



MORRIS MATTERS

WESTERN CAPE MAGAZINE










Volume 40 N^o2 March – April 2026

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB WESTERN CAPE

Clubhouse: The Cape Multi-Motor Club, Jan Burger Sports Ground,
De Grendel Road Parow North.

Web: www.morrisminor-wc.co.za Facebook page: MMOC Western Cape

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Vice Chairman	Secretary
Frikkie Muller  gerdamuller76@gmail.com	Ron Clark  clarkfam@zsd.co.za	Gerda Muller  gerdamuller76@gmail.com
Treasurer	Membership	Regalia
Theo Smit  tfsmitt@mweb.co.za	Su Prins  suprins@me.com	Mitford Roberts  mitfordr1951@gmail.com
Technical	Member	Events Co-Ordinator
Tony Harrison  tohar@mweb.co.za	Sandy Gush  sandragush@gmail.com	Llewellyn Buckley  lulubucks007@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

FRIKKIE MULLER



On each occasion of attending a National Rally, I declare, "This is the final one," due to the vehicles and the drivers being two years older than with the previous rally, but the closer we get to the due date, the more excited we all are. When you arrive and reconnect with all the old Rally friends from the various clubs, it feels like you're instantly back home.

Gerda and I, Ron and Sharon Clark, Malcolm and Shelagh Johnston, Johan and Amanda Bruce, Emma Carpenter, Sandy Gush and ex-members Bertha and Richard Laubscher are leaving on 14th March to attend the National Rally at Gariepdam, hosted by the Bloemfontein club. Leon and Sophy Dawson are the only members of the club and I commend them for taking on this huge task. According to the program, it looks as if we are going to have a great time.

Ron, Tony and I pre-judged the cars for their readiness for the Concour judging at Gariepdam. Thank you to Paul Hoffman who did a stellar job preparing the cars, and I'm sure we will bring some trophies home.

A special thank you to the members who represented us at the George Classic Car and Bike Show. Llewellyn Buckley is planning exciting events for us for the rest of the year. I hope to see more of you attending these events.

Check out this space for feedback from the rally!



SUBS FOR 2026

The below table sets out the fee amounts:

Full Member	R300.00
Full Member + Spouse/Partner	R350.00
Senior Citizens (over 65 years)	R250.00
Senior Citizens + Spouse/Partner	R300.00
Students (<25 years)	R200.00
Students (>25 years) + Partner	R250.00
Country Members (Living more than 100km from Cape Town)	R210.00
Country Members (Living more than 100km from Cape Town) +Spouse/Partner	R260.00
Overseas Members	R210.00

Please contact Su Prins should you have any questions or concerns in this regard.

BIRTHDAY LIST



MARCH		APRIL	
Dave Gerstner	1	Greg Smit	3
Audrey Matthysen	7	Cristina Jones	4
Simon Groves	11	Yvonne Bootcov	9
Giel Kotze	15	Mila Bouwer	12
Rob Tissington	15	Paul Enslin	14
Anna Gibbons	24	Michael Morris	14
		Eddie Beukes	21
		Hanlie Swanepoel	26
		Roger Buckley	29

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. **15 - 19 March 2026 – National Rally in Bloemfontein**
2. **Sunday 29 March 2026 – Drive to Boschendal.**
3. **Sunday 19 April – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** followed by a braai.
4. **Sunday 17 May – Drive to Yzerfontein.**
5. **Sunday 21 June – Fish and Chips.**
6. **Sunday 19 July – Braai at the clubhouse**
7. **Sunday 16 August – Soup and Bingo**
8. **Sunday 20 September – Lunch at Botrivier Hotel.** We will take the coastal highway past Betty's Bay, to stop for coffee.
9. **Sunday 18 October – Picnic at Morale Coffee to Go,** on the R44 between Wellington and Hermon, is a popular, rustic, hay-bale-structured coffee stall.
10. **Sunday 15 November – Braai at the Clubhouse.**

Further details of each event will be provided on the MMOC Social group on Whatsapp.

