



TRIUMPH SPORTS CAR CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA
JOHANNESBURG CENTRE
NEWSLETTER



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Please note that all contributions to the newsletter should be directed to John Dobbins, e-mail dobbins@iafrica.com by 25th of each month

Editorial

It is hard to believe we are already in July; time flies when you are having fun!

Our run with the Pretoria centre was pretty good and thanks to Pretoria Spitfire house for the gifts handed out.

31st July is the annual Pretoria Cars in the Park at Swartkops Raceway and our stand is opposite the pits on the main straight.

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO GO EARLY TO AVOID TRAFFIC JAMS!

There are plenty of interesting and sometimes weird cars and people to see plus various vendors selling food, models plus other must-have items. See you there.

Safe motoring,

John Dobbins

Chairman's Chat

The Spitfire Run was held at the Serendipity Art Café, on the road to Hartebeespoort, on the 19th June. Unfortunately it was poorly supported by the Jo'burg club....maybe due to its being a long weekend and Fathers' Day.....some good looking Spitties were present from the Pretoria members.

Those who attended the event enjoyed a hearty breakfast together with the Pretoria members. It was also good to see David Harwood, a new member joining us on the run, in his newly acquired...good looking... TR2 (ex Neil Harty).

The *Simola Hill Climb* snippet was held over from last month's newsletter....now included below (p5). A good write up is also published in the Classic Car and performance Africa magazine....good punt on Triumphs.

Cars in the Park is planned for the end of this month (Sunday 31st July) and the Pretoria members are targeting 40 Triumphs for this event....let's take up the challenge and support their efforts. I believe that the organisers have improved the flow of traffic to and from Zwartkops.

Another event planned for is the *Parkhurst Heritage Car Day* on Sunday 24th July....more about this later.

Cheers,
Norman

Events Calendar for 2016

July

Sunday 17th	Scottburgh Classic Car Show, Scottburgh High School
Tuesday 19th	Noggin
Sunday 24th	Run
Sunday 24th	Parkhurst Heritage Car day
Sunday 31st	POMC Cars in the Park – Zwartkops Raceway

August

Tuesday 16th	Noggin
Wednesday 17th	Quiz in Pretoria
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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Run to the Serendipity Art Café on Sunday 19th June

Mike Gilchrist

The Spitfire and House of the Pretoria Centre organised a good venue on June 19th, that being the Serendipity Art Café in the Midrand/Centurion area.

Departing from our usual Total Garage rendezvous point on Malibongwe, we were once again stopped briefly by a curious Jo'burg Police contingent before being waved on without incident.

On arrival at the venue our hosts looked rather perplexed, wondering where to park all the new arrivals.

In all fairness to the restaurant the unexpected number of patrons clearly caught the staff on the back foot, resulting in average quality food. That said, I think it is incumbent on all members to respond timeously to invitations: fair to the member organising the event, fair to the caterers.

Regards,
Mike.



Jaguar Simola Hill Climb

Norman Bull

Classic Friday 6th May 2016

There were about 50 classic cars entered on this day which started overcast with the occasional drizzle. Fortunately, the day turned out dry and extremely pleasant.

Alan and Jenny Grant, Martin worth, John Craig and I had a most enjoyable time in the pits and spectating throughout the day.

For me the more interesting entrants were:

Heyns Stead	MG "Spider"	best time 1.09
Rodney Green	Bugatti Type 35	best time 1.10
Roger Lewis	MG "Hedgehog"	best time 1.14
Rod Smith.....	1929 Austin 7 Special (1)	best time 1.36
Greg Smith	1929 Austin 7 Special (2)	best time 1.54

And how nice to see Darryl Hurter in his Chicane and David v d Westhuizen in his TR4A having a thrash up the hill. While not setting the track alight, these two had the time of their lives as they flew the Triumph flag.

Fastest on the day was Franco Scribante in his Chevron B19 with two V4 motorbike engines joined together. Best time 41 secs!

The noise in the pits was getting a bit too much so up we went to turn two. This was a great idea until we realized this is a hill climb. What is a modest uphill for the cars took some effort to walk with all that extra oxygen they have down there.

Desperate for a beer we found the organization lacking a liquor licence so "buy a R50.00 ticket and get a Draft beer for R35.00 and lose the R15.00 change" did not go down too well.

Some minor slides were seen with only the Ford GT40 of Brian Bruce suffering some serious damage as he spun off into the bushes.

Back at the start, I enjoyed the sound of a Manx Norton and AJS 7R with megaphone exhausts having a "demonstration run" at full chat!

