



Incorporating the  
MG Sports Car Register

# The BREED

MG Car Club, Cape Town Centre, Suite 276, Private Bag x16 Constantia 7848

[www.mgcc-ct.co.za](http://www.mgcc-ct.co.za)



Affiliated to the  
MG Car Club - England

Issue 2020/11

NOVEMBER 2020



## CONTACT DETAILS

### CLUB OFFICIALS      2020-2021

President                      Joan Parker  
021 671 8379 / 082 214 7561  
joanparker@gmail.com

Trustees                      Stuart Leach  
021 785 3189 / 082 491 0687  
autolea@netactive.co.za

Gareth McConkey  
021 712 4260 / 079 494 2997  
gareth@jantech.co.za

### Committee

Chairman                      Mike Johnson  
021 554 1097 / 082 733 7258  
franjohnson35@hotmail.com

Honorary Secretary        Philip Roux  
021 683 6979 / 083 448 7352  
philipjroux@gmail.com

Honorary Treasurer        Brian Aslett  
021 671 9250 / 083 267 3742  
brazzle@iafrica.com

Social & Events Secretary   Geoff Ballantyne  
021 531 4849 / 078 405 0889  
geofferyballantyne@gmail.com

Editor & Publications        Fran Johnson  
021 554 1097 / 082 733 7258  
franjohnson35@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary      Shirley Roux  
021 683 6979 / 083 360 7300  
shirleyroux@gmail.com

Registers                      Neville Wyness  
021 782 9651 / 083 307 9936  
nwyness@mweb.co.za

### Ex-Officio:

Regalia                      Colin Cromhout  
021 715 5497 / 082 576 6392  
colincromhout@gmail.com

Club Historian                Vacant

Crankhandle Club Liaison   Mike Johnson (temporary)  
021 554 1097 / 082 733 7258  
franjohnson35@hotmail.com

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Well.....after only receiving one 'backlash' from a modern TF owner regarding my preference for T-types, my faith in these beautiful models has been confirmed.

This month the MGA and MGB feature with prominent people on *pg. 6*.

One has to wonder what the late Don Hayter, 'Mr. MGB' would have thought of the new electric MGB on *pg.7*. What do other 'B' owners think of it? Rather stick to the real McCoy ~ especially, if here in South Africa you have Eskom to contend with!

Another interesting story about a very enthusiastic lady who restores classic cars in the Eastern Cape ~ *pgs 8/9*. One cannot but admire the tenacity as well as the confidence this amazing lady displays.

Please send in your articles and photos for the December newsletter by 23rd November.

Take care out there everyone and please try not to let complacency overrule your good reasoning.

*"Life does not get better by chance  
it gets better by change"* - Jim Rohin

### **Fran**

---

#### Front page photos:

Top:      1970 MGB Philip Roux (photographer - Tony Bruton)

Bottom: 1959 MGA Stuart Leach (Frenske Otzen photography)

#### Our bank details:

<b>Bank:</b>	Standard Bank
<b>Account:</b>	MG Car Club – Cape Town Centre
<b>Branch code:</b>	036 309
<b>Internet Branch code:</b>	051001
<b>Account number:</b>	271157925

#### Disclaimer:

Views, comments, opinions, advice or suggestions in this newsletter are those of the contributors and advertisers and are not necessarily those of the club or its committee. Availability and condition of items advertised for sale are not guaranteed by the club or the committee. Whilst every care is taken in compiling the contents of the newsletter the club, committee and officials assume no responsibility for any effects arising therefrom.

## FROM THE CHAIR

During this past month we heard the sad news of the passing of Paul de Groot who had been a club member since 2004. Although not frequently seen at events because of his numerous charity related activities he was, nevertheless an enthusiastic Classic Car personality. A gentleman with a pleasant disposition and sparkle in his eyes, driving his red TD with a gorilla mascot in the passenger seat, always raised a laugh. Typical of Paul, the mascot was named 'GuMabe' an appropriate anagram incorporating the MG logo. Our thoughts are with his wife Pat and family.

The last MGB rolled off the assembly line 40 years ago in 1980. One of the main designers of this classic, Don Hayter passed away on 9th October at the age of 94. Don was the Chief Engineer of MG Abingdon until it closed in 1980 and played a major role in the development and production of the MGB, a highly influential and innovative roadster that went on to become the best-selling MG sports car of all time. Don was well-known to many MG members in South Africa and attended a number of MG Indabas.