HOSPITAL CORNER

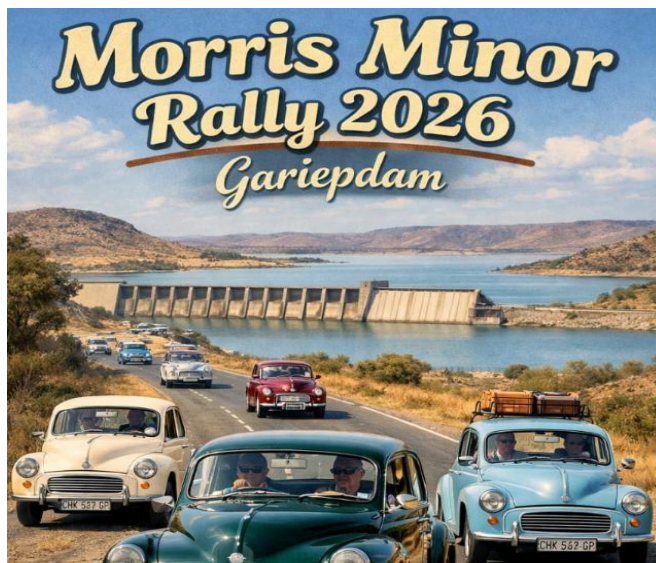
Johan van Rensburg's wife, Ansie, was diagnosed with cancer a few months ago, and sadly, there was a fluid build-up in her lung, which scarred the lung lining. This eliminates the space where fluid or air accumulates, causing severe symptoms like shortness of breath and chest pain. She received a procedure called pleurodesis to treat these symptoms. She is doing slightly better today. Unfortunately, this makes it difficult to start the cancer treatment.

Please keep the Van Rensburg family in your prayers.

BLOEMFONTEIN RALLY 15 – 19 MARCH 2026

We wish all the travellers heading to Gariiep for the Bloemfontein rally a safe and smooth journey. May the road rise to meet you, the weather stay kind and every kilometre bring you closer to good friends, good memories and a wonderful gathering.

We look forward to hearing all about the trip on your return.



TECHNICAL

Tony Harrison

WIRING FOR ALTERNATOR CONVERSION



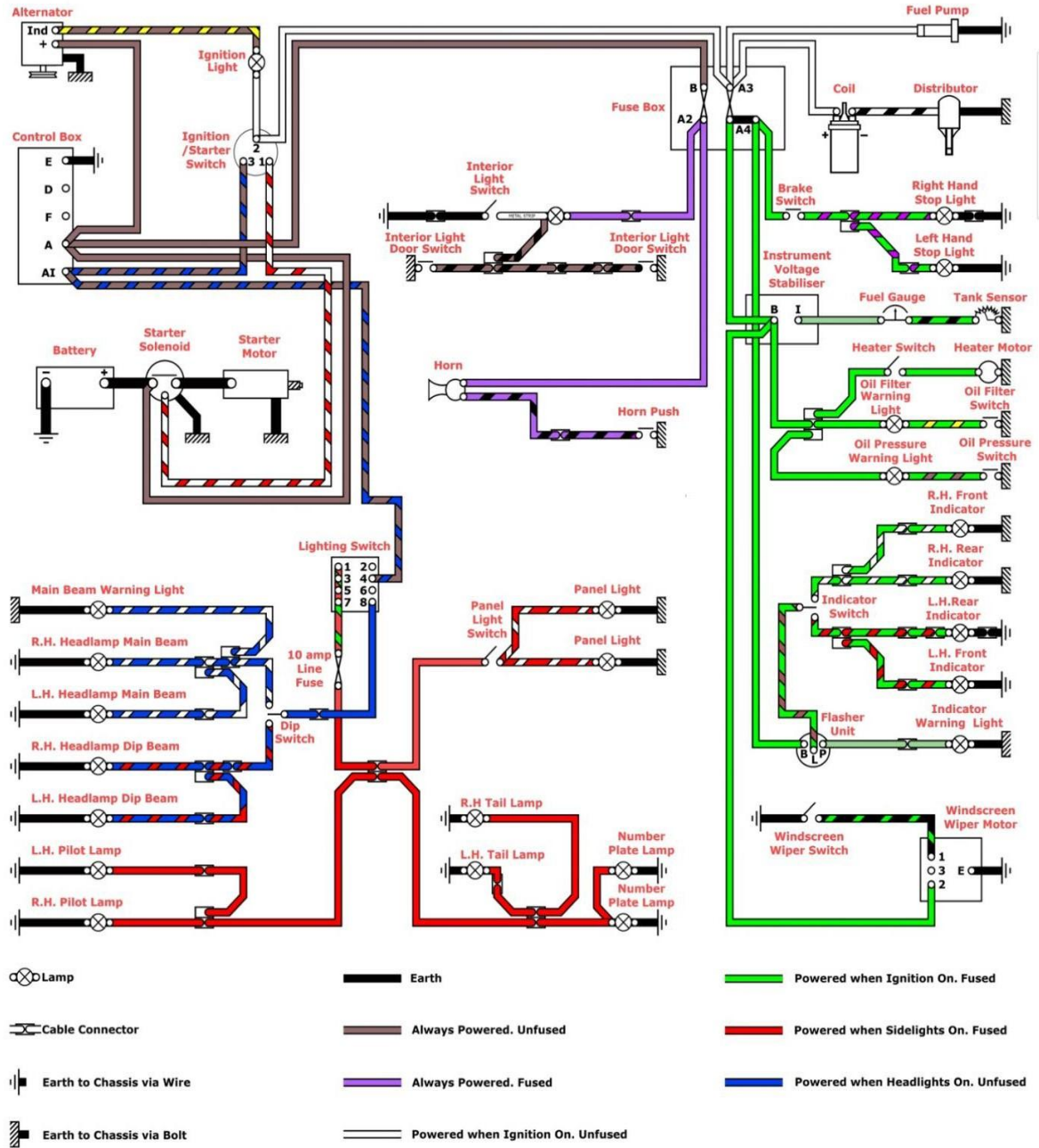
Charles, the Editor of MMOC PE quarterly magazine shared this one with us.

