



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLUB RUN FREEDOM DAY 2014.

Twenty years! Who would/could have imagined – I think we owe ourselves a huge vote of confidence in ourselves: after all, it was us South Africans who made it work in spite of the (doomsday) predictions and (insurmountable) odds. And if we had asked for a beautiful day for celebrations, an Autumn Sunday at the Elgin/Grabouw Country Club was tailor-made for it!

The route to Grabouw was planned by Rod Manson – and what a route it was! As a born and bred Capie I saw places on Sunday that I didn't know existed. Considering that it was a long weekend, we had a very good turn-out: joining yours truly & Joanita were Alex & Maureen Paterson and guests Eddie and Jamie; Charmaine Jackson and guest Rob; George & Anna-Marie Slade; Rod Manson; Gerald & Jocelyn Poswell; Phil & Julia Wilmot; Keith & Christine Clarke; Duncan & Rowena Mackintosh; Diane Novitzkas & Paul; Brian & Avril Roy and Deon Labuschagne & Gordon Dreyer.

Apologies were received from Chris & Daphne Foster (*who initially planned on coming along – but the arrival of a new Grandchild put paid to that. Congratulations, Ouma & Oupa Foster!*); André & Nerine Davis (*who must have gotten lost on their way to Limnos and ended up at Lake Como in Italy*); Peter & Carla Truter; David Wantling; Ivan & Wendy Gee; Andrew & Sandy Duffell-Canham; Steve & Mari Ashton (*get well soon, Mari!*); Soné Mouton & Paul Burger; Di & Neville Norton; Luke & Marj van Wyk; Derrill & Barbara Papendorf; Julian & Jenny Seymour (*in the Eastern Cape of all places*) Liz Morgan (*helping her daughter move house*) and Brian Lewer (*moving house*) (*What's with this "moving house" thing? In the good ol' days, whenever we changed address, J and I simply rented a smallish bakkie, stuffed our meagre belongings into it and moved to the new house. We left the old house right there where we found it in the first place. Eish, mense*)

The Venue

The Elgin/Grabouw Country Club is situated the beautiful Elgin Valley. The short drive from the town to the Club is an experience in itself: a rural country lane with railway crossings and forests so old you could actually smell the ambience.



Situated on a lake, it is surrounded by massive mountains, huge rolling lawns and those forests. But what hits one is the absolute tranquility: I didn't want to be at any Italian lake on Sunday, I was OK right there where we were!

The Country Club's MC, Jacques, arranged for our cars to be parked on the lawns next to the Club House – and what a sight! Other patrons were casting appreciative (envious) glances in that direction and more than just a few pics

were taken. Phil Wilmot met some patrons who showed an interest in the Club: already into sports cars, they may become new members soon!

We were seated on the Patio (see pic above) which gave us views of the mountains, lake and our cars parked neatly on the lawns. Lunch was preceded by a wine-tasting expertly presented by our MC. Jacques chose wines from the Elgin Valley and it was clear that these wines found appreciation from all: described as “easy drinking” wines, they are proving that products from the Elgin Valley (the “other side” of the Wine Curtain) are as good as anything available elsewhere. And, might I add, at rather competitive prices as well! I think the “Little John” from the Robin Hood series of white wines (Arumdale Estate) was the favorite among white wine lovers: Die Baaassss quickly issued instructions to “*kry vir ons hiervan.*” The way Members were enquiring about orders reminded me of our visit to Opstal Winery in the Slanghoek Valley last year: it yet again demonstrates that a well-presented tasting offering good products at affordable prices will always prove to be a success.

Our lunch menu, prepared especially for the MX-5 Club, had a typo that nobody apparently noticed: the two main dishes were separated by the word “or”: it should have read “and”! The food was well prepared, the service was good, the setting and ambience perfect. A great day was topped by a great drive back home thru’ Franschhoek Pass – another Pass created especially with our cars in mind!

General:

1: After discussing the quotes received for apparel in-committee and with Members on Sunday, it was decided to accept the quote for this given to us by Shelley van den Berg of Designs Ahead. This (and another) quote was received *after* the one mentioned in the March Report and both were appreciatively better than the other quote. Please note that all apparel quoted for was from the same suppliers (Barrons): we were thus comparing like-with-like. We will have some apparel made for our next meeting and will also have samples of sizes to enable members to place orders. Before that, though, I will try to put together a brochure of sorts with the prices of the various items on offer.

In the meantime, Members can certainly start ordering caps: these are one-size-fits-all and are available in a range of colours at R55-00 each. The caps have the Club’s logo embroidered on the front. Let’s do it as follows:

i: **Decide** on the colour and number of caps you want to order at R55-00 each. (Order your caps in the colour of your car. Or your hair. Or your eyes – any colour, just get them!)

ii: **Deposit** the total amount into our NEW bank account by EFT (please don’t dump cash into the account: the banks’ cash handling fees are murderous) as follows:

Bank Account name: Western Cape Mazda MX-5 Club. (Yes! It’s a new account name – just keep on typing the name until you run out of space, Absa will eventually get it. George says we can also type “WC Mazda MX-5 Club” – let’s hope it works!)

Account #: 9294033559. (Well spotted! It’s a new account number! *Please do not use the old account any more – it’s about to be closed*)

Bank: Absa.

Branch IBT #: 632-005

Payment reference: (IMPORTANT PLEASE!): Your name + X caps (E.G.: Jan / 2 caps)

iii: **Send** (with a cc to George at treas@mx5wc.co.za) your order to me, with the proof of payment, as follows:

Your name / colour of caps / number of caps @ R55-00 each = R total.

(E.G.: Jan Pierewiet / Red / 2 caps @ R55-00 = R110-00)

2: Next month’s run is still in the planning stages but it will be on Sunday the **25th May**, and **not** the 1st June. (*Are we actually there already?!*) Also – we are planning something to a new restaurant on a new (that’s relative, I guess: established in 1997) wine estate. Details to follow!

3: “Phishing”: it’s a term that we are all familiar with, but hopefully not victims of. The Club’s Account recently came under relentless attack from “phishers” – please, people, take care with your accounts, pass words, pin numbers, even your ID number.

A few more pics of yesterday’s outing:



Gordon, Diane & Paul.



Gerald, George, Jocelyn, Rowena, Avril, Brian & Julia.



Coffee time!

Background: Mountains, Trees, Lawns, MX-5's parked on the lawn. (No "Keep Off The Grass" signs here!)

Standing: Diane, Paul.

Seated: Anna-Marie, Eddie, Maureen, Jamie, Christine. (A.K.A. "Rosemary" – and no, you'd better not ask!) (Eddie & Jamie are guests from Scotland)

(PS: All pics © Rod Manson - thanks Rod)

Regards to all!

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