



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



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From the picture archive  
**SA Festival of Motoring 2016**

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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 Steve Cathy and Rhys Collins for their contributions to this newsletter as it makes for interesting reading.

It is hard to believe it is Spring already so open top motoring will be the order of the day.

The Triumph Club was well represented at the South African Festive of Motoring with a good representation of Club cars and thanks to Alan Grant, Eddie Steele and Jean Coppens for displaying their cars. The event itself was OK but did not really do the classic cars justice and we could not really man our stand as there was no space. Maybe next year it might be better. I test drove a Mercedes around the track which I must say is much better than the previous version. Whilst I was at the Club stand a lot of interest was shown in the cars so I would say the exposure was worthwhile.

That's all for now.

Safe motoring,

*John Dobbins*



## Chairman's Chat

At last Spring has arrived, with warm days and time to drive our Triumphs.....topless.

The SAFOM (South African Festival of Motoring) was held at Kyalami this past week, with a good display of both new cars and a range of quality Classics. This was the first time the organisers have held such an event around a track, and with a mix of old and new. A lot has been learnt from this event, and it can only improve in the future.

The Triumph stand was a crowd puller, with positive feedback from members of the public.

The Triumphs on display were a good showing of the brand mix and we did our brand proud.

Thank you to both Jo'burg and Pretoria members who made this event a success.

Yours in a Triumph,

*Norman*



## Events Calendar for 2016

### September

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

### October

Tuesday 18th	AGM
Sunday 23rd	Kitty Hawk Aerodrome

### November

Tuesday 15th	Noggin
Sunday 27th	Run

### December

Christmas	Lunch
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# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held at the VVC Clubhouse**

**AT 8.00<sup>pm</sup> Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2016**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome, Apologies and registration.
  2. Approval of previous minutes.
  3. Matters arising from previous minutes.
  4. Secretary/Membership report.
  5. Treasurer's report.
  6. Regalia report.
  7. Chairman's report.
  8. General.
  9. Election of Office Bearers
  10. Meeting Closure
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## **Goodbye & Good luck to TSSC Johannesburg Centre**

(dated November 2015)

It is time to say goodbye!

Some of you are aware that Cathi and I have recently made the decision to return to the UK. Cathi has been in the UK with Adam and Scott since the beginning of September 2015 to make sure that they start the new school year (Adam doesn't have long to go to his GCSEs). I wrapped everything (house, cars, money etc.) up by the end of October and I'm sitting here in Aldershot on my first day at work in the UK on the 9<sup>th</sup> November!

We have taken this decision for a variety of reasons and leaving South Africa was an incredibly tough decision and one that Cathi and I didn't take lightly. We have spent 24 years in total in this lovely country and 14 of them have been with our Triumph Stag. We were married here, our children were born here – we have immensely strong ties to the country even though both of us were born in the UK.

I met Cathi in Johannesburg in 1991 and took her back to the UK in 1994 when my three year contract came to an end. However the lure was strong and I accepted another contract back here in 1997 and we have been here ever since. We were married in 1999 and I officially 'arrived' in 2001 when I became a permanent resident and imported my Stag from storage in the UK which I had acquired in 1995 during that 'break' back in the UK.

We have many, many memories of breakfast runs around the Magaliesberg area or down to the Vaal area and it is amazing that in that whole time we only visited one National Gathering and that was without the Stag in Port Edward in 2003 (I think). Over the years the Stag attended 6 annual concours events and won two Gold, two Silvers medals and one bronze medal. In the days before medals it came first in class for d'Etat as well (That was the concours at the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens way back!)

I also enjoyed my stint as regional secretary between 2006 and 2008. It's always nice to 'give back'.

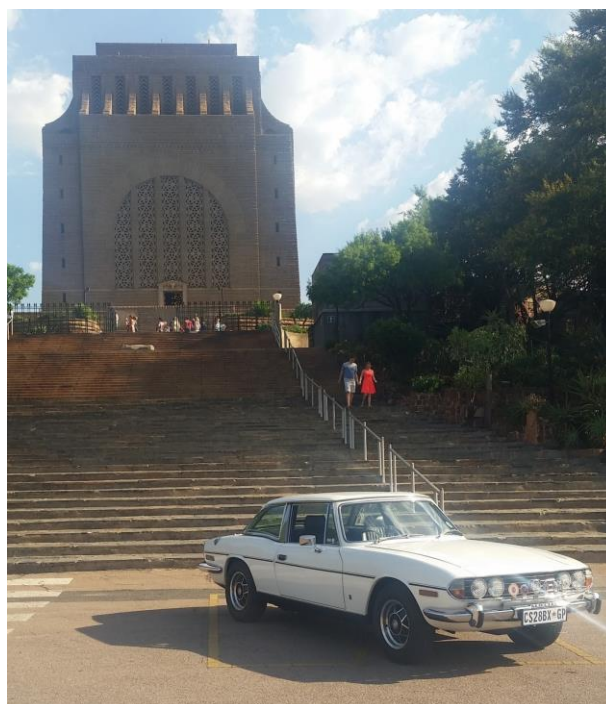
My two boys Adam and Scott have grown up around Triumphs and they will have many happy memories of the various outings – I am grateful for that. In fact Adam, who is now 14, has told me that the Stag is his when I die. That's nice.