Terry asked me some time ago to circulate the attached wiring diagram for alternator conversion to Morris Minors. As it is for negative-earthed vehicles, it presumably applies (according to the diagram) to Minors assembled from 1965 onwards. It would obviously also be relevant to earlier models that may have had their polarity switched from the original positive to negative earth.

The virtue of this diagram is its clarity of labelling and general layout.

Morris 1000. 1965 & Later Model. Negative Earth. Alternator

by Brian Hawley 2020



Should anyone be interested in getting a clearer copy of the diagram, let me know and I will email it on to you.

AN ICONIC PICTURE AND STORY

By Gerda Muller

From: **Martin Robins** <martinrobins@btinternet.com>

Date: Thu, 15 Jan 2026, 9:09 am

Subject: An Iconic Picture

To: David Laughlin <david-dawn@xtra.co.nz>

Dear David

Thank you for the omnibus edition from New Zealand.

Sir George Dowty was renowned for his concern regarding employees welfare.

We have circulated the Morris Minor picture to the still very active Morris Minor clubs in the former Dominions - there has been considerable interest in your country, Australia and South Africa.

Miles Thomas was the Morris Motors MD from 1940 until 1947 and fought hard with William Morris (Lord Nuffield) to produce the Minor . He then served as Chairman of BOAC from 1949 until 1956. In the early 1960s he met Sir George Dowty on an Atlantic liner and struck up a life long friendship - serving as a Dowty director for nearly 20 years until his passing in 1980. Last weekend we photographed the statue next to a Rolls Royce- the interest in the Morris is significantly greater.

With best wishes.

Martin

Good morning Martin,

This is in response to your last couple, so an omnibus edition

First of all, I have had a quick read of the very thorough document on the achievements of Sir George, as well as all those, businesses and individuals he inspired to do great work. Well done all involved.

In the quick read I had, I didn't spot any mention of Dowty Aviation in Singapore, where I did some training work for on 3 occasions. I think Dowty did have a good sense of respect for its staff, or even contract workers such as I was briefly. During one training exercise I learnt that my father was seriously ill, with not long to go. With Dowty support I managed to get a flight home that night and managed to see him just before he passed. I was quite touched by the fact that a huge bunch of flowers was delivered to my mother, with a card from Dowty Aviation Singapore. I will never forget that.

