



TRIUMPH SPORTS CAR CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA
JOHANNESBURG CENTRE
NEWSLETTER



PO Box 1102,
Southdale 2135

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**Please note that all contributions to the newsletter should be directed to
John Crowther, e-mail johncr@hotmail.co.za by 25th of each month**



**Noggin at VVC Club
July 2019**

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Chairman's Chat

Our July Noggin was held on a Saturday at the VVC Clubhouse with a braai and a car protection demo. A cool start to the day but warming up to a pleasant day...around the braai....and good to see the ladies in attendance.

Thank you to Titanium Pros for their excellent demonstration on the car protection....the TR looks stunning. Overall, the feedback received from members at this Noggin was very positive and encouraging....we will definitely plan a similar get together in the future...(hope John has attached some pics somewhere in this newsletter). [*Oh yes, ed.*]

This weekend is the Cars in the Park, Zwartkops—for any member who wishes to attend.

Pretoria will be hosting the Regional Concourse on Sunday 25th August at the Woodlands Boulevard, Pretoria East (same venue as 2015). Please advise me URGENTLY which members will have their cars on display.

Our September event to the Green Lantern has unfortunately been CANCELLED. We have circulated an event ...The Heidelberg Great Train Race scheduled for 24th September (public holiday).....to date we have had no interest shown from members. As our September month end run is open....any suggestions???

A supplementary SABRINA will be issued this month with reference to our National Gathering at Golden Gate from 1st May 2020 thru to 5th May 2020....make your booking.

Cheers,

Norman

Events Calendar

MONTH	DAY/DATE	EVENT	HOST	STATUS
January	Tue 15	Noggin		
	Sun 20	Glenburn Lodge	Jhb	official
February	Sun 17	Valentine run-Uncle Tim's	Jhb	official
	Tue 19	Noggin		
March	Sun 17	Piston Ring Swop Meeting		optional
	Tue 19	Noggin		
	Sun 24	Michelotti Centenary run	Pta	official
April	Fri 05-Mon 08	Stars of Sandstone		optional
	Sun 7	Angela's Picnic	SAMCA	official
	Tue 16	Noggin		
May	Tue 01	Dambusters	Sunbeam Club	official
	Tue 21	Noggin		
	Sat 26	Just Wheels	Muriel Brandt	optional
	Sun 26	Cars in Park-Pietermaritzburg		optional
	Sun 26	Cars on the Roof	Pta/POMC	optional
	Sun 26	Classic car show, Kenjara Lodge	Jack Hewetts	optional
June	Tue 18	Noggin		
	Sun 30	"Cars & Coffee on the dam" at Modderfontein	Jhb	
July	Sun 7	Scottburgh Classic Car Show		optional
	SATURDAY 20	Bring and Braai. Starting at 12h00	VVC clubhouse	
	Sun 28	Rotary Hartbeespoort Classic Meander	Rotary..Brits	official
August	Sun 4	Cars in Park-Zwartkops	POMC	optional
	Tue 20	Noggin		
	Sun 25	Pta/Jhb combined Concourse	Woodlands Boulevard, Pta.	official
September	Sun 01	Wheels at the Vaal		optional
	Sun 08	4th Ave -Parkhurst Show	VVC	optional
	Fri 13th-Sun 15th	Green Lantern Inn, Van Reenen's Pass	Graham Cheetham	
	Sun 15 th	Piston Ring Swop Meeting		
	Tue 17	Noggin		
	Sun 29	TBA		
October	Tue 15	Noggin/AGM		official
	Sun 20 or 27	Jacaranda Run....Pta	MG club	optional
	Sun 27	TBA		
November	Tue 19	Noggin		
	Sun 24	TBA		
December	Sun 08	Year-end Function	Pta	official

Dates and events subject to change

Lunchtime noggin bring & braai at the VVC

(A GRAND IDEA!)