We had to leave before the end to spruce up for the Prize Giving Dinner at Hartenbosch where our JHB entries did so well in the concourse.

Eddie Keizan: The Tale of a Motorsport Tiger



Eddie Keizan in 1974 Tyrrell SA GP 1.

Eddie Keizan, South African motorsport legend, industrialist, entrepreneur, family man, conservationist and philanthropist, died in Johannesburg on 21 May 2016 at the age of 71. GREG MILLS pays tribute.

There are two ways to remember someone and determine the mark they have made and left.

The first way is through figures – what academics might describe as “quantitative aspects”: principally, the honours and awards you accumulate, and the wealth and possessions you acquire.

Eddie did (more than) well in terms of this measurement.

Educated at King Edward School, after leaving university, he followed his passion into motorsport, participating full-time for 14 years, in the process winning four Production Car Championships, and competing in three World Championship Formula 1 rounds in South Africa between 1973 and 1975.

This was an analogue age, when drivers counted much more than gizmos, when the imbalance between grip and power placed a premium on skills in cars that were shockingly dangerous, when everything was apparently in black and white from politics to cinema newsreels, and the drivers were less prima donnas than simply manne.

Emerson Fittipaldi became World Champion driving the same Lotus that Eddie later inherited as the Team Gunston ride in the 1975 South African Grand Prix. Emerson writes, “The Lotus 72 was the Stradivarius of the Formula One field, a delicate thoroughbred, which had to be carefully tended for, stroked and caressed to get the best out of it. Those that drove it at the highest levels in Grands Prix were blessed, but had to be at the top of their game.” He adds: “Eddie was lucky to enjoy the beautiful pleasure of driving the 72, one of the great Colin Chapman creations, one that was also my World Championship car.”

Ed also rallied successfully, twice winning Lesotho's super-tough Roof of Africa. He retired from professional motorsport after winning the Wynns 1,000kms at Kyalami in 1979, though he continued racing competitively into the 21st century.

Along the way, he used his R3000 of winnings from the 1972 Formula 5000 championship in Alex Blignaut's car to purchase a share in Tiger Wheels, then a small semi-defunct wheel manufacturing company employing just 14 people. Having bought a 74% stake in ATS in 1998, at its peak in 2004 Tiger ranked among the top 10 alloy wheel manufacturers world-wide, an original equipment supplier to Volkswagen, Audi, Mercedes, Jaguar and Volvo, with factories in South Africa, Poland, America, and Germany, turning over R3.5-billion and employing 3,500 people. In so doing, Ed disproved, for once, the old adage: "The best way to make a small fortune from motorsport is from a large one."

Brian Redman, considered the best all-rounder driver of his generation, says of Eddie that he "was of those very rare people who were able to combine successful careers both as a race driver and as a titan of industry. In 1969 the Porsche team comprised 10 drivers. In 1971, my great co-driver Jo Siffert died in an F1 race at Brands Hatch. After his funeral, Rico Steinemann, our team manager, said "the only driver amongst you lot who had any business sense was Jo. Such a man," says Brian, "too, was Eddie. He will be sadly missed."

Still, it was in that other way I referred to of measuring a life's work that Eddie excelled. This metric has less to do with figures and fortunes, but rather how you conduct yourself and the balance that you strike in the process, about qualities of integrity and modesty, and about how you worked and treated others. This is how people ultimately remember you.

Eddie was a man who achieved and gained so much, but is better known still for what he gave than what he had. Part of this excellence, I suspect, is because he never forgot about his origins. He possessed an abiding humility for all his fame and fortune.

In an era when we are used to dads pushing their kids out onto the track at six, and spending obscene amounts to help them ascend the motor-racing ladder, there was no silver motorsport spoon in Ed's case. This came through his job as the night manager at Dunk-a-Donut in Hillbrow, where he befriended some of the characters behind Ecurie Aquila who met there late for blotting paper and coffee after their Thursday evening excesses at the nearby Skyline Hotel.

First there were Minis, de rigueur in that era, then the Ford 20M, "built under a tree on Alex's property", he told me once. The 20M, one of the more unlikely racing cars, was the reason I first met him, as a wide-eyed six-year-old in the foyer of what is now the Trans-Karoo Lodge in Britstown, where he had stopped en route to race in Cape Town, the Ford on the trailer outside. Despite a childhood hanging around race tracks and pits, I remembered it well because a motor-racing giant, especially from my then vertical vantage, had taken the trouble to stop to chat.

That tells its own story. Indeed, the measure of Eddie's wider qualities is evident in the memories of those with whom he intersected.