Strange how one comes to dislike certain descriptive words ~ in my case, 'petrolhead' especially in reference to the likes of ourselves. We are, in my opinion, Classic Car enthusiasts who maintain our cars and drive them sedately. The word 'petrolhead' applies more to the owners of garishly painted, noisy exhausts, low profile tyres, dropped suspension, seats on the floor and all the other trimmings as seen on the road today ~ or drag racing on public streets. In line with such nomenclature, one wonders if enthusiasts of diesel engine cars can be classed as 'diesel domes'? Going back in time, were steam powered car owners called 'vapour heads'? Now, with the advent of electric cars will an owner of these cars be called a 'watt-brain'? The mind boggles!

**Committee news:** This month, the first 'round table' meeting was held since lockdown began. Numerous issues were discussed, mainly:

1. The need for a continued, cautious approach regarding intended future Club activities.
2. Considering the lack of Club events this year it was agreed to waive 2021 subscriptions for existing Club members. (see pg.4)
3. As of 1st January, 2021 we will no longer offer a printed version of *The Breed*. (see pg.4)
4. With the 2021 AGM a few months away there is a need to encourage members to consider volunteering for committee positions. Four of the current Committee members have served on this committee continuously for 5 - 9 years.

Don't hide away, the press gang know where you live!

**Mike**



Importers of Classic and Modern Car Parts

	<b>Peter Flowers</b>	
	Cell: 078 639 0151	
	Email: info@cbparts.co.za www.classically-british.com	

## SOCIAL NEWS

### **Condolences**

Sadly club member, Paul de Groot passed away on Wednesday, 14th October. The MG Car Club committee and members wish to convey their deepest sympathy to his wife, Pat and family. Our thoughts are with them all at this very sad time.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **New member**

#1377 Matthew Calvocoressi - Rondebosch (1957 MGA & 1969 MGB) 082 902 4583  
email: matthewjcalvo@gmail.com

### **2021 MEMBERSHIP FEES**

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lack of Club activity for most of this year, the committee have decided to waive membership fees for 2021. Your membership will therefore, continue for next year at no cost to you. We will send out a request at the end of November, asking you to update your details so we can keep in touch with you and update our annual membership book next year. Please complete the form if your details have changed in any way. Please note: new members joining the Club will be subject to the normal entrance and subscription fees for 2021. The applicable fees are published on our website.

### **'THE BREED' (Printed version)**

As of 1st January, 2021 we will no longer offer a printed version of *The Breed*. There are only 3 members who request this service and in light of the poor postal delivery service, printing and posting is not deemed worthwhile.

### **OUT & ABOUT**

#### **November**

**Sunday** (date to be advised)  
MG Club run

#### **December**

**Sunday - 6th**  
MG Show day picnic at Dave & Janet Lyons in Hout Bay.

**The British Sports Car Tour - postponed until April 2021**

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

8 - Mervyn Corbishley	9 - Harold Chapman
11 - Craig Browne	19 - Stuart Leach
23 - Chris Champion	24 - Geoff Ballantyne
25 - Peter van Breda	
26 - Moria Peche, Peter van der Spuy, Markus van den Oever	
27 - Andre Nel	28 - Bronwyn Bruton
29 - Laurette Ford, Marius Herholdt	



**STAAK**  
RISK SOLUTIONS

CLASSIC CAR INSURANCE  
COLLECTABLE CAR INSURANCE  
HIGH VALUE VEHICLE INSURANCE

021 795 0301 or 083 677 8832  
barry@staak.co.za | www.staak.co.za

AUTHORISED FINANCIAL SERVICES PROVIDER FSP 44869

## In memory of Paul 'MR. HOOPLA' de Groot

The start of the Cape Town Cycle Tour will never be the same again as the famous words “**everybody say hoopla**” won't be heard from the mouth of 'Mr Hoopla' himself.

Long-time race announcer of the Cape Town Cycle Tour, Paul de Groot, 78, affectionately known as 'Mr Hoopla', died in his sleep in the early hours of Wednesday morning, 14th Oct. Each year the Cape Town Cycle Tour began with his famous 'Hoopla' shout out.



Paul, who is survived by his widow, Pat and two children, was also involved with charity work including the Rotary Club.

