

Our club has been through some highs and lows since the last report. We mourn the passing of Koos and Trish Conradie as a result of a motor accident. Several members dressed in their regalia and with their Triumphs attended their funeral service at St. Martins in the Veld Church. Their family requested a donation to the church school library rather than flowers. Sadly, Koos and Trish did not get to see their new grand daughter, born days after the tragedy. On behalf of all members of the Triumph Sports Car Club, I would like to extend heartfelt condolences to Elaine and Kate.

We all had to hold our breath again concerning the health news from Christine Kennedy recently. Alistair had a relapse and was operated on again. Alistair is made of the right stuff and will be home again soon. Here's to a speedy recovery Alistair. Congratulations to you both, becoming grandparents to a baby girl, Sian.

Our July Noggin took on a different flavour with a huge turnout of members and guests to hear the presentation of the Bloodhound SSC World Land Speed Record Attempt. Dave Rowley and his team outdid themselves with very entertaining and informative facts, video and photos, backed up by good sound effects. They managed to support this with a 1/10th scale model of the car that somehow fitted into the boot of the MG sponsored MG6 Turbo (with the rear seats down of course), which has recently re-entered the market. Of the seventy five attendees, we welcomed amongst our midst, our Pretoria Centre members, Mini, Alfa, Austin Healey, MG, VVCC, Mazda MX-5 and Subaru clubs. Harry, our caterer provided a good spread of finger snacks, thanks Harry, and to my son Ross, who provided the sound interface.

Eddie Steele and Rob McLeod were obviously disappointed with the poor turnout of members on the long run to the Tswaing Meteorite Crater, forty kms north of Pretoria. A lot of effort went into organising this run so it would be interesting to know why this great place was not a draw card. There were equal numbers of members from both centres which is just as well; otherwise we would have had a repeat of the run to the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve. That event in itself, turned out to be most enjoyable get-together. On the other hand, members from both centres turned out in their droves to show their Triumphs off at the Pretoria Cars in the Park extravaganza. The Triumph contingent proudly showed off a wide range of models to members of the public amongst a sea of marques from the European and American continents.

As you read this, the 50th anniversary of the Spitfire would have taken place with meticulous organisation by Nols Pienaar of the Pretoria centre and the results of the hotly contested Inter-Club Quiz will have probably overshadowed the closing of the London Olympics.

I'm writing this from a very cold and dry Bulawayo. I'm happy to report that the market shelves are bountiful, the petrol stations are full and the people, including the police are friendly. Not sure what the future holds for the country with the new indigenisation policy though. We avoided Beitbridge border crossing and rather entered the country through the back door (Plumtree) via Botswana. Anyone travelling in a car fitted with low-profile tyres would be advised to either travel with extreme care or make other arrangements; the roads are awful.

Regards, Mike