A fine demonstration by *Titanium Pros* paint protection





Tuesday, 24 January 2012

from Gary Booyens

The Triumph Car Story- part 5

Chapter 6

WEDDING BELLS

Earlier, the same year of his knighthood at Buckingham Palace, in 1943 he married my mother Joan Pears Linton. A telegram on her wedding day, although I never quite ascertained who from, simply had one word on it: "DON'T". Their marriage certificate dated June 25th 1943 describes him as being 48 years of age and a Captain H.M. Army (retired) while she was credited with 31 years and being a Flight Officer W.A.A.F. He always admired her smart appearance when in uniform. Her address then was given as Dolphin Square, London S.W.1. which has a sort of ring about it. (Disappointingly my dad's father, who I never met, had now been demoted to Civil Servant on the certificate). The two witnesses at this controversial wedding were Cecil Millbourn, a close family friend and business associate and, surprisingly, James Henry Linton, my mother's father, who so much disapproved of their marriage plans. Yet my parents did have some romance in their early days together, sometimes playing cards in bed in the morning, Canasta being their favourite or just having long chats about anything. She told me once that they had a variety of nick-names for each other, mainly of a furry animal nature, I seem to recall. Their honeymoon was taken at the Bungalow in Wales where they were to spend some of their happiest times with each other. A few lovely photos taken of them also on a skiing holiday in Switzerland showed how happy they could be together. But things started to deteriorate rapidly, however, after the birth of their three sons in sharp succession, Hugo John in 1945, Steuart Paul in 1947 and Charles Nicholas in 1949. She somehow felt burdened if not trapped by these pregnancies. Down at Mallory Court things continued as normal. There were no records kept during the War but by 1945, now accompanied by my mother Alicia Joan Black, the only other occupants living on the Estate then were the Dyer couple, still living in the Gardeners Cottage plus Charles Maycock and his wife Phoebe living in The Cottage. Hugo, of course, had been born in 1945 with the one event to mark the occasion being a plane that happened to crash in a field right by the hospital soon after mother had given birth to him. This may have contributed to his being afflicted with a stammer from early childhood. 51 A look of serious intent at this Wartime wedding. John Black with a young Mike Whitfield as Best Man. 25 June 1943. 52 Bishop Linton, (unknown), Cecil Millbourn, John and Joan, Mrs Millbourn, Charles Band (original Standard Chairman) Tom Linton, (Joan's brother) Alicia Linton (Joan's mother seated right). (Unknown seated left), Mallory Court 1943. Wedding Day. John and Joan's Wedding Day. Mallory Court. 25th June 1943 Flight Officer Joan Black often admired in her uniform. 53 Although times had obviously changed, photos of that period show a distinctly well-ordered country residence with formal gardens, stone ponds and graceful lawns together with tennis court and swimming pool introduced by my father as well as the squash court he had built. Though the original stable-block has now been demolished, the perimeter wall survives, encompassing a courtyard-style terrace. Framed plans for a proposed Water Garden dated 1947 still hang on a wall in the Garden Room at Mallory Court. The subsequent waterfall, small bridge and pond remain there today as a testimony to its successful design. An intriguing detail, of tempting speculation, is that when my mother first visited the house before being married she noticed that all the upstairs rooms had internal locks on the doors. By 1943 when married and living there, all those locks had been removed! John Warren, Export Sales Director and John Black's right-hand man Two stories I particularly remember on our nostalgic journey were related to me by my mother on a number of occasions. The first involved a swimming party. All the guests had assembled themselves around the pool and were happily drinking and chatting away but nobody showing any sign of actually changing into their swimming things. My father had a wonderful Summerhouse built near the pool for such purposes. Suddenly, from the direction of the house, there was seen a fine figure, clothed in smart suit and tie, running towards the pool eventually diving in with great bravado. Amongst the hilarity that followed, everybody accordingly got themselves changed and the swimming party began. It was John Warren, the proverbial right-hand man who had done the gallant deed. While helping him out of the pool my father was heard to have said to him "Well done, old boy, why don't you go and change into one of my suits?" to which John Warren replied "That was one of your suits, Sir John!" It is worth mentioning, at this juncture, a disturbing story my mother told me once about an experience at the swimming pool. Evidently a large family of frogs had taken up residence in the filtration system so that, when the machine was turned on at the beginning of the season, literally dozens of dead frogs appeared floating on the water. Gruesome stuff! 1 A letter written by John Black to John Warren can be found in the Appendix page 109 54 "Anyone for tennis?" John Black and Fred Perry, who always wore long trousers for tennis. Perry also drove a Triumph Mayflower. The signatures in the Summerhouse, Fred Perry, Oliver Lucas and Cowan Dobson included. 55 From left: Dan Maskell, Joan, John and Fred Perry at Mallory Court. The other occasion