Paul and Pat would have celebrated their 50th anniversary next year.

Pat said Paul's mind was always racing. He had always got some trick up his sleeve and was a great handyman. “Something that will always stand out for me was the absolute need for him to be involved in charity work and the Cape Town Cycle Tour. It was a privilege to go through life with him,” she said.

Sponsors of the race, supermarket giant Pick 'n Pay, said: “Paul de Groot was a hero, a huge contributor to the community through Rotary International and an institution when it came to starting the race with style. He will be missed by all and everyone he touched through his commitment to the Cycle Tour.”

Chairman of the Pedal Power Association, Steve Hayward, said:  
“Paul was not only a founder member of the Cape Town Cycle Tour Trust, but the voice which encouraged thousands of nervous cyclists each year to start the Cape Town Cycle Tour. Never will the start of a Cape Town Cycle Tour be the same again. We will always miss hearing your fantastic voice as MC, Paul.”

Director of the Cape Town Cycle Tour Trust, David Bellairs described Paul as a mentor. “It is so incredibly difficult to sum up all of the amazing work that Paul undertook in his lifetime. He is without question one of the kindest and most humble people I have ever had the privilege of having met in my life. His legacy will live on in all the amazing work he was involved in and through the thousands of people he touched with his work,” said David, who will miss Paul's iconic cry of “**everybody say hoopla**” at the start of the Cape Town Cycle Tour. Paul lived life epitomising the Rotary motto ‘Service Above Self’. He dedicated most of his life in the service of those less fortunate than himself through his dedicated service with Rotary. Having worked together over 30 years we formed a good friendship,” David added.

**Editor's Note:** This fitting tribute to Paul was in the *Weekend Argus* and I thought it pertinent to publish in *The Breed*. Some MG members may not know of Paul's dedication to the Rotary Club and many other charities, as well as his positive influence on so many people.

Rest peacefully Paul, you will be sorely missed.



## The MGA & MGB and Prominent People



*Petula Clark*



*Joanne Lumley*



*Elvis Presley*



*George Best*



*Tommy Steele*



*Prince Charles*



*Sting*



*Sally Field*

## THE MGB ROADSTER - IN ELECTRIC FORM

It is not only new cars that are rapidly moving over to electric propulsion, there is also a growing movement towards remanufactured classic cars with battery power.

We have already seen Prince Harry's electric Jaguar E-Type wedding car and now another British classic is getting the EV treatment - this comes in the form of a car inspired by the 1960s MGB Roadster.

Known as the RBW EV Roadster, the limited-edition automobile is being made by UK-based RBW EV Classic Cars. It was designed in collaboration with Continental Engineering Services and Zytec Automotive, both of which are part of the Formula E-associated Continental AG group.



The car's 6 Hyperdrive Lithium-ion batteries allow for a claimed range of 260km, increasing to 320km if the customer opts for 8 batteries. As for performance, RBW claims that the 70kW electric motor allows a 0-96km/h sprint time of 9.6 seconds.

"Our patented system (Patent p: 1906698.4) places the electric motor at the rear of the car and Hyperdrive Innovation's lithium-ion battery technology under the bonnet, which gives perfectly balanced weight distribution," RBW managing director Peter Swain enthused. "Not only does this give the driver much better handling of the car, retaining that sports car feel, but it also affords maximum battery volume to be housed."

Swain added that the company's system and architecture can be installed into other body shells as well, such as Austin Healey models, Jaguar's E-Type, the original Mini and many more. Each car can be built to the clients' personal specification and requirements.

The RBW roadster also features bespoke front and rear suspension, all independent utilising coil-over damper technology around the vehicle and OEM developed brakes discs and callipers. It also has the latest generation of hub design and wheel bearing technology installed to ensure maintenance free usage. Inside, drivers can expect to find hand-stitched leather upholstery, electric windows, a Pioneer satellite navigation system, a motorized 7-inch multi-touchscreen control center, along with multiple inputs for mobile device connectivity.

If you prefer the tin-top version of the MGB you will have to wait until 2021 when the company plans to launch a fixed-head GT version. RBW plans to start production in early 2021, with prices starting at £90 000 excluding taxes, which equates to about R1.93 million at today's exchange rate.

