



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: CLUB RUN 26th MAY 2013.

What do you do when it's a cold, showery winter's day and you live in the Western Cape? Here's a suggestion: take your favorite car on a nice drive into the country-side, find a good restaurant with an open hearth and then enjoy lunch with twenty-or-so good friends.

And that's *exactly* what we did on Sunday – but I'm running ahead of myself. Let's start at the beginning.....

The run: Joining yours truly and Joanita were Dennis and Tina, Alex and Maureen Paterson, Gerald and Jocelyn Poswell, Derril and Barbara Papendorf, George and Anne-Marie Slade, Steve and Mari Ashton, André and Nerine Davis, Diane Novitzkas and nephew Paul, Miz Liz Morgan, Julian and Jenny Seymour and Deon Labuschagne. This time, nobody went top-less: the weather just didn't play along!

Apologies were received from Craig Howell, Jacqui Woolfson, Eric and Jill Solman (*time to finish that building project, Jill, poor ol' Eric needs a break!*), Keith Clarke, Mike and Mary-Anne Little and Duncan Mackintosh. If I left anybody out, humble apologies and please let me know!

As Craig could not take up his usual duties at the head of our little cavalcade, I stood in for him with Miz Liz Morgan doing (*my usual*) sweeping duties. (*Yes. Honestly. Have I ever lied to you?*) We followed the same rural route that we used going to the Cattle Baron in Paarl; this time, instead of turning off into Agter Paarl, we continued towards Wellington. When Deon and I reconnoitered the route some time ago, we found that we could skirt the Town itself: we used Stokery Pad (lit.: Brewery Road – *what a lovely address to have!*) thru' the industrial area and past the Railways (this month celebrating its 150th birthday) and thence to our destination.

The venue: "Twist Some More", suggested by Brian and Avril Roy (*thanks guys, good one!*), is situated outside Wellington in an old, historic barn. Owner/Chef Johan van Schalkwyk converted the old barn into a restaurant and pub: the two are divided by a wall with an inglenook on each side. Furniture are mostly period: oak tables and chairs abound. I shared a lovely round oak table with André and Nerine: since the table did not fit into the MX-5's boot, I resolved to use my Bakkie when next I visit again! The restaurant has an excellent menu and wine-list: for Sunday, Johan put together a special menu for the MX-5 Club with the Club's logo sharing the mast with the restaurant's.

Johan was also good enough to rope off a parking area for the Club: when we arrived, I saw some bemused faces staring at us thru' the restaurant's glass doors: pretty soon, however, people were actually braving the Boland drizzle in order to take photos of our cars as we parked! Made me think of what Craig wrote after our visit to De Malle Meul: it *does* make a good sight and it *does* make me feel proud to be part of it!



picture © derril papendorf

Inside, we were seated at a long table quite near the fire: chairs and benches with enough elbow space (my favorite gripe!) for all. The restaurant has a warm, welcoming atmosphere – certainly, the open fires contribute a huge amount to that on a winter’s day. The table was as good; I heard nothing but compliments regarding the food and service. Portions are generous: if my entrée had been only slightly larger it would have served admirably as a main dish. As to the main dish: I think most of us enjoyed the Wild Boar: portions, judging by mine, were sufficient to sate even Obelix’s legendary hunger for this beast.

General:

- 1: We have received quite a few suggestions for places to visit, things to do, etcetera, on future get-togethers. Thanks to everybody who sent these in: all are being considered and some will be actioned sooner than later. And – surprise! surprise! - the most popular suggestion was a good old braai! Past Chair Steve Ashton revisited a list of past venues and marked those that were considered good value for money - dankie Steve!
- 2: Members are requested to please send in acceptances or apologies as soon as possible – some restaurateurs want bookings finalized a week in advance. Also: please send this to Deon directly at insurance@keitzmanfinance.co.za or lambchop@hotmail.co.za. (*LAMBchop?!)*
- 3: We are still waiting to hear re the proposed get-together with the Gauteng Club. As soon as we have any details, we’ll circularize this to members.
- 4: Dream cars: Mazda MX-2 with \pm 135kW turbo 1600cc motor or Mazda MX-5 with \pm 160 kW turbo 2000cc motor? I’ve seen pics of the MX-2: its an achingly pretty little thing but what about the rumoured turbo MX-5? If anyone has more details, even if it’s the usual rumour and conjecture, please let us in on the secret/s! (*Or are they simply just that: Dream cars?*)
- 4: Past members: Paging through old files of the Club, I regularly pick up names of people whom I’ve never had the pleasure of meeting. Obviously, these are past members who have, for some reason, not renewed their membership and also current members who are not actively involved with the Club. If you are personally friends with, or even know any of, these members, please give them a cordial invite to a Club run! We will certainly love to see them again: if (God forbid!) they have fallen away from the Club due to dissatisfaction of any kind, we (the Committee) would love to hear about this even if it means a private chat.
- 5: Next run - usually, at this time, I know even less of this than you: normally, Deon would call and say “*ons moet Saterdag na XYZ restourante gaan kyk*”. On Sunday, however, I shamelessly eavesdropped on a rather secretive conversation between Deon and Treasurer Julian Seymour. Don’t mention this to a soul, *but* if what I heard was anything remotely near the truth, I’d advise keeping the 23rd (or 30th) of June OPEN!! And: read the previous para again – especially the part re inviting past/inactive members.....

Regards to all

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