



# WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 OFFROAD CLUB

Chairman: Bernie Koch | [info@bejotrusters.co.za](mailto:info@bejotrusters.co.za) | 083 454 3776 Secretary: **Position Vacant!** | Treasurer: Julian Seymour | [jules20@mweb.co.za](mailto:jules20@mweb.co.za) | 083 652 5827 Events: Deon Labuschagne | [insurance@keitzmanfinance.co.za](mailto:insurance@keitzmanfinance.co.za) | 074 120 1089

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

What a good turnout we had on Sunday! With one or two exceptions, all the stalwarts were there plus a few welcome new faces as well. So, let's get on then.....

Those who earned their off-road badges: Alex and Maureen Paterson and two friends, Gerald and Jocelyn Poswell, Keith and Christine Clark, Steve and Mari Ashton, Liz Morgan, Dianne Novitzkas and Paul, Luke and Marj van Wyk, Allan Sheard, Duncan and Rowena Mackintosh, Charmaine Jackson and friend Jimmy, Deon Labuschagne and of course yours truly and Joanita.

Apologies were received from Eric and Jill Solman, George and AnnaMarie Slade, Derrill and Barbara Papendorf (*we hear that Barbara is holding up quite well after Derrill's op*) André and Nerine Davis, Julian and Jenny Seymour (*gallivanting overseas*) and Brian and Avril Roy.

We left Limnos and set a course for Durbanville: those who joined us on the Philadelphia run probably recognised the route – or, at least the first part of it. At Malanshoogte we turned left and headed for Contermankloof: the first 2km was a gravel surface which, fortunately, was smooth and solid. However, with the rains in the Boland, all of us are going to have to do a bit of “spit-&-polish” before the next outing! (Please, folks, remember to hose the cars off *very* thoroughly before taking a sponge or a rag to it. You don't want minute scratches on those shiny surfaces!) The rest of the route was tarmac and absolutely what one would wish a rural road to be: winding it's way thru' farmlands with hardly any other vehicles in sight. I was able to give the MX-5 it's head on certain parts – (guys, isn't it strange how they still manage *back-seat* driving in a *two-seater*!?) - this road was made for our cars!

The venue: “They say” (now where did I hear that before?) that if it looks like a duck; and if it tastes like a duck; chances are it *are* a duck. Then surely if it doesn't look like Malva pudding; and if it doesn't taste like Malva pudding, it *are not* Malva pudding? And served not with a dessert spoon but a *teaspoon*?!?! That was the low point of an already-bad experience. Let me explain:

Some time ago I spotted the eatery known as *De Kelder* in Plattekloof: they were promoting a Sunday Carvery at a very special price. Contacting Deon, we visited the restaurant and, after chatting with one of the management team, decided to book for the 28<sup>th</sup>. The agreed set menu was a carvery, with a starter and dessert as well as coffee: this was at R100-00 p.p. which included the usual gratuity.

The place that we booked was on the side of the restaurant: it is separated from the rest and has floor-to-ceiling picture windows giving views of the urban sprawl with Table Mountain as the backdrop. Although not as big as the area at the Hotel School, it still accorded us complete privacy. So, upon arriving, I was surprised – and disappointed! - to notice that we were now to be seated in another, altogether murky and noisy, part of the restaurant. My queries in this regard were met by shrugs: the person that we had dealt with, was “off duty” on Sunday.

Some 90 minutes (read that aloud: one-and-a-half very long hours) after we were seated, our first course arrived. By that time, Deon, myself and others had already complained: no excuses/reasons for the shoddy service were given. The food was as of the same standard as the service: my main course consisted of two small cuts of meat with two veggies and a veritable mountain of rice. Simply not good enough – not even at (half) the price.

And then they forgot about the coffee: “*Nee meneer*, we don't know anything about coffee being included.”

“They say” (here we go again) that if the service is bad, and if the food is of equal quality, it *are not* a restaurant. Who am I to argue? As far as we are concerned, *De Kelder* in Platteklouf is best forgotten.

Other mutters:

1: As you may be aware, the position of Club Secretary is vacant. We invite applications for the position from computer savvy masochists who have a penchant for a thankless job without stipend. All interested parties are requested to form an orderly queue at my office where interviews for this prestigious position will be conducted. Remember to bring along all education certificates, etcetera. Real or forged. Also your Identity Document. (Or the one that you currently prefer using – who gives a hoot about F.I.C.A?) Please further note that nepotism, bribery and canvassing will definitely enhance an applicant’s chances.

2: Our website has been “deleted”: that means that a rather spiteful grinch went and destroyed ..... enough of that. The site is being re-established and will henceforth be known as [www.mx5wc.co.za](http://www.mx5wc.co.za) and it will be up and running soon. (*nee, Pietie, dit staan vir “western cape”*) As I am scribbling this, I just received an e-mail from our Consultant, Ms Pia Low, reading “the site has been registered”. She is about to finalise “everything” in the next few days: what still needs to be done is beyond my ken. (Of all the charges I’ve had to face, nobody has ever accused me of being a computer wizard!)

3: Events Tsar Deon has come up with an idea that I certainly think is worth considering: a combined end-of-year do and AGM in December. He also wants to take us back to the Hotel School for this – no real complaints as far as I am concerned! The following dates are still available:

- 15<sup>th</sup>: It’s perhaps a little too close to our November run for comfort. However, we can skip November and have a good one on the 15<sup>th</sup> December – this will leave the rest of the holiday period open for those who want to break away. This probably gets my vote – whether we skip November or not.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Some of our members could be away on a well deserved holiday and, as there are some rather important issues to discuss at the AGM, we want as many members present as possible.
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Things should have settled after the Xmas festivities and we’ll be gathering strength for the end-of-year parties. Possibly/probably a good date.

Can we PLEASE have your views/opinions/suggestions re this **A.S.A.P?** As the man said: “Venues in December are like hens teeth!” Financials can certainly be worked out later.

4: Just had a call from Zameer Brey – his car is still available and he is now *really* prepared to negotiate re the price. (*Did I hear R110K? WOW!*) To refresh our memories: it’s a black-&-tan ’06 with black ragtop and some 88K on the odo. Contact Zameer on 08 44 22 44 22 or [zameer44@gmail.com](mailto:zameer44@gmail.com) (PS: Thanks Gerald Poswell for passing on the info re the 2011 model: the new owner is Peter Truter who we certainly look forward to meeting as a new member!)

5: Some members again asked about a “new” meeting place in lieu of Limnos. If you have any suggestions for an alternative rendezvous, please let us know so we can put it forward for discussion. And as far as suggestions go: this includes suggestions for venues, things to do, whatever!

6: We have approached quite a few people regarding apparel for the Club. To find this at reasonable prices seem to be easy enough: the problem lies with the badging. We want to have our logo, etc. embroidered on the clothing and we are really finding it difficult to get quotes. I suspect that it’s possibly because of the low numbers that we’ll be ordering. Anybody out there have any contacts? If so, I would love to hear from you!

That’s all from me for now – till next time!

Bernie Koch | Chairman  
Western Cape Mazda MX-5 Club.  
[info@bejotrusters.co.za](mailto:info@bejotrusters.co.za) | 083 454 3776