



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLUB RUN 24th NOVEMBER 2013.

(Or: the day we braved a speed-bump and did not get mugged in Atlantis)

Just about everything is done and finished for the year: Rugby (*better luck next season, chaps*); Moto-GP (*with Marc Marquez emerging as the youngest-ever Champion*); SuperBikes (*Tom Sykes made sure he didn't lose the championship by half-a-point this time!*); and in F1 that German chappie won everything again. (*Nee, Pietie, Schumi het al afgetree – daar's nou 'n ander German.*) Businesses are looking forward to the end-of-year shut-down; kids are finishing school for the year, etc.: we are slowing down and easing into the Christmas season.

The only thing that does not seem to be getting done and finished or to be slowing down, is the enthusiasm of the Members of this Club: with some 20 cars on this weekend's run, the absolute reverse is actually happening!

Thanks people – it makes one feel good!

On the run to Darling (via a speed-bump in Atlantis) were yours truly and Die Baasss; (*did I really go that fast?*) joined by Steve & Mari Ashton; Andrew & Sandi Duffell-Canham; Rod & Lyn Manson; Derrill and Barbara Papendorff; Andre & Nerine Davis; Soné Mouton & Paul Burger; George & Annamarie Slade (*and the two MG spies*) Gerald Poswell and friend Steve (*Jocelyn couldn't make it but next time she will – there goes freedom, Gerald!*) Liz Morgan; Brian Lewer and son James; Duncan & Rowena Mackintosh; Keith & Christine Clark; Jill & Eric Solman; Charmain Jackson and friend Graham; Deon Labuschagne and Gordon Dreyer; Dianne Novitzkas & Paul.

Again a special “welcome back”: this time to Maureen Paterson (and hubby Alex) – Maureen is now officially of the “sick list” but still on the “crutches list.” (*I'd be weary of them elbow crutches, Alex – they look like lethal weapons to me*)

Also “booked” for the run to Darling were Julian & Jenny Seymour (*get well soon, Jenny*) and Luke & Marj van Wyk (*fire your boss, Luke!*): due to circumstances, they couldn't make it on the day.

Apologies were received from Mike & Mary-Anne Little; Allan & Allison Sheard; Brian & Avril Roy (*watching Proteas wilt in the heat*); Peter & Carla Truter and Rudi & Kim van Schalkwyk. (*Lees my advies hierbo aan Luke re sy baas, Rudi!*)

Did I get everybody? If not, please let me know!

The run to Darling: When we left Limnos at 11h30 it was already a heady 30°C+ and from there it only got hotter. Summer is back – and welcome it certainly is! The bit from Limnos to Durbanville and then onto Adderly Road is familiar to many of us from previous runs. We followed Adderly Road to Philadelphia, from there to the tricky bits where construction work on the N7 had us do a slight detour onto the Atlantis road and from there onto the old Mamre/Darling road. (When planning the route, I purposely skipped the “bumpy” bit of road from the Melkbos turn-off: here, I found the MX-5 touching ground only here and there – certainly not everywhere!)

The old road runs through the town of Atlantis: there are other, alternative routes such as the (boring) N7 or (equally boring) West Coast road.

Atlantis is a sad sight: unemployment and crime are both obscenely high. Crimes like murder and rape sometimes only rate second- (or third-) page coverage in the Press. Survival here is a battle against huge odds – I know, I see it almost every day. What can/must be done to alleviate the plight of these good people? God knows, I wish in had the answer. Or perhaps even a suggestion.

Just past Atlantis is the historic (and well-to-do) missionary town of Mamre from where we had a straight (if slightly bumpy – sorry, ladies!) ride to Darling and our destination, Bistro Seven.

Our venue: Bistro Seven apparently owes it's name to the Standard Bank! This is what I was told: The Bistro, in previous years, was a dwelling belonging to the Bank and occupied by the Manager of the local Branch. When the Branch was relocated to new premises and the old Bank building demolished, the then Manager had the windows from the (old) building fitted to the house. We all saw these magnificent windows – most embossed with the Bank's initials "SB". When it became time for current owners, Kit and René Haslam, to name their establishment, they felt they wanted to use the initials (being intertwined, they can easily be read as "BS") and hence the name Bistro Seven.

It's a small, cosy place – we filled it to capacity. I'd love to be there by the fire-side in winter! No complaints re the food or service were heard, only compliments: this is an establishment that we can certainly earmark for a repeat visit.

General:

1: Our venue for the 22nd December: It's the AGM at Granger Bay. It will not be a formal run: we'll go to Granger Bay in our own time and meet there. Full details to follow.

2: After talking to several members, it was decided that there will **not** be a formal run in January. We (and our finances!) need time to recover from Xmas and to get into the new year.

2: I received several e-mails from people looking to buy MX-5's:

- Arend de Waal is still looking for a car: must be 2,0 liter, low kilos and max of R105K.
- Chris Carstens wants 2006/7 model for max R140K: 021 949 5918 or 082 921 5793.
- Joker wants to "swap" an old ("ready-to-restore") Mini for an MX-5: err.....

See you at the AGM!

Regards to all

Bernie Koch | Chairman

Western Cape Mazda MX-5 Club

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