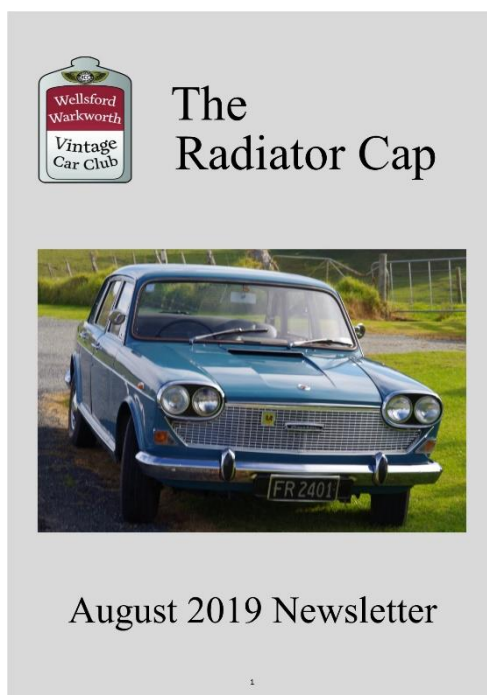
concerns a shooting party which was taking place somewhere in the locality near some woods. One of the participants was none other than James Robertson Justice, the well-known actor. During the proceedings, when shots were being fired in all directions, Sir John Black came running up to this 'larger-than-life' character in a state of extreme dismay. He subsequently informed him, in no uncertain terms, that he had just narrowly missed his wife Joan, who was gathered with the other women to the side of the woods, with one of his stray shots! "No need to worry, old Chap", came the reply "My wife's just over there, why don't you have a pot shot at her?" Many social occasions and tennis parties continued to be held at Mallory during the Forties era. Somehow my parents got to meet Fred Perry and Dan Maskell, of Wimbledon fame and so, coupled with their own love of the sport, these became regular visitors to this humble court in Warwickshire. Some time ago, a fellow I knew called Bill Piggot mentioned that during a commemorative visit to Mallory Court with the TR Register, he was shown a fascinating array of signatures in the summerhouse, by the night porter at the time. He even provided me with a photocopy of some of them, amazingly dating back to the very time when my parents lived there. They were artistically signed on one of the interior walls of this building made of the old-fashioned white asbestos so commonly used in those days. The summerhouse, in question, which I then visited with a keen genealogist colleague of mine, is tucked away in a corner of this ten acre estate, has two main rooms and a brick fireplace. Other smaller rooms bear resemblance to perhaps a kitchen and toilet. It was obviously used for social occasions with its close proximity to the swimming pool which is still there in all its splendour. Judging by the diversity of signatures, which are about a hundred in number, it would have seen the likes of some quite eminent characters of the day, including close friends of my parents. A few of the names recognized include: Fred and Lorraine Perry (of Wimbledon Fame), Eric and Doris Claridge (He ran Coventry Motor Packing, a company that specialized in making all the timber crates for cars and tractors sent out from Standard for overseas assembly, while she was an attractive, vivacious woman who loved her Tennis and Swimming), Cowan Dobson (an artist who painted Society portraits as well as those of both my parents), Cecil Millbourn (the close family friend and business associate), Billy Rootes (whose company took over Hillmans in 1929), Oliver and Babs Lucas (grandson of Joseph Lucas of battery fame), John Warren (Export Sales Director), Jack Croft (Press Officer), Alick Dick (who ran Standard Triumph after my father) and H. Royce (but not Sir Frederick Henry Royce who had died in 1933). Then there is Dr. Elford (the Company Doctor), Joan Mitchell (one of my father's secretaries), Jock Turnbull (the Service Manager), Harold Weale (Main Board Director), B.J. Swaine (employed at