Unfortunately in recent years (actually since 2007 when we started a new company via a management buy-out) due to family and work commitments I have just been unable to participate in the Noggins, Breakfast Runs and Nationals and I regret that a lot. The priority unfortunately had to be family and work.

We will miss the many friends we have made – Mike Gilchrist, John Dobbins, John Crowther, Jean Coppens, Eddie Steele, Gino Casieri. Mark Hirst & Keith Kelly to name a few.

I sincerely hope to remain in touch in some way – perhaps the odd article for the newsletter or Sabrina (no promises!). I wish all the very best to TSSC Johannesburg Centre for the future and I am leaving South Africa with many happy memories of enjoying Triumph motoring in the sun.

Thank you all for making my Triumph time in South Africa very memorable. I'll leave you with a photo of the old girl with the hard top on in front of the Voortrekker monument taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2015 – the day before I drove her into a shipping container.



## The story continues . . . .

### Greetings from Berkshire

Inspired by Cliff's article and in response to John's request for us to write a paragraph or two of what we've been doing I thought I'd give you a brief update of where we are right now.

Cathi led the way with Adam and Scott and relocated to Reading, UK in September 2015 in time for both boys to start the new school year. I wrapped things up with my company in Sandton in early November and packed all of our stuff into shipping containers mid-November, then left SA shores before the end of November.

I was fortunate that I was able to agree a 'bridging' contract with my employer which saw me continuing to run the SA operation from Aldershot, UK until the end of February when we parted ways – I started with my new company on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016, so all in all quite fortunate that the transition was quite smooth.

We have rented a house in a village called Burghfield which has quite a nice country setting and lots of nice river walks for our dog. More importantly we have just about finalized the purchase of a house in Buckinghamshire, which is commutable to Uxbridge where I now work. If all goes to plan we'll be settled in our new house by the end of September 2016.

We were really keen to find a rural home so we applied to be 'contestants' on the popular BBC series 'Escape to the Country' and were accepted – we filmed in May in the Buckinghamshire and the programme will be aired within the next six months. The chap in the pink jumper is Alistair Appleton – the shows presenter.

They didn't find us a house, but they found the village that we loved (Nash) and are buying a house in so it was a worthwhile and fun exercise.

Stag-wise we haven't done an awful lot with the notable exception being the London to Brighton Run in June which was very enjoyable. An all-day event starting at Brooklands and ending at Madeira Drive on Brighton sea-front, with a picnic stop at the Rural Life Centre in Farnham – probably a stone's throw from where Cliff and Coral are. I last did this event in 1997!



We also met up with Cliff and Coral for lunch yesterday at a really nice pub – I believe that Cliff will be sharing some pictures with you shortly.

I have taken the old girl out for a spin many times, but am reluctant to join the regional Stag Owners Club group or an Classic Car Club in the area because shortly we will be upping sticks and moving a good hour and a half away to another county. It's quite unsettling with everything feeling so temporary.

We really are in a state of transition with much of our household effects still in boxes and crates in the garage and store room so we can't wait to finally settle down and put some roots in the ground.

Best wishes to you all.

All the best,

Rhys, Cathi, Adam and Scott.





## Spitfire Mk IV 1970 *Family Triumph, Second Owner Only* by Steve Cathey



The Catheys on their way for a Sunday ice-cream run



Steve Cathey, the second owner since new, taking ownership of the 1970 Spitfire from Anne-Marie and her son

Life takes turns in the most peculiar way sometimes! So how did my 1970 Triumph Spitfire Mk IV, find me? The family and I were on holiday in Durban for the April holidays. The kids were enjoying the sea and sand and I was lying in a leisurely fashion on the bed with my missis, Janine, enjoying the view of the warm Indian Ocean and habitually reading a 1990s Classic Car magazine edition about barn finds and the like. So my wife decides to add some spice to the occasion.....now before you get too excited.....she pipes up and says: "Anne-Marie, the headmistress at the school, has one of those old cars you are reading about"! That was basically the end of my holiday at the seaside as all I could think of was to get back to Johannesburg to go and have a look at this mystery "old" car.