And then the Morris Minor story. I understand how you and thousands of others feel about these simple, but utterly amazing machines. I had one too, a 1958 4 door, previously owned by a tradesman engineer on the Rolls Royce Dart line at work. When he did up the engine, it was done to RR standards. That is the rotating parts dynamically balanced to Dart limits, which did have a positive effect on fuel consumption as well as general handling. Not to be recommended, but I could go down to idling in top gear, and yet still pull away, without hesitation. Now collectors' items, regretting I ever sold it. Ones still in showroom condition can still be spotted occasionally around the streets of Christchurch.

The attached photo from around 1972, with wife Dawn and BOAC inflight bag with mushrooms gathered from the side of the the road. That doesn't happen these days due to tragic use of weedkillers. Incidentally, the BOAC bag was from my first ever trip to UK, as an apprentice in 1968. Done 7 more trips in later years with my wife. Done thousands of miles over the years, from Isle of Skye to Lands' End, and lots in-between.

Best wishes, belated happy new year

David Laughlin KSM

NZCAA Maintenance License # 10554

On 14/01/2026 20:13 NZDT Martin Robins <martinrobins@btinternet.com> wrote:

Shown below is a delightful Morris Minor story taken from the Shropshire Star.

The car is under the gaze of a statue of Sir George Dowty standing next to his most famous design - the Lancaster aircraft undercarriage.

Lord Thomas of Remenham (Miles Thomas) as the managing director of Morris Motors brought the Morris Minor to the market in 1948 and was a long time serving director of the Dowty Group.

Martin Robins

Martin Robins, from Wiltshire, bought his Morris Minor on May 18, 2007 from its previous owner in Wellington, Shropshire.

The car had eight other previous owners since its manufacture date in 1966 - all from Shropshire.

Mr Robins's 60-year-old Morris Minor.

Now Mr Robins wants to celebrate the classic car's 60th birthday in style by bringing it home to the county - and he is appealing for ideas on where to show it off from the county's classic car enthusiasts.

Mr Robins said: "The car detailed reaches its 60th birthday this May and we would like to bring it back to Shropshire to celebrate the anniversary.

"It was manufactured as a saloon in February 1966 and dispatched to Kennings of Shrewsbury and first registered on May 1, 1966.

"We acquired the car on May 18, 2007 as the 10th owner - the previous owner was a Mr Corbett of Wellington. Members of the Corbett family had owned the car since 1990 and all its previous owners lived in the Shropshire area.

"The car was converted from a saloon into a convertible by The Moggy Factory, Heath Hill Industrial Estate, Dawley during Mr Corbett's ownership. This garage also maintained the car for Mr Corbett.

The car is currently in excellent condition that belies its years. It was featured in Minor Matters in the September/October 2018 edition.

"If anybody has suggestions as to an appropriate form of celebration please do get in touch."

Mr Robins has asked anybody with ideas on the best place to show off the 60-year-old Morris Minor off in Shropshire to contact him at martinrobins@btinternet.com.



CLASSIC CAR AND BIKE SHOW AT TIMOUR HALL – 18 JANUARY

Llewellyn Buckley

The annual Timour Hall motor show is the most probably one of the largest classic car shows in Cape Town, held over two days. Saturdays are reserved for the modern classics while Sundays are for the vintage breed. The Morris Minor club is no stranger to this event, and this year members from as far as Kleinmond attended. Some members met up at the venue while others drove in convoy from the clubhouse in Parow.

This year, the event attracted 18 Morris, parked in our usual prime location which attracts many visitors. As always, the conversations from visitors are of the Morris that they owned, learning to drive in one, having one as a bridal car, or the awesome memories made.

As usual, some of the guys headed straight for the spare's stalls, while others returned with some interesting books, clothing, and other items. The food vendors yet again served up some

amazing dishes, with something for everyone. We also had the honour of meeting not only Sandy's sister (our website designer/caretaker) and brother-in-law who helped Gerda with some finer IT issues, but also some new members, Wayne Davis, Ray Cooper and Clive and Heather Holder from Simons Town.

By the time of closing at 16h00, sun burnt, and having caught-up on all the news from a festive December, we headed home, feeling happy and blessed to belong to such a great family.



Gerda Muller chatting to Jothan Strass while Frikkie Muller shares some useful insight to the Buckley brothers.



Even the Pink Lady joined in today!



Molly doing an oil change while Mitford is showing off all the plastic bottle caps which had been collected.



Delarey getting some useful advice from Willie Bouwer

BRAAI AT THE CLUBHOUSE 25 JANUARY

By Gerda Muller

We have certain traditions we uphold in the club, come hell or highwater. One of them was, on the third Sunday of January we hold our Welcome Braai for the year, specially to meet new members and for the old members to catch up on everything that happened over the festive time.

After the first braai came the first event – Timour Classic Car Show, which was usually the next Sunday. For a newbie it was very exciting; you met with the members, and now, as a club, you all go with them to our first event. Alas, during the years (I don't know when exactly) Timour Hall began to pinch our "third Sunday of the month" time slot and we had to move the date of our braai. Call me old-fashioned, but I liked the way it was before; first spending time with our Morris friends, and then the first event.

The Committee held their first meeting of the year 2 hours before the braai, and as I put down my pen after writing the minutes, the rest went off, setting out the tables, portable braais pulled out of their hiding place, Mitford pulling his makeshift wood trolley, and then the big brag!

Suddenly every man believes he is a fire expert. They form a tight circle around the braai, holding tongs like trophies, arguing about the coals:

"Too hot"; "not hot enough"; "no, now it's right"; gas vs Namibian wood, rooikrans vs briquettes. The way they gather around Morris's engine is eerily similar to how they gather around a fire.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the ladies form their own groups by the tables, doing actual work – laying the tables, making the “braai broodjies”, salads, snacks, making sure that everyone has a glass of wine. You don’t have to worry about the men, they helped themselves when they started the fire.

“Did you tell them the meat is ready?”

“Yes.”

“Are they listening?”

“No.”

Eventually the meat is on the grill. Once again, the men lean in at once, drink in hand, braai tong in the other, the squeezing of arms between the shoulders of the other men who are trying to do exactly the same, to reach the grid. Smoke everywhere, instructions flying. One wors is burnt, one is raw, one disappears mysteriously.

In the end, everyone eats, laughs, and agrees: Best braai ever. See you next time!

GEORGE CAR SHOW 14 FEBRUARY

Llewellyn Buckley

Early on a cold and gloomy Friday morning, leaving Table Mountain covered in a cloak, a lone blue Morris Minor headed over Sir Lowry’s pass in search of a new adventure. The N2 national road was abuzz, with like-minded individuals heading to the largest motor show in the Western Cape, being held in the shadows of the Outeniqua mountain range in George.

At the official pitstop at Buffeljagrivier, travellers enjoyed fresh roosterkoek and coffee, while others checked on their cars, sharing stories of the journey thus far. It was here where the blue Morris met up with the black convertible Morris, with none other than Chuck, as the backseat driver. We headed into George with the rain pounding and dripping into the cars.

Saturday morning, with a few light showers we headed for the school grounds with only 4 Morris parking together (sad face), and an additional 2 scattered across the different fields. The erection of our banners and the hoisting of the British flag signalled that although we didn’t have the numbers, we were here to make a statement. This was evident by the

event goes stopping to chat and take pics of our cars. As always, there is lots to see, and for those who have never been to the show, well let's do it next year.

The event ended at 16h00, with the drive-by and the cheering crowd wishing us a safe journey home... and yes, we'll be back next year.



Chuck, the backseat driver.



The 4 lone Morrisies parked together on a gloomy morning.



And then there were 3, with clear skies.



Llewellyn & Chuck enjoying a glass of red!



Chuck, having an afternoon nap.



Courtney, Veronique, Delarey & Chuck enjoying the sunshine!

BRAAI AT THE CLUBHOUSE 15 FEBRUARY

By Gerda Muller

In anticipation of the 2026 Rally, scheduled for next month, our distinguished judges, Tony Harrison, Ron Clark, and Frikkie Muller, have pre-judged the vehicles of Sandy Gush and Emma Carpenter, the sole entrants in the Concours. The judges agreed that the cars were in an excellent condition and that we are sure to bring home some prizes.

The usual braai followed, a Sunday tradition we love, but this time it was made even better by having Elmarie and Tony Erasmus join us all the way from the UK. They will stay in South

Africa for the summer and only return to the UK when winter is over – the typical proverbial swallows.

The rally was a big topic of conversation, and we're getting really excited about what's in store for us.

Onwards to the 14th of March!





And guess who has the darkest tanned legs in the house.....