**CAPITAL AUTO TRIMMERS  
& UPHOLSTERY**

**Auto Trimmers - Lounge Suites - Chairs**

Specializing In: Seats, Hoodlining, Hard tops, Door Pads, Carpets, Re-dying Leather Seats, Cabriolet Tops, Locks, Window Winders, Chairs and Lounge Suites

**Contact: Ashveer - 071 680 3390 | 072 421 9701**

Address: 14 Lily Road  
Retreat  
Section 3  
Unit 10

**Complete Car Interior Customising**

A blue Volkswagen Beetle is shown in the bottom left corner of the advertisement. The car is a modern version of the classic Beetle, with a white roof rack and black wheels. It is positioned diagonally, facing towards the right.

## TURNING RUST BUCKETS INTO CLASSIC CARS

A business owner and job creator from the rural Eastern Cape refused to be left in the dust and with just R2 000 in her pocket, has built her business into a global force to be reckoned with.

Inspired by a TV show on restoring vintage cars Nosipho Kholutsoane saw a road out of poverty and an opportunity to develop industry and skills in the remote rural town of Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape.

With the R2 000 that was in her pocket, Nosipho bought a rusted 1947 Pontiac. Most people would have thought, the Pontiac would be quite at home rusting away in a junkyard, but Nosipho knew she could breathe life into it and launch her career as a successful entrepreneur. The Pontiac restoration took four years because at the time their village did not have electricity. Subsequent restorations take about six months, she says. Before she had electricity, she used a petrol-powered generator to operate her power tools, i.e. grinder and welding machine, in her yard which doubles as her workshop.



1947 Pontiac - during restoration



1947 Pontiac - restoration completed

Now 6 years later, Nosipho's business, Lereku Trading Classic Cars, owns nearly 30 classic cars and employs a team of four people – a panel beater, a painter, an electrician and a cleaner. The business makes money by restoring old cars which they strip down, remove rust, repaint bodywork, replace or repair missing or damaged parts and engines. Her mechanic husband, Moeketsi, taught her about restoration and works with the team.

In the early years, the business earned just R50 000 but it has since increased. Her passion for the business and job creation kept her going. "We live in a country where there is a great deal of youth unemployment and I want to share these skills with the business".

The mostly rural Joe Gqabi district includes Aliwal North, Barkly East, Burgersdorp, Maclear, Steynsburg and Ugie.

Previously involved in the construction industry, Mrs Kholutsoane now combs the dirt roads and farms of the area in search of disused classic cars dating from the 1930s to the 1970s, buying and restoring them to their former glory and marketing them around the globe via social media.

Nosphio has taken on commissions from all over South Africa from owners of old cars in need of restoration, she also hires out her restored vehicles for special events and photo shoots, as well as participating in classic car shows all over the country to promote her business.

"My team and I have a passion and a love for these classic old cars. Reconstructing them and restoring them to an excellent standard and value for money, brings joy to us and our customers who get to drive a unique vehicle and feel like a king or a queen," Mrs Kholutsoane said.

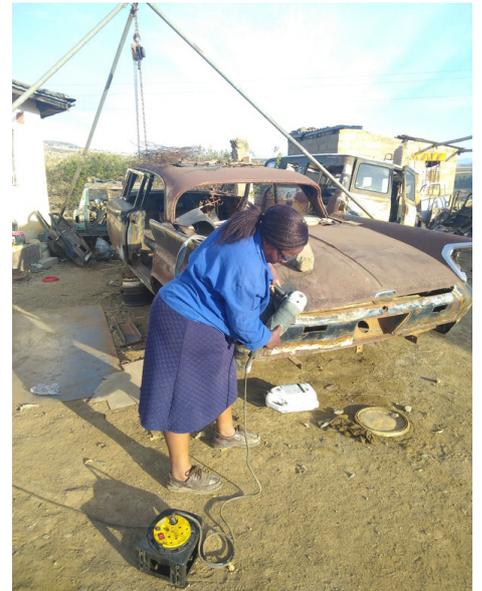
Mount Fletcher, with a population of about 11 000, is deep in the rural Eastern Cape ~ 40km west of the Lesotho border and the nearest urban centre, Mthatha, is 170km away, making it an unlikely spot for a vintage car restoration business.