It is a rather sad situation that created this circumstance as John Morrow, Anne-Marie's husband, died in 2015, bless his soul. He apparently could not attend to the car during his last few years and had the car parked since he was too sick to drive it.

I eventually made my way to Anne-Marie's house and there it was in all its green glory. The history of the car was then explained to me by a very tear-filled lady. John, British born, bought the Spitfire in London in 1970. The following year he decided to follow the lure of Africa and came to South Africa with his prize possessions that included a sporty British number. He settled in Johannesburg and met a lovely German lady who accompanied him to church every Sunday in a soft top sports car, weather being a lot kinder than what it was used to in Brexit. Every Mondays the 'Spittie' had to do service travelling to the Johannesburg Country Club for some white ball chasing.

This was the life of the in-daily-use 1296cc Mk IV.

Getting back to present day, I had to get the car going...took about a half an hour to do so, after a couple of other people tried unsuccessfully. As the SU carbs started sucking all went well and the car spat fire (*ed. geddit!*) once again. I left with the original import tag on the key ring, original owner's manual and an old Moss parts brochure. The always-missing hard top roof was found in the roof, literally.....what a job it was to get it out: some additional roof struts held it in place!

These days old 'Spittie' has it very easy; the occasional Triumph Club outing and Sunday ice-cream run with my three kids, Seth, Matt and Erin making use of the back seat.....and making Anne-Marie happy once in a while as we come driving past her Sunninghill Park Nursery School!



## Motoring Code Word Puzzle



# CAR CRACKER

ALL WORDS ARE NAMES OF CARS EXCEPT FOR THREE, HOWEVER  
THOSE WORDS ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO CARS

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	21	11	12	13	11	16			16			23		8	21
20		18		7					24					9	22
13						4		14	13	8				10	23
6	26	3	1	16	6	11	4		1			25		11	24
18						10						6		12	25
19	6	11			8	11	13	2	15	11	4	4		13	26



## Tail End Giggle

### "Are You American?"

1. You decide that the relationship with your partner is over. You...
  - (a) Leave a tearful note.
  - (b) Calmly discuss the reasons.
  - (c) Attack him/her with a chair in front of a rabble of cheering, tattooed, pumped-up inbreds on national television.
2. You decide to have a game of football in the park. What do you need to take?
  - (a) A ball.
  - (b) A ball and 2 coats for goalposts.
  - (c) A ball, 50 crash helmets, 4 tons of body armour, 20 cheerleaders, a marching sousaphone band with a grand piano on a trolley, and a team of orthopaedic surgeons.
3. You accidentally run over a rabbit. What do you do?
  - (a) Stop and take it to a vet.
  - (b) Carry on but hope it died quickly.
  - (c) Strap it across the bonnet of your car and drive home cheering, whooping and throwing empty beer cans out of the window.
4. You wake up with a stiff neck. What do you do?
  - (a) Ignore it.
  - (b) Take a couple of aspirins.
  - (c) Take yourself to a TV evangelist-faith-healer who is addicted to prostitutes and likes ill-fitting wigs. He will lay his hands on your head, while screaming about the devil in front of an audience of gibbering morons.
5. What do you have for breakfast?
  - (a) A bowl of cornflakes, slice of toast and a mug of tea.
  - (b) Glass of orange juice and a croissant.
  - (c) 1kg steak with six eggs sunny side up, pancakes with maple syrup, ten waffles and a diet ginger beer.
6. You decide to get married. What's the wedding like?
  - (a) A quiet party with a few friends.
  - (b) A church service and a traditional reception at a hotel.
  - (c) A crazy dash through a 24-hour drive-through chapel in Las Vegas, presided over by a transvestite vicar dressed as Elvis.
7. While getting ready for bed, you stub your toe on your wife's dressing table. What do you do?
  - (a) Shout and swear a bit.
  - (b) Move the table.
  - (c) Find a hotshot lawyer and sue your wife?
8. You receive reports that the president of an oil-rich country is a tyrant, so you...
  - (a) Bring it up at the UN.
  - (b) Find out if human rights are being infringed, take action and see the culprits are brought to justice.
  - (c) Invade the country, flatten all buildings, fire at the enemy with carefully guided missiles which, all the same, often miss and then become "friendly fire" and kill allied troops.

### Answers:

If mostly a's and b's then you are a normal well-balanced individual.  
Mostly c's, you are an American. Shame.