



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016.

I see the role of a Club's Secretary mainly in three parts: supporting the Chair and other Committee Members, keeping of minutes of meetings and general correspondence. In this report I will mainly deal with two aspects: Committee Meetings and Correspondence received.

Committee Meetings: Several were held during the year and all were attended by the Committee Members. Meetings hardly ever lasted more than an hour or so and points of discussion were naturally that which were of interest to the Club and the Members in whatever way. Future meets, finances, and in general the overall betterment of the Club were at the top of the lists.

Our Committee Meets were happily also held in a relaxed, less formal atmosphere. Being situated "in the middle" between the Chairman's home and the Treasurer's, Brian and the late Avril Roy played host to us almost all the time – our thanks and appreciation to them!

Some of the work done and decisions taken during ComMeets:

- We are willing to accommodate and meet with other motoring Clubs. An example is the successful outing that we had with members of the Lotus 7 group.
- Membership cards to be introduced. This will necessarily entail extra expenses and involve extra admin but was considered a solid suggestion and the Club is working on ways of implementing it.
- The Club's mailing lists are continuously monitored and updated.
- Change of our Member App to allow new Members to indicate whether they gave permission for their contact details to be shared with others. (Current Members were also given the chance to do indicate their preference re this in a poll)
- Allocation of Club funds, or: how we spend it! Needless to say all funds are used for the benefit of the Club and it's Members exclusively, with no stipends paid to office bearers.

As to correspondence: Most correspondence emanate from our Website. Of the approximately 500 e-mails received in the year under review (all of which were answered, printed and filed save and except obvious scamming and phishing exercises) the main topics were:

- Where can I have my MX-5 serviced and repaired? The Committee decided that these queries will only be answered when asked by Members: non-members are tactfully advised that this is a service reserved for Members only and are also sent a Member App, just in case. And we gained quite a few very good Members this way!
- Technical queries: "What are the best tyre pressures for my MX-5?"; "What spark plugs must I use?"; "What is the best turbo to use on my 1990 model with 224,000 kilos on the odo?"; where can I find a spare tyre for my MK 3?" are only some examples. When such queries come from Club Members, Bernie tries his best to research and answer them but obviously we cannot accommodate non-members in the same way.

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- Asking about MX-5's to buy or telling us about MX-5's for sale. In these cases, we can accommodate such requests thru' an ad placed on our website: this ad is free to Members but non-members are asked to pay a nominal fee of R100-00 to cover costs. I believe that some funds were earned for the Club in this way – but perhaps Gerald will report more about this in his Treasurer's Report. By-the-way – these ads on our website seem to be extremely effective! For instance: an emigrating non-member's MK 3 was sold and paid within three days of the ad being placed.
- Asking about other MX-5 Clubs in South Africa. A complaint so often raised is the following: "I sent an e-mail/s to the XYZ Mazda MX-5 Club but have to this day received no feedback".
- Complaints about a specific Mazda Dealer or even about Mazda SA. And the complaints vary: from seemingly legitimate complaints about servicing and repairs to complaints about being offered too little for their trade-in vehicles! We just try to reply to all of these as tactfully as possible whilst trying not to get involved. Unless it's a Member, of course, in which case we'll certainly take up cudgels on behalf of the Member should the situation warrant it.
- And of course, the inevitable scams and phishing exercises. These are blocked and then deleted: I would however typically keep a copy of the mail for future reference.
- This is currently only a trickle but I predict that it will grow in the future: enquiries – or, to be more specific, invitations – from venues who would like a visit from us. This is great as it proves that our reputation as a Club is highly regarded and that venues consider it a feather in their cap (*and money in the bank!*) if they are able to host us.
- Last but not the most important: new membership applications received out of the blue from our website and FaceBook pages. What a great feeling – the admin that accompanies such an application soon fades into insignificance when one realises that the Club is growing and that there's another good friend that one is about to meet!

Even though the job can be demanding at times, I thoroughly enjoyed it and thank the Members of the Club for the trust placed in me by electing me to this post. I will unfortunately not be available for re-election for 2017 and wish my successor well – you will be working for a great bunch of people!

Best regards to all

JOANITA KOCH
SECRETARY

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