know how *you* feel!

**2:** Limnos: This has been "base camp" for a while now – certainly from long before I had joined the Club. I have not heard any objections to this venue, but some Members have been wondering if there is perhaps an alternative place/venue that can be considered. Any suggestions?

**3:** Costs: Events Co-ordinator Deon Labuschagne forwarded an e-mail to me, received from a member, regarding the costs of a Sunday's outing with the Club. I quote from this Member's e-mail: "..... really cannot afford ... by the time you have finished with some wine R400-00 for lunch...."

To put it tersely: I - and certainly Deon - share this member's concerns. We may argue that we owe it to ourselves to treat ourselves once in a while; that decent venues are expensive: all the good arguments will stand but costs *are* a concern. This, for instance, is why we decided some time ago to keep distance in mind because of the ever-rising cost of fuel: even though we may argue that the actual drive is/should be the reason for the get-together.

This is also why we trawl through lists (at last count we had some 500 names/revues of eateries in the Western Cape!) of establishments to visit. We must, however, try to balance cost and value: believe me, we (Deon, myself and others) have tested establishments that we certainly will not take our fellow members to, no matter what/how low the cost *or* how good the food!

If Members have *any* suggestions re venues for us to visit, *please* forward them to Deon (or any other Committee member) for consideration.

Here's one for consideration: how about a run to a (safe – even if we have to pay for entry) venue where we simply have an *al fresco* lunch? We each (or in partnership with other members) pack a picnic basket and do a run to the country, enjoy a leisurely picnic lunch, then head back home. (It will be weather-dependant, though)

(\*) With apologies to Mr Phil Collins: should perhaps have used the local "...But Seriaasly"

Next run: As usual, Cagy Deon is keeping mum: let's wait to hear from him!

**Bernie Koch | Chairman**

**Western Cape Mazda MX-5 Club**

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