Standards), S. Leonard Elwood (the Company Architect) and not forgetting Clifford (the other Butler), plus both of my grandparents who had probably relented by that time! Last but not least: John and Joan Black. Many other illustrious names cannot be identified. My father of course was renowned for his lavish entertaining, having almost invented the concept of the Expense Account which resulted in Sir Stafford Cripps, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, having to change the Law eventually to protect the ailing government from Companies like his evading tax to the extreme! A letter from the tax office dated 27th July 1950 and querying how an 'entertaining allowance' amounting to £4,352.13s.4d was arrived at covering the year 1949 adequately sums up the situation! A memorandum from his private secretary, Joan Smart expresses to Mr. Aspland, the Company Secretary that: "Sir John wishes the attached account to be paid by the Company. It refers to a case of Champagne sent by him to Mr. Robert Asquith of William Asquith Ltd, Halifax." (They were a manufacturing company described earlier as 'The Hub of the Shadow Factories'). The Standard Motor Company's turnover in 1946 was £9,385,919 which included £3,614,679 as completion of wartime contracts (Ministry of Supply). Everything was to be put on Company Expenses from food, drink and clothes to holidays and even houses for some of his workforce. The following residences were purchased in 1949 by the Company: Wolston Priory and Farm (£18,000), 434, Tile Hill Lane (£2,000), Culmore, Stoneleigh Road (£9,000), 11, Manor Road, Kenilworth (£3,600), 92, Hartington Crescent (£3,000) and The Old Farm House, Hill Wooton (£16,500). He usually bought six suits at a time if he liked the look of one, only to reconsider his choice when they lost their original lustre in the daylight. A number of employees, accordingly, were kept in suits for years to come along with Sir John Black's younger brother Bob who apparently used to 57 John Black in a Standard Vanguard up in Wales with Jack Croft (Standard's Press Officer and longtime friend). (c) BMIHT. turn up regularly pleading poverty and usually leaving with a new wardrobe. An invoice came to light recently from the Warwick Archives dated 5/11/46 itemizing the following clothes: 1 Morning Coat, 2 Dress Suits, 2 Black Jacket Vest and Trousers from Barley & Weathergill Ltd. (£93-6-6). Before the War he did personally own two SS Jaguars, reputedly named after Swallow Sidecars, the identity of which had to be rapidly changed after the War, for obvious reasons. Those pre-war Jaguars all had Standard engines in them. Records at the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust reveal that Captain Black owned an early 1936 SS Jaguar 2.5 litre saloon (Chassis No. 10123). In 1938 two SS Jaguar drop-head Coupes were supplied to the Standard Motor Company (Chassis No. 36020 in April and 36120 in August). Both these cars were black in colour. In 1939 a special-bodied SS Jaguar fitted with a razor edge-style Limousine body designed by Mulliners was

