



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: 2014-08-31

Good friends and MX-5's always mix well: Sunday was no exception. And to top it all, the Weatherman kept his promise and gave us a lovely "mild to warm" day in Paarl – I just thrive on days like these!

Joining on the outing to Paarl were yours truly and You-Know-Who; with Julian and Jenny Seymour; Diane Novitzkas and Paul; Ivan and Wendy Gee and young Matthew; Keith and Christine Clark; Soné Mouton and Paul Burger (*still on one crutch but well on his way to recovery!*); new Members Warren and Colette Garner (*driving my favorite: a Red Nb*); Brian Lewer and son James; Alex and Maureen Paterson (*with Alex making the Dart look tiny!*); Brian and Avril Roy; Phil and Julia Wilmot; Deon Labuschagne and Gordon Dreyer with friend from Chile, Carlos; Allan and Alison Sheard; André and Nerine Davis; Di and Neville Norton; George and AnnaMarie Slade with friends Peter and Barbara Morrison.

Apologies were received from Derrill and Barbara Papendorf; Gerald and Jocelyn Poswell; Chris and Daphne Foster (*all of them abroad somewhere – hope the Weatherman over there is as accommodating as the one in Paarl!*); Charmaine Jackson, Steve and Mari Ashton (*all out of town*); Rod and Lyn Manson (*watching blommetjies grow in Namaqualand*) Peter and Carla Truter; Duncan and Rowena Mackintosh; Mike and Mary-Anne Little (*family commitments*); Richard and Hazel Carolin; David and Julie Dyer and Liz Morgan.

Did I get everybody? If not, the usual groveling apologies and please let me know!

Our jaunt to Paarl started at three "muster points": Members from the South convened at the Post Office at Constantia Village from where they set off in convoy to meet the Northerners at the usual rallying point at Limnos Bakery in Bellville. From Limnos, we travelled to a rendezvous on the Old Paarl Road where we met the Helderberg contingent, who had earlier met at the Steynsrust Bridge in Somerset West. From there we travelled along the Old Paarl Road (*ja, Pietie, ek weet dit word deesdae die "R101" genoem – maar waar is R101?*) through Klapmuts to Paarl and our destination, the Cattle Baron in Pontac Street.

We were pleasantly surprised at Limnos when Luke and Marj van Wyk popped in to show the latest addition to their family, son Matthew. Luke promised that they'd be regular attendees again soon – or as soon as young Matthew will allow them to be! Must say – Luke actually looks rather good for a new Dad who's supposedly been doing pajama drill the last few months!

The Old Paarl Road holds good memories from my childhood. I remember many Sunday lunches at the Klapmuts Hotel – at the time, one of the favorite luncheon haunts of my parents and their friends. The other very popular lunch venue was the restaurant at the (then) DF Malan Airport: as kids, we loved both. At the Klapmuts, there was lots of space – and place – for us to play whilst the Airport Restaurant meant excitedly watching planes take-off and land. And once landed, actually walking up to and *touching* them!



We last visited the Cattle Baron in Paarl in March 2013. Now, as then, we were not disappointed! We were looking forward to “our” place on the outer decks on the lawns, but sadly this is not in use any more. Instead, we were seated on the *stoep* of the Pontac Hotel – which, upon reflection, was probably (as many members said) a better choice given the fact that it was such a balmy day. The welcome (complete with reserved parking) by Franco Adams and his team was as convivial as ever and no gripes were heard from members re the food or service. I was again impressed by the sight of our cars parked in a neat row under

those ancient, massive Oaks: believe me, so were many others, judging by the appreciative comments from other patrons. We saw many cameras whipped out with people posing for photos next to our MX-5's!

Thanks to everybody who attended and made this a great day.

General:

1: Motto

Our motto “competition” (with prize money at a full and round R zero!) drew quite a few submissions. Here are the best – have a look and give us your comments. The most popular ones will be used (on a rotational basis) on our website:



- (a) Dink and Drive.
- (b) Fun in the Sun.
- (c) Always Driving.
- (d) Meant to be Driven.
- (e) Tomorrow's Classic Today.
- (f) A Celebration.
- (g) Fun Friends and Motoring.
- (h) Motoring Pleasure.
- (i) Going for a Drive in (our)(my) MX-5.
- (j) It Just Feels Right.
- (k) The Enthusiast's Dream (Come True)
- (l) Yours in MX-5 Fun.
- (m) (Live) Life with no Regrets.
- (n) (Live) Life without Regrets.
- (o) (We) Put (the) Vroom into (the) Zoom.
- (p) No Drive like an MX-5
- (q) Come Alive in your MX-5.
- (r) Puts the Air into your Hair.
- (s) The Air in your Hair.
- (t) MX-5'ers do it Topless.

