



TRIUMPH SPORTS CAR CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA  
JOHANNESBURG CENTRE  
**NEWSLETTER**



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**From the picture archive  
Steam trip to Cullinan November 2009**

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**Please note that all contributions to the newsletter should be directed to John Dobbins, e-mail [dobbins@iafrica.com](mailto:dobbins@iafrica.com) by 25<sup>th</sup> of each month**

## Editorial

My thanks to Cliff Turnbull for his great article on the Triumph International weekend in the UK and to John Craig for his article on the Natal South Coast car show - we could not print the pictures of the strip show as it might be bad for members health!

Pretoria Cars in the Park was as good as ever and the traffic a little better especially as the road works on the road to Pretoria West are complete. Johannesburg was reasonably well represented and including the Pretoria cars there were about 22 Triumphs exhibited including a Herald, a number of Spitfires, a GT6, numerous TR7s, a TR4, 2 TR6s, 3 side screen TRs, a Chicane and 2000MK1 and a Capri and an MG F, so there was a good assortment of members' cars!

I presume those of you who are registered voters did your bit and that your party of choice achieved what you hoped and that they will fix our roads etc. and get rid of e-tolls!

Spring will be here soon so maybe we will see a better turnout at events as the cars should start a bit easier in the morning.

Guys and Dolls, it will be really great if you can send us a paragraph or two on what you have been doing with or on your classic cars recently.

Safe motoring,  
John Dobbins

## Chairman's Chat

The Zwartkops Cars in the Park, held on Sunday 31st July, continues to draw the crowds. Good weather also contributed to a successful show.

A total of 21 Triumphs were on display on our stand. Thank you to those Johannesburg members who made the effort to make the journey to Pretoria.

This month is the annual inter-branch quiz with Pretoria, on Wednesday 17th August. We hope to field 2 teams in an effort to wrestle back the trophy from Pretoria.

Enjoy the read.

Norman

## Events Calendar for 2016

### August

Tuesday 16th	Noggin
Wednesday 17th	Quiz in Pretoria
Sunday 21st	Bring & Braai & boot sale. MG Clubhouse Pretoria 0900
Sunday 28th	Run
Wed 31st- Sept 4th	S A Festival of Motoring

### September

Sunday 18th	Swop Meeting, Piston Ring
Tuesday 20th	Noggin
Sunday 25th	Run

### October

Tuesday 18th	AGM
Sunday 23rd	Run

### November

Tuesday 15th	Noggin
Sunday 27th	Run

### December

Christmas	Lunch
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## Greetings from Surrey, England

*Cliff & Coral Turnbull*

Time really flies and I have been meaning to send a contribution to your newsletter for some time now. Firstly, although it was a while ago now, I would like to say that Coral and I were humbled and blown away by the number of people from the club that made the get together at Gary and Joan's home in March. I have to say that we truly appreciated seeing you all.

As I may have mentioned we did have quite a challenge getting our car registered by the DVLA (the motor registering authority) here in England. Our problem arose from the fact that the car had never been registered in the United Kingdom or the EU before so they did not have a "date of first registration" recorded anywhere. I had tried to get a Heritage certificate from the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust, but they were unable to give me one as the car had been sent out to Africa in knock down format. Instead they provide me with a dating letter, which advises when the car was built, when it left the Canley factory and it provides the chassis number. Now, I would have thought that such evidence would be all they required. Indeed, in the past such information was acceptable evidence! Apparently the authorities have for some reason or other, become quite sticky, particularly when the vehicle is older than 1960, as at this point one does not have to have the pain of the annual MOT inspection. In addition no road taxes are payable so I just had to persevere.

I had all the big guns in the Triumph movement here battling for me and as a result I have got to know quite a few people which is the positive side of the story. In addition, I was now awarded a "period" number 278 UYH which I believe will be positive for the future. I was so desperate to drive the car again that I just bought a set of plates and "plunked" them on even though they did not look that nice but I was at least able to drive around. My classic brushed steel on black background plates are were fitted when they arrived some time later.

Bill Piggott, Mike Ellis, who is the National Registrar of TR2 and 3's, and Jeff Roberts the Leader of the Windsor Forest group of the TR Register were most helpful in getting the matter sorted for us. They had correspondence with high ranking officials in the DVLA, and finally my case was accepted. Mike Ellis came out to see the car and checked the commission number plate and we got to know him quite well, along with his lovely wife Marilyn. It is an added bonus that he lives close by in Rowledge which is the village next to Lower Bourne where we stay in the Farnham area.

The Triumph group that we joined are a really great bunch of people. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Pine Ridge Golf Club in Camberley which is approximately 25 km from us. We have been on many outings since joining and seen wonderful parts of the country. There is so much on that one has to be a bit selective otherwise we would be involved every weekend! Definitely not a case of every fourth Sunday of the month!

Through the club we have been able to get into "closed" events such as the family day at RAF Benson base, where we were treated to a stunning programme of aerobatics including that provided by the famous Red Arrows. A fantastic day in glorious English sunshine made for a memorable outing.