Of course, I should add, that this was the 1970s. David Hobbs, who was a superstar at Le Mans and on the Indy ovals, raced with Eddie in the 1978 Wynns 1,000kms, finishing fifth in the BMW 535. "I still remember him as that vibrant young man with lots of hair," recalls David.

In fact, trawling through lots of old photos, the one thing that sticks in the mind about Eddie from that era, is that hair, less Austin Cooper S than Austin Powers.

Still, it was an era when, in spite of, and probably because of the lack of materialism and money, friendships were at the centre of everything.

Gauteng's Rory Byrne, officially the Formula One world's second most successful designer, is one of those friends, and writes: 'The results of [Ed's] talents, both as a racing driver and an astute businessman, speak for themselves. Having first met Eddie while I was working part-time for Progress Performance in the 1960s, it is with great fondness that I recall his visit to Maranello and the time we spent together while I was showing him around the Ferrari facility.'

Ken Howes, who too was part of that gang in the early days, recalls: "Looking back to our first meeting way back when Ed drove the Mini for John Cooper through Formula Ford, his time with Alex Blignaut, and a period as a teammate at Team Gunston and later with the big BMWs, it seems that I have known Eddie forever. I have fond memories of the early days at Tiger Wheels and Speed Den in Fordsburg gossiping and reliving the previous weekend's races with Ed, Dennis and the boys, times that were, in a word, priceless. I feel honoured to have known Eddie and have often taken the liberty of describing him as a friend. Hopefully he would not be offended," says Ken, who has enjoyed a stellar motorsport career, both with another of Eddie's great friends, Ian Scheckter, and Sarel van der Merwe, and subsequently with Hendrick Motorsport's all-conquering Nascar operation in the US.



Eddie Keizan in his Team Gunston Lotus 72.

Fast-forward a little over 30 years from that chance meeting in Britstown, and my own life intersected once more with Eddie's, not initially through motorsport, but through our mutual involvement in a range of social causes. Then it was on to the various motorsport book projects with which I somehow became ensnared, where he always went out of his way to assist in capturing our rich history.

Johann Rupert, who set up the Franschhoek Motor Museum, and whose family business has been so intimately involved with South African motor-racing among many other successes, reflects: "We South Africans habitually undersell ourselves. We shouldn't do so. Take motorsport. Not only did we run our own Formula One series, but it's testament to our qualities of innovation and resourcefulness that we were the first to embark on the new

era of commercial branding in Team Gunston. The drivers, managers, promoters and engineers that blessed that team, and others, were class acts, men such as Eddie Keizan.”



Alex Blignaut in 1974 Brandkop Keizan Lotus 72, Embassy livery.

Ed and I also found time to collaborate to write up the story of the demise of the manufacturing side of Tiger, since, typical Eddie, he wanted to ensure that others learnt the right business lessons. I have to add that we did just one motor race together, a particularly memorable one for me and Eddie’s last victory, the 2012 Border 100, making it a joint 100% winning record. He retained a particular affection for the Roof, the two of us flying to Lesotho one winter’s morning to meet the King to talk about ways of reinvigorating that event.

In these, and other adventures, he was always side-by-side with Hilary, his partner of more than 40 years.

It is a measure, too, of Eddie that he never, at least to me, proffered an opinion on anything unless directly asked. But he had some sage advice when I did so: from assessing my sanity in driving a Formula 5000 in the GP curtain-raiser in Australia five years ago which he said required “a distinct lack of imagination and sense of self-preservation” after he had tested the device. I evoked a similar response in riding my bicycle without lights from Bellagio in Italy through the tunnels to meet him and his children Gary and Natasha for lunch in Switzerland.

I have to, however, leave (almost) the final word to someone who has, love him or hate him, immeasurably and indelibly shaped contemporary global motorsport. He writes: “I was very sorry to hear of Eddie’s illness. In these cases we can look back on all of the good things he has done, not only for himself, but for others. In the early days he had ambitions and he succeeded in most of them except being a Formula One World Champion”. Instead, he writes: “Eddie got the tiger by the tail”.

It is signed “Bernie”.

The story of Eddie Keizan is indeed the tale of a tiger. His was a remarkable life, well and honourably led and with which it was a privilege to have intersected. DM



Eddie Keizan and Greg Mills.

Dr. Mills heads the Johannesburg-based Brenthurst Foundation and has authored seven books on Southern African motorsport history.

For Sale

1981 TR7 drop head.

52 000 miles from new.

Original 2 litre engine with TriumphTune Fast Road conversion comprising twin 45DCOE Weber carbs, high lift cam, branch manifold with Wildcat stainless steel exhaust, Koni shocks.

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Good restoration base.

Offers invited.

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