2: Apparel

As Members are aware, we struck a discordant note with our suppliers (*dit beteken hulle het ons gedrop, Pietie*) and we were forced to cancel the remainder of our order and refund those Members who had ordered and pre-paid. Since we paid for the digitizing of our emblem, we were able to get that returned to us and can now make it available to other embroiderers who want to supply to the Club. At the moment, we are inviting quotes for embroidering the Club's emblem onto apparel supplied by the Member (i.e. you do not have to buy the shirt/jacket/whatever from the suppliers) and have, through Allan Sheard, already received one such quote. I would ideally want another (say) two quotes to present to the Members who will then be able to deal directly with the supplier/s – suggestions will be welcomed!

Members who have ordered (or who still want to order) the rather classy name tags thru' Allan, can certainly go ahead with this: contact him on 082 257 2635. (I think that, at the price, it's a steal!)

3: Rendezvous

Limnos Bakery in Bellville has a long association with our Club: it was here that the first seeds that were to grow into today's thriving Club were sown by Steve Ashton and Michelle Sephton way back when. We have used it as a mustering point, before setting off for "where ever", continuously since those early, halcyon days but it's now becoming too crowded for us to use it as such any more. The facts simply are that our Membership has grown by leaps and bounds; this, coupled with the Church that is now renting space in the building, make it "standing room only" – and that includes parking for our (and their) cars as well.

We therefor need a new place to rendezvous before a Club Run and suggestions from Members will be welcome. I also think that, if it's agreeable to the Members from the South and the Helderberg, Constantia Village and Steynsrust Bridge be kept as meeting points for them: depending on where our sojourn takes us on any particular day, the rest can meet up at any of these places.

4: Mutters

We are all excitedly awaiting news of the new MX-5. The "unveiling" is/was scheduled for 5th to 7th September: I included the "was" because some reports suggest that this will now take place in October. There are also a gazillion rumours regarding the car: will it have an Alfa Romeo chassis and Mazda engines? Will it be the other way round? Will it have normally aspirated engines (*please!!*) or turbocharged lawn mower engines? Whatever the case, we are all agog and Mazda is *milking the situation to the full*.

As they should – I have no problem with that. *En ek is net so nuuskierig soos die res van die wêreld om die nuwe MX-5 te sien.*

My mutters concern Mazda South Africa: like Mazda in the rest of the world, they recently "got divorced" from Ford and it was an amicable separation. All Mazda owners and supporters are anxious for news re the "new" Mazda S.A. – but there is just nothing forthcoming from anywhere. David Hughes is Mazda S.A.'s new boss: he is conspicuous by his absence from all forums. Mazda S.A.'s contact details and website are still those of Ford S.A. – and if you contact them, you are requested to use different contact details. I've actually had the honour of once speaking to a Ms Nosipho Manitshana, Public Relations Specialist (that's her official title!) at Mazda SA but that's where it ended. Many e-mails sent to them, like many messages left on her answering machine, were not even accorded the courtesy of an acknowledgement of receipt, leave alone a reply.

4.

I think Mazda SA is making a huge mistake in treating their supporters like mushrooms: the discontent at this is growing and is palpable. This is also causing massive uncertainty among Mazda supporters and other car makers are *milking the situation to the full!*

As they will!

Hellooooo Mazda South Africa – anybody home? We have a message for a certain Mr David Hughes – does he still work here?

Does *anybody* still work here?

5: Annual General Meeting

Yes – it's getting to that time again! We will have the AGM in December again but, by popular request, it will *not* be at the Hotel School this year. A pity perhaps, but standards have dropped and our Members have noticed. What we need from Members **A.S.A.P.:**

- Suggestions for a suitable venue. (Please keep costs in mind!)
- Your preferred date in December for the AGM. (This must be *your* preferred date: like last year, we'll use the date that will accommodate the most Members)

6: Website

Thanks for the many compliments on the new site! Although I love the accolades, I have to admit that it's not a case of *me fecit*: our "webmaster" is a young entrepreneur called Jonathan Dekel. He has taken over the hosting, etc., from our previous service provider and has spent many patient hours with me in setting up this new site. Thanks also for all your ideas and suggestions: all of these have been forwarded to Jonathan and most will at some stage somehow find their way onto the site.

If you are contemplating something like this for your own business (Jonathan will do something similar for my business soon) you can certainly contact him directly at jonathandekel2@gmail.com or 074 819 6119.

And please visit the site at www.mx5wc.co.za: ideas/suggestions/contributions are always welcome! Especially contributions – I'd love to see this site being "alive" and becoming a forum for the Members. Also: remember that there is a button that will take you directly to our Face Book page.

7: Next month

No, I have no idea! But watch the website!

Regards to all

Bernie Koch | Chairman
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PS: Photos © Warren Garner – thanks Warren!