



March, 2012

We are well into the New Year and I wish things would slow down a touch. Before you know it the Nationals will be upon us. Some of us have already made plans to travel in convoy whilst others might find that the going is too slow and make it to Plett on their own. I on the other hand have yet to make up my mind on whether to go or not as I still don't have my car back from major surgery and I'm sure as hell not going down in a plastic again. Everything did not go right in my Toyota to the last Nationals as one photo in a previous Sabrina will testify.

The AGM last October produced some surprising results when we elected a new committee. We don't have a Chairman elected and that must be a first for the record books! Instead, a steering committee consisting of Alan Grant, Gary Booyens, Cliff Turnbull, Dave Sawyer and yours truly will make the high powered decisions and it was agreed that I would report on the decisions to the members. I would like to welcome Rob McLeod onto the committee who will be taking over the Treasury Portfolio from Bev. Thank you Bev for the excellent job you took on broad shoulders over the years, especially the way you handled the Nationals at Drakensville. You made it all look so easy. My thanks go out to Elaine for the newsletter, Rene de Villiers for the spares department, Eddie Steele as Events Secretary, Harry Fairley for the Victor Ludorum points scoring, John Craig for Door Prize, Mark Hirst controlling the Regalia Portfolio and of course Mr. John Crowther for Distribution of Information.

For those amongst us, myself included, who were not aware of Kloofzicht Lodge, we were enthralled at the magnificence of this resort right on our doorstep! This was the venue for our combined Christmas lunch with our friends from the Pretoria Centre. This was the basecamp for the Australian Soccer Team preparing for the 2010 World Cup Soccer extravaganza. A five-Star lodge set in a nature reserve in the Zwartkop Mountains! What more could you ask for? The reserve boasts magnificent views with six fly-fishing dams. You can hike amongst Kudu, Eland, Springbok, Zebra, Wildebeest and one visiting Hippo. The lunch was what one would expect at a lodge like this, the setting was just perfect and it is interesting to point out that the lodge was designed by the now-famous Gino Casieri. This would be Gino's last official duty as outgoing Chairman and we are indebted to him for the many years of good leadership. The hat was passed the hat around, collected a few bob and presented him with a nice memento. Thanks Gino.



Our January Noggin was fairly well attended. I call it TCB evening: taking care of business. This must be a nightmare for Eddie Steele every year as has to take care of all the subscriptions coming in, write receipts, answer queries etc; whilst sipping beer and wolfing down supper. The February noggin will be better Eddie, I promise. Indemnity forms were handed in, announcements made, door prizes handed out, wow, it's very difficult to get half a dozen beers down one's throat with all this activity going on. What was concerning to myself and the committee was the absence of our dear wives. Ada and Elaine had to keep the home fires burning, so to speak. It seems that the ladies are not happy with the venue and quite frankly neither am I. It is quite difficult to find a venue with an affordable hot dinner, set in a

good atmosphere. We will endeavour to find an alternative venue in the coming months. We will welcome suggestions so please let us know.

It was good to see some old faces, namely Keith Kelly, Kim Kitchen, Nick Gambol, Eric Steele, Andrew Shackleton and Rod Keyser. Hope we see more of you this year.

I always look forward to visiting Glenburn Lodge for a combined picnic/braai and this year was no exception. The lodge is also set in the Zwartkop Mountains. Sweeping lawns to a small dam named the Klein Hartebeestport and surround by granite hills: it really is the perfect spot to get the braai going. Gino also had a hand in the design of this establishment. As we were packing to go, a thunder clap echoed through the hill and it wouldn't be long before some of us would get caught in the storms that followed. Harry and Elaine showed no concern as they donned their caps and earphones and drove off into the distance without worrying about such mundane things as a soft top. Mind you, it's quite difficult fitting a soft top to a LeMans windscreen. Not satisfied with ending festivities too soon, some of us deviated towards Gilroy's Brewery where we enjoyed SA's No. 1 beer and good 60's live music. I think the cars are programmed to turn that way as we always seem to end up there.





On behalf of the Triumph Club, we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Bev on the passing of her Mum.

Congratulations must go to Greg Dobbins and his wife Leandra on the birth of their son Damian on the 26th January. It is nice to know that Wendy Hay is recovering well following a back operation and we wish her well. Good progress has been made to Cliff Turnbull's TR3 which is now in the paint shop and Jean Coppen's TR6 repair job is progressing well after an accident in November but not as fast as he would like. It must be ready for the Nationals. Make the most of 2012.

Mike