presented to his wife Daisy (Reg. ERW 470, Chassis No.30948). So successful was this that he had an identical one made for himself! He later commissioned Mulliners to redesign the body of his Drop-head Bentley, a car he was especially fond of. There is an invoice dated 8th July 1952 from Mulliners Ltd. of Birmingham, High Class Motor Bodies: "To supply one Special Drop Head Body, fitted to Bentley Chassis No. B 342 NZ- £515.0-0", It added: "No payment to be made with a nominal invoice only." The Standard Motor Company also provided the following cars for Sir John: Triumph Saloon (FWK 630), Triumph Roadster (FDU 818), 8hp. Saloon (FRW689), Shooting Brake (FHP 225), 8 hp. Saloon (FRW 33), 8hp. Drop-Head Coupe (FHP 930). (The last three cars he personally bought off them). One, of course, has to mention his customary six cars with personalized number plates (J.P.B. 1-6). 58 Mallory Court, 1949. Oak panelled Dining Room with John Black's paintings of various hunting scenes. The Swimming Pool remains the same today. The Reception Room. Royal Worcester set on the left is still in the family. Recessed partition door to the Lounge.

The Company's two light aircraft could carry up to eight passengers each - one blue, the other silver. In 1952 Air Enterprises who were the Company supplying Cessna aircraft for Standards recorded these two planes: Percival Prince, (Reg. Letters G-AMPR) and Consul, (Reg. Letters G-AIKT). The Bungalow in Wales was likewise Company Owned so had to be duly returned in 1955 after his dramatic debacle, despite them having transferred the Freehold to him in August of that year! His rather egocentric lifestyle was accentuated too by his having all his ivory boxes, cigarette cases and hairbrushes engraved with his initials, Portraits of Sir John and Lady Black by Cowan Dobson. Something of a fashion accessory back then anyway. A photo at the Heritage Motor Museum Archives I saw recently shows two lovely pen-knives, akin to Swiss Mountain Knives, autographed with his signature. There's a gold propelling pencil with Mallory Court inscribed on it. A cabin chest used on his sea voyages and bearing his name is still in existence. Remarkably, when he, Mike Whitfield and others went to South America in 1951 on the Queen Elizabeth while they were engaging in business with Brazil, there is a record of literally everything they consumed on the voyage, presumably for tax purposes. Even his Butler Tom Thorne was on board enjoying his very own private cabin! The Jungle Bug, a Jeep that J.B. had designed for being dropped by parachute in wartime along with capacity for four soldiers, also conveniently bore his initials, although hardly any were made. (Coincidentally my mother Joan Pears Black shared his initials upon marriage, if forgetting her first name Alicia!) 60 A strange thing occurred a while ago when I received a letter through the Triumph World magazine from a fellow who informed me that he had in his possession a fascinating document pertaining to the Granting of Arms for Sir John Black, dated 1945. Indeed it was the Family Crest Scroll which had been passed on to my family in 1965 when my Father had died. This extraordinary occurrence had only taken place because my two brothers had once stayed in a farmhouse somewhere in North Wales with a couple who had given them a room for a few weeks in the late sixties. Somehow they had inadvertently left the document there when vacating the premises and there it sat for more than forty years, only to be discovered when the woman had died and her son was sorting out her belongings! After having made a generous donation to the offspring of these custodians, for looking after it all that time, it was then displayed in a glass case over in my Brother Hugo's home in France where he used to live! Technically speaking, as next of kin and firstborn son, he would have been permitted to fly a flag on a mast bearing the Crest or even have it painted on the door of his car, neither of which he was very likely to do! Tragically Hugo died in Bristol on Tuesday March 19th 2013 of a massive stroke aged nearly 68 years. Some years ago my mother did have three gold rings engraved with our Family Crest which she presented to the three of us as a keepsake in memory of Daddy, but I have to admit that, after one or two mishaps, only one ring actually survived and that was on Hugo's finger! It is a most phenomenal thing that when someone dies they almost become more real. It's as if their whole life now becomes encapsulated in that one final Act. I definitely felt this about both my parents but it took quite a long time for it to sink in! A 1940's moment, with Joan Black and Jack Croft at Mallory.

Part 6 next month

From our New Zealand contributor



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<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/62759389/the-radiator-cap-august-2019>

Tail End Giggle

I always take life with a grain of salt, plus a slice of lemon and a shot of tequila
When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water
You're never too old to learn something stupid
Americans choose between 2 people for president but among fifty for Miss America
I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way, so I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness
If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong
Whenever I fill in an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify" I put DOCTOR
You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing... after they have tried everything else
One thing you mustn't miss when you are in Rome - the plane!
Behind the rise of every successful man stands a woman and behind the fall of every successful man is another woman
A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory
Two wrongs don't make a right - but three lefts do
Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine