



Well it seems that I have only just now penned the last report for our February E magazine so little to add in this report as to recent official club events. I have left it as late as possible to fit additional events in the report (sorry about that Graham and Heather):

- **Our general meeting of 14 February.** What would otherwise have been an ordinary (but as usual convivial) general meeting was turned by Annette and Steve into an especially lovely one. One might have expected reduced numbers as members saw to their beaus but we're either a particularly uncaring or unattractive lot as despite the Valentine's date, we still had a good turnout. Annette's efforts ensured that we all knew the significance, with heart shaped home baked biscuits, chocolates, balloons etc. Thanks Annette and Steve - you really do make the clubrooms work well.
- **Ladies Lunch at the Hamptons of 2 March.** Good to see the facebook report of this well attended event. I counted 14 lovelies in the photos and we look forward to the official report. Thanks Marilyn for arranging the event.

Great club news is that we have had an expression of interest in the Vice President position. Club stalwart Neal Garswood has had his arm twisted sufficiently to agree to take on the role (thank you Sheila) and I look forward to our upcoming general meeting at which I hope you'll all agree to ratify his nomination. Neal has taken the bit between his teeth already, undertaking the events management role which Martin Durkin has so generously assisted us with until the VP's position was filled. Thank you for your efforts Martin - it has been sincerely appreciated. I was also most gratified that Neal's was not the only expression of interest made. I do hope those concerned understand the sense of Neal's appointment and I assure you that there is space on committee for all with an interest. As it will be our turn to host the National Rally in 2020, there will soon be many roles to be played. Many hands make light work.

Of some concern however is filling the position of JaguarsWest magazine co-ordinator. Graham Macdonald has filled this role with aplomb since July last year but from the outset he advised that he could only do it for 12 months at the most. Accordingly, May's printed magazine is to be the last he can be responsible for so we need to make arrangements for beyond. Committee is evaluating some third party options but I believe the preferred option would always be for a member with the interest and expertise for this role to take it on. If you feel that have such an interest, please let me or any other of the committee members know.

In other motoring events, I managed to get the Blue to the Barbagallo "Night Masters" meeting of Saturday 17 February where it acquitted itself well. Unfortunately in an attempt to keep costs down, the "Gillette Radials" fitted to the Blue's new compliant 6" wide wheels were ones that had been fitted previously to the "Fawn's" race wheels so were more than a little long in the tooth and hence, hard. The result was less than spectacular performance on the track as she scrambled for grip all day and night. That's my excuse anyway and I'm sticking to it. Nonetheless the car otherwise performed well keeping all of its fluids inside for a change (alright, most of its fluids - it is a Jaaag) and provided the official photographers some interesting shots demonstrating just how much work the front brake discs do. In the dark of the night they could be seen glowing bright red from inside the wheels. Thanks to Kay Whyte and Neil Davis for coming up and supporting the effort. Kay even agreed to wear the official Team Lapsley shirt! Most becoming.

The long weekend just past was a particularly busy one for motor sport fans. I understand there were 5 motor sport events in WA alone with a Drift event at Barbagallos, Drag racing at the Motorplex, Speedway, Racewars in Albany and last but certainly not least, the Collie Icebreaker 2 day event. Also the Clipsal in Adelaide to watch. Oh, what to do? What to watch?

Well it seems from Facebook reports that the Albany Racewars had a good turnout of Jaguars in attendance and I suspect it would have been impossible for our own John Kopcheff to stay away. Indeed I have just had it confirmed that he was there and took out another trophy.

My efforts last weekend were directed to the Collie Icebreaker. Unfortunately the new extended track is not yet completed so we were running on the shorter track. We took the opportunity to walk the length of the extended track and it really has got me salivating. Can't wait to have a go.

I made it down to camp on the Friday night with BIL Peter having set up camp earlier for us. On Saturday we managed to qualify 4th and a blistering start in the first race saw the Blue up to 2nd place by the first corner. The Collie track is Cono Onofaro's Mini Cooper's hunting ground so there was no way I could have realistically hoped to chase him down but I was disappointed to "leave the door open" to let Mike Rowe's rampaging Falcon Rally Sprint past me into the chicane. Still, a podium finish is not to be sneezed at and it meant a 3rd place grid position for the first race on Sunday. Sunday's start was even better, getting into the lead by the first corner and managing to hold Cono at bay for a few laps before he made me look silly under brakes. Those damned Minis just don't seem to need to brake at all! However I did manage to make the Blue wide enough to achieve a 2nd place in that second race. YAY!

The unfortunate thing was the Blue was suffering an engine malaise throughout all of this. Haven't determined the cause as yet but it did mean I was not confident enough to run her in the last race, nor to drive her home. We did manage to achieve 2nd place overall in class (Nb > 3 ltr) for the weekend even with the DNS in the final race. Another bit of tinware for the mantelpiece. I hitched a lift back to Perth with the generous, irrepressible and unshuttable Craig Bradtke and returned to Collie with a

trailer to collect one forlorn Blue and she's home now awaiting ministrations.

The Phillip Island Classic coming up on the weekend of 10-11 March has again proved to be too strong an attraction for many in the West to resist with strong contingents from the WAHTCC making the trip and of course Team Shephard will be there again. Best of luck for all travellers from the West but in particular, our Phil Shephard, Luke Zambotti, John Smith and the rest of the team. You must know how jealous of you I am. One day....

I again remind you of the regular "Coffee and Cars" morning at the University of WA. A great way to catch up with many in the motoring fraternity and there are always some very interesting cars to view and talk with the owners about. The next one is to be on 11 March. Just google "Classic Cars and Coffee" and I'm sure you'll find the details of the next one. Regularly advertised on our club facebook page too (thanks Terry).

The Wild Apricot club management and database package continues to add efficiencies to the club's management and I understand that

the transfer of our club webpage to the Wild Apricot platform is imminent. Please make sure that you register for events using the Wild Apricot links on your email notifications. Really does make it easier for events coordinators.

A few special events you should note if you've not already done so:

- **9 March (Friday) - Grand Tourer Register Run to the Gravity Discovery Centre.** Steve Starling has again arranged a most interesting run. 20 couples already registered.
- **18 March - Council of Motoring Clubs Classic Car Show at Ascot Racecourse.** I understand we have allocated spots for 10 display vehicles so get your registration in quickly.
- **24 March - South West British Auto Classic.** Always a good run to the Busselton venue.
- **28 March (Wednesday) - Our next Barbagallo Track Day.** Notifications have been distributed with full details but again always a fun event so put it in your diaries. Invitations have also been sent to the TSOA, MG, Mercedes,

Aston Martin, AC Cobra, Corvette and Weld Clubs so we should have a good range of interesting and collectable cars there. All guests have been advised they can go as hard as they like, so long as they don't overtake any Jaag so make an effort to come along - I promise you'll leave with a smile on your dial.

- **12 April to 15 April - National Rally in Adelaide.** Many of our members are making the run across for this exciting annual event.
- **7 and 8 April - Northam Motorsport Festival.** A great weekend of classic motorsport with The Mt Omanney Hillclimb and Motorkhana events on Saturday followed by the Round the Houses regularity events on Sunday. Paul Gardener is arranging a Sunday run and we have a dedicated display area in pride of place for the day.

So until we next meet safe motoring and remember, keep left unless overtaking.

Laurie Lapsley