How many Triumph members does it take to put up a gazebo?



Notice my TR 14 "plastic" amongst the Triumphs!

Another interesting point was that I really battled to find an insurance company that would provide cover for me when I arrived. The problem I had was because I had not been registered at an address in the UK for more than 2 years. In fact the insurance through the TR Register would not give me cover until I have been resident for 3 years! I eventually had no choice but to take out cover through one company at a considerable premium – 302 GBP or R5738.00 at the rate of R19 to the pound as it was then! Normally the premium is about half that amount. For this one is also limited to traveling less than 3000 miles in a year. So far this limit has not proved to be a problem but with us venturing further afield we will have to watch the limit.

As you know, lifelong friendships are made by belonging to a Triumph club. We were lucky enough to meet up with Jean and Margarita who took the trouble to contact us when they were in London, and we spent a splendid day showing them around where we live and play. On this occasion a plan was born to meet together in Europe, and this we did in late June, 2014 when we toured through Belgium, Luxembourg, Normandy and Brittany. I have to say they pulled out all the stops and treated us to an unforgettable trip through Jean's old stamping grounds, but alas we were only able to sample about 40 different beers out of the 350 odd that were on offer. The best by far was a pint of Steenesle (stone donkey is the translation) beer which boasted a 12% alcohol content! Steve Gilroy take note!



By the way we came across an interesting fellow in Vianden, Luxembourg. We were sitting on the banks of the river when this MG came thundering by. We followed it and stopped off to take a picture. The guy then took the four of us to his house and he had a few others to show us as well. Petrol heads abroad!





Since then we have had visits from Mike Gilchrist, and Nick and Rita from the Pretoria club which have also been a pleasure.

We have made contact with Rhys Collins and we are about to meet up at a pub about 30 minutes' drive away for a meal and some frosties and catch up. I gather Rhys has recently purchased a home in a village called Nash, which is near Milton Keynes about an hour and a half away so we decided that before he goes too far, we will both go in our Triumphs for a drive into the country to a place about half way from each of us.

Coral and I have just come back from our second IWE (International Weekend) which this time was held in Lincoln some 200 miles away. It was a great get together but unfortunately clashed with a trip to France that Jean had organised. We had to book for this at the end of last year and thus when Jean gave us the dates we had to decline his invitation. Jean, don't forget us buddy. We are not avoiding you!

It is quite mind blowing seeing the number of cars at the IWE. I do not know what the official figure is, but the various guestimates suggest between 500 and 700 Triumphs that were present.



You can have any side screen colour you wish as long as it's red. Mine on the right

Another difference to our Nationals is the number of people who camp out at the site. I must say that the bed and breakfast place we chose in the middle of Lincoln was superb and highly recommended. This year Club Triumph were included and on Sunday it was Standard Triumph Marque day which brought along many interesting old timers.



1934 Gloria



Avon

I could ramble on for some time but do not want to bore you to tears. If this article is accepted, and you want me to contribute again, I will be happy to do so, as long as it does not keep me away from being out in my car or disturbing my "pension time" if I ever find out what that is.

Best wishes to you all.

Cliff and Coral Turnbull

*(Great stuff, Cliff. Keep 'em coming – Ed.)*

## Scott classic car show

*John Craig*

Attached some pictures taken at the show. I took the back of some cars to show off the fins of the American cars of the sixties. The clubs all had reasonable turnouts and there were eighteen Triumphs on show.

What was different from other car shows was that they had a parade of the host marc cars (Mercedes Benz) and a period fashion show. A strip show with models in period dress to show off the period underwear.

There are two charities benefiting from the proceeds;

Action for the Blind and Disabled and

Angels Care KZN,

So, a most worthwhile event.



## Tail End Giggle

### Actual Employee Evaluations

The following were taken from employee evaluations:

- \* Since my last report, this employee has reached rock bottom and shows signs of starting to dig.
- \* His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity.
- \* I would not allow this man to breed.
- \* This associate is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.
- \* Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
- \* When he opens his mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
- \* He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
- \* This man has delusions of adequacy.
- \* He sets low personal standards and consistently fails to achieve them.
- \* This employee should go far -- the sooner he starts, the better.
- \* This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
- \* Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't looking.
- \* Got a full six-pack, but is missing the plastic thingy that holds it together.
- \* A gross ignoramus -- 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.
- \* A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on.
- \* Bright as Alaska in December.
- \* Donated his brain to science before he was quite finished using it.
- \* Fell out of his family tree.
- \* The gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
- \* This man has two brains; one is lost and the other is out looking for it.
- \* If brains were taxed, he would get a rebate.
- \* Any dumber and he would have to be watered twice a week.
- \* If you gave him a penny for his thoughts, you would get change back.
- \* If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean.
- \* It's hard to believe that he beat out 1,000,000 other sperm.
- \* Some drink from the fountain of knowledge, he gargled.