But the location has a strategic advantage, says Mrs Kholutsoane, in that Mount Fletcher is on the R56, the shortest route between KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, gaining international customers for her business as tourists travelling from Durban to Cape Town stop to take a look at the remarkable sight of classic cars being worked on “in the middle of nowhere”.

The lockdown brought challenges and opportunities. Her business could not operate under the high levels of the lockdown, however she used the time to attend business lessons from the Small Business Academy programme, presented by the University of Stellenbosch Business School.

Nosipho was one of 19 small-business owners sponsored by the Joe Gqabi Economic Development Agency to take part in the programme, to empower entrepreneurs to grow their businesses in the province. “They took me to another level and I am very happy. They have taught me how to market my business and manage my finances. I did not understand profit and loss before, but now I can track whether business is growing or going down – and the best part is that I can see that the business is currently growing” said Nosipho.

The Small Business Academy programme has also helped her to map and plan for future needs, such as a proper workshop under cover and a much-needed chroming machine for restoring bumpers and metalwork. It’s been a long road to success for Nosipho, after launching her business in 2014. However, she is proud that she was able to hire a team and seeing the cars restored to their original forms makes her happy.



Nosipho working on a 1960 De Soto

\*\*\*\*\*



Norman & Pat Ewing beneath the Jacaranda Trees



A young Henry Watermeyer in Germiston in the 70s

## FOR SALE

**2003 - MG TF 135** (green) 75 000 miles / 120 000 km  
Price: R49 000

I have owned the car for 2.5 years and it has received:  
new piston heads, cylinders re-bored and re-lined,  
new head gasket, new radiator, new water pump,  
steel water pipes replaced by aluminium,  
new engine mountings, new clutch, new rear tyres,  
some suspension components replaced,  
brand new battery (installed this month).

**Contact:** Angus Thring (*non-member*) 071 713 4449



**2003 MG TF160** Only 87 500 Km - excellent condition

Price: R85 000

Engine: 4 cylinder 1800cc VVC Gearbox: 5 speed manual

Colour: British racing green with black leather interior

Tyres: All brand new – correct size

Full service history complete with all paperwork, handbook  
and workshop manual

**Contact:** Steven Brown (*non-member*) 083 260 0229

email: [stevenbrown@woolworths.co.za](mailto:stevenbrown@woolworths.co.za)

**1973 MGB GT-** dark blue. New engine, electronic ignition  
and new battery. Won first prize as Best car on Show at  
Prince Alfred Hamlet Motor Show. Immaculate showroom  
condition, owned for the past 11 years. I am reducing my  
classic car collection and advertised 6 months ago for  
R130 000 - but no takers. Make me an offer I cannot refuse.

**Contact:** Ronnie Grace in Langebaan (*member*)

072 229 8859 email: [rongrace@mweb.co.za](mailto:rongrace@mweb.co.za)



**1950 MG TD** in good condition.

Price: R340 000

**Contact:** Dave Hendry in Langebaan (*member*)

082 8207540



**FOR SALE**

1981 MGB gearbox with overdrive in good working order. Price: R6,500

**Contact:** Roger Wood (*non-member*) 072 456 3893 or 021 7122156

The MG Workshop Manual (complete Tuning and Maintenance for all models from M-Type to TF1500) R150.00

MG Series TD Workshop Manual with special tuning for XPAG Engine R50.00

MGB Special Tuning Manual R50.00

**Contact:** Martin Davies (*member*) 083 269 5483

\* \* \* \* \*

**WANTED**

An A-series engine, 1275cc - engine number starting with 12CE\*\*\*\*\* plus a gearbox if possible, to fit a MG Midget.

If not, a 1098cc - engine number starting with 10CG\*\*\*\*\* also plus gearbox if possible.

**Contact:** Peter Morse (*MG Club South Cape member*) 074 474 8368

email: petermorse101@hotmail.co.uk

\* \* \* \* \*

These advertisements are placed for the benefit of MG Club members.

The MG Club has no involvement in these advertisements and does not warranty

the accuracy or content of the items listed.



**Classic Wheel & Tyre Specialists**

**SPEEDY TYRE & FITMENT**

- Specialist equipment for balancing wire wheels
- Alignment database for classic cars
- Classic car compatible tyre sizes
- Import service for vintage and classic tyres

A MEMBER OF THE **VALUE TYRE & FITMENT GROUP**

88 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8000 • 021 424 5370 • infoct@valuetyre.co.za