



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: CLUB RUN 30th JUNE 2013.

Not all of us are fortunate enough to be able to fit 18 holes into our busy schedules: this is the *raison d'être* for the very popular mashie golf courses. Mupine in Pinelands is considered to not only be one of the top three such courses, but also one of the more challenging: if a squirrel doesn't nab and run off with your ball, same ball could end up in a Pine tree (as we witnessed on Sunday!) or be carried to parts unknown by a passing train. And beware: there's even a par 4 lurking there somewhere!

But we didn't go there for a short round: thru' the good offices of Treasurer Julian Seymour, we had a lovely boma booked for what seems to be one of our more favourite pass-times: the good old Sunday Braai.

The run: Joining Jules and Jenny were yours truly and Joanita, Steve & Mari Ashton, Craig Howell, Alex & Maureen Paterson, Derril & Barbara Papendorf, Eric and Jill Solman, André & Nerine Davis, George & AnnaMarie Slade, Mike & Maryanne Little, Luke & Marj van Wyk, Liz Morgan, Dianne Novitzkas and Paul, Deon Labuschagne and Andrew and Sandy Duffell-Canham. Jacqui Woolfson and Allan & Alison Sheard confirmed that they would attend but could unfortunately not make it on Sunday.

Apologies were received from Paul & Joy Crane, Gerald & Jocelyn Poswell, Craig Hastings, Keith Clark, Brian & Avril Roy, Duncan MacKintosh and Terry Andrew.

As always: if I left anybody out, groveling apologies and please let me know!

The "run" wasn't much of a "run": because Mupine is within spitting distance of our meeting place, Limnos, Craig advised members (in his e-mail of 2013-06-08) that we would leave Limnos later than usual (meet at 11h30; leave at 12h00) for the short hop to Mupine. Deon and I went to Mupine directly where we met Jules and Jenny to prepare the venue: the rest of the club duly met at, and set off from, Limnos following Secretary Howling Craig in the Yellow Peril.

And then got lost. Totally.

Save and except, of course, those who had the good sense to follow Miz Liz Morgan in the Silver Dream Machine who, in her usual and unerring fashion, lead her troupe straight to the rendezvous. No wrong turn-offs. No u-turns. No faulty GPS devices to blame. And watched, smirking and with drinks in hand, as the stragglers on Craig's List limped into the parking lot.

Clearly, Miz Liz Morgan is not related to those other three members (Lost Liz, Wayward Liz and Dizzy Miz Lizzy) who we have, in fact, not seen for quite a while.....

The venue: The thatched boma reserved for our use is large yet cosy enough for our ± 30 attendees. It has a lovely atmosphere (a thatch-roofed home is still on my desire-list!) with two built-in braais. Annexed to it is a hall and fully licensed pub.

(By the way - this begs the question: can a pub, on a mashie course, legitimately be referred to as "the 19th hole"? And if not, what excuse does Julian use when he gets home - late?)

Mupine allowed us to bring our own wine free of corkage – the pub, however, proved popular among members who needed something else than wine. Or, who wanted to keep up with the British F1 Grand Prix and World Superbike Championship races.

The star attractions were, of course, the squirrels and Mr & Mrs Duck and their new-borns – all 13 of them! (*Shouldn't that read "new-hatched"?*) The squirrels are clearly used to humans: they came up close and accepted tid-bits offered. The setting allowed Members to mix freely – and we did! Seating was ample for all.

Thank you!!

1: To Treasurer **Julian Seymour** for suggesting and arranging the venue. Also for sourcing and buying all the meat: that chicken marinade was a hit!

2: To those who did the honours “at the coal face”: **Julian** did the chicken (pipple, believe me when I say that those portions were *not* pre-cooked!), **Steve Ashton** did the meat and **Big Mike Little** did the wors. All I did was stand around, pretend to be busy and then garner all the compliments!

3: To Events Organiser **Deon Labuschagne** for the salads: On Saturday afternoon, Deon and I went shopping for the ingredients. Preparatory work (cooking/baking potatoes, sweet potatoes, etc) was done that afternoon and when Joanita and I left Deon's late afternoon, we arranged that he would phone us early on Sunday morning to get together to do the salads. (Our Deon believes in “freshly made”!) When my phone rang at 08h00 on Sunday morning, it was Deon telling me that *everything was done* – he had been busy since 05h00 that morning!

4: To **all** who attended and made Sunday a successful and enjoyable day. Also to all who sent me e-mails and SMS's: Yes, we *will* do it again! And yes, we *will* involve you in the arrangements! (*All of you!?*)

5: On a different tack: to Secretary **Craig Howell** for his efforts with our web-site and linking it/us to Gauteng and the rest of civilization: it's up, it's running and it looks brilliant. Use it – and also the photo site! We want to see what we look like!

General:

1: Cost of the Run: The Club provided the eats for Sunday whilst the Venue's rental was only R150-00. Although Treasurer Julian will obviously in due course give a full report re this, it seems that the approximate cost per person attending amounts to > R90-00. A few things to consider:

1.1: We over-catered when buying the provisions, which means that we overspent. This is not a disaster: most of the left-over salads were taken by members whilst the uncooked meat will be frozen and put to (good!) use in the near future. We have also learnt what/how much to buy for similar events in future.

1.2: If my estimation of ± R90-00 per person is more or less accurate, we should come to realize that paying ± R120-00 to ± R130-00 per person in a good restaurant, offering good fare, is not unreasonable.

2: Derril Papendorf is about to have an op to his ankle. Although he assures me that it's “just a simple little thing”, I simply don't like some-one taking an axe (or scalpel – to me, it's the same thing) to any part of my anatomy. Voorspoed en sterkte, Derril – we want to see you back soon!

3: Eric Solman is about to join a Club almost as exclusive as the MX-5 Club: that of people who do not need to work any more. Enjoy your retirement, Eric – you've earned it!

4: Duncan MacKintosh apparently still cannot unlock his MX-5's radio. It has to do with Mazda's codes and he's been given advice by all and sundry, all to no avail: if you know some-one who could assist in “opening” the thing, please contact him directly at dunromack@gmail.com Duncan is loth to pay Mazda's extortionate fee (some R1,200-00!!) to supply new code/s for the radio. (*So am I – can buy very nice ICE for that money!*)

5: Some members have voiced the idea that, in winter, we only get together every *second* month for a formal club run. *Please* let us have your view/s and opinion/s about this!

Until next time!

Bernie Koch | Chairman

Western Cape Mazda MX-5 Club.

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