



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLUB RUN 27TH SEPTEMBER 2013.

The Afrikaans word “opstal” translates as “homestead” – perhaps “farmstead” has a truer connotation. Opstal Restaurant & Winery in the Slanghoek Valley near Rawsonville was our port of call on Sunday the 27th.

On the run were yours truly and the boss, joined by Soné Mouton and Paul Burger, Andrew Duffel-Canham (accompanied by sister Liz), George and Anna-Marie Slade and two friends, Rod Manson, Gerald and Jocelyn Poswell (*back from Hell!*), André and Nerine Davis, Liz Morgan, Julian and Jenny Seymour (*happy to be back in Sou' Thefrika*), Brian and Avril Roy, Duncan and Rowena Mackintosh, Keith and Christine Clark, Brian Lewer and son James and, last but certainly not least, Deon Labuschagne and Gordon Dreyer.

Luke and Marj van Wyk also indicated that they would join us: Luke's Mom, however, had to go for an op and they quite rightly wanted to stay close. We certainly hope that everything went OK and that Luke's Mom is by now either fully recovered or well on the way there.

Apologies were received from Charmaine Jackson (*probably concluding yet another mega-buck property deal*), Eric and Jill Solman, Paul and Moyra Goldberg (*enjoying an overseas break*), Dianne Novitzkas, Peter and Carla Truter (*Nattering away at some Cranky old Club*) Rudi van Schalkwyk and Allan and Alison Sheard.

Still on the Hospital list are Alex Paterson's Maureen, Steve Ashton's Mari and of course Derril Papendorf.

The convoy, ably led by Brian and Avril, left Limnos a littler earlier than usual because of the distance and, perhaps more importantly, the promised wine tasting at Opstal. Our route took us over du Toit's Kloof Pass, past the trout farms and to the Rawsonville turn-off. The route over the Pass is of course what our cars were made for: I was told that André Davis did the Pass three times. Then he and Nerine waited patiently for the rest of us to catch up.....

Our venue: Opstal Winery and Restaurant is owned and run by the same family – for no less than seven generations! It is in the heart of the Slanghoek Valley and the drive there is as picturesque as one can hope for. The estate is regularly visited by motoring and biking Clubs: the last motoring Club to visit arrived there in a lot of red cars. Apparently all manufactured in Italy. I don't know what cars they were but I was told they sported yellow badges, more-or-less triangular and featuring a black nag, on their flanks. Ag shame: fortunately, the MX-5 Club came around to brighten up the place.....

Owner Louis gave us a brief history of the Farm: from the original owner down to where it was divided into seven portions for seven sons. Then we went inside to the dedicated tasting room where Louis and his son took us thru' the wine tasting: professionally presented, it was as informative as it was enjoyable. Our many questions were answered and I was not surprised to find that most (if not all of us!) ordered at least one case of the Estate's fine products.

After the tasting, we went of to the dining room (Opstal dedicated a separate section for us) where lunch was enjoyed. Again – no complaints were heard and, as far as I could gauge, a very good time was had by all.

General:

1: Our venue for the 27th October: I had a place “lined up” which seemed to promise another drive into the Boland and then lunch at a much vaunted venue. Thank heavens we took time out to visit the place: yes, it is in the Boland and yes, it is a beautiful drive. But that, unfortunately, is where it all ends. Deon is currently scrambling around for another venue: he has let me in on a possibility that I rather like. Full details later – just keep the date open!

And that’s it!

Again – a very short report this month. (So why am I so late with it, you ask? Well, I have all the patented excuses in the world plus a few unique ones of my own – but you don’t want to hear them!) Please keep on contacting us re anything regarding the Club: questions, suggestions, anything and everything!

Regards to all

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