



# REPORT BACK ON HOUW HOEK 2023

Thanks to Di Dugmore for collating these responses



Nicola, John & Pam Gush

## An Amateur's View on the Houw Hoek Rally 2023. By Nicola Francis - Team Ferrari

Having completed my 5th Houw Hoek Rally as navigator to John Ryall, I have only this year become aware of the history behind this popular event. Celebrating its 120th year, it is considerably older than all 29 of the superbly restored vintage and classic car entrants. With the Houw Hoek Hotel taking first prize at the grand old age of 244 years.

### A few of this year's highlights:

Lunch at the Franschoek Motor Museum, followed by a walk around the impressive Johann Rupert collection of motor vehicles representing 120 years of automotive history.

The day South Africa white-washed England in a Cricket World Cup round-robin game, and then went on to narrowly beat umm... England by 1 point in a Rugby World Cup Semi-final, a piece of sporting history that saw car enthusiasts turn enthusiastic rugby supporters.

Back to the actual rally: playing catch-up after some trouble with a R301 sign board, or was it a R361 board? Defending its title was obviously very important to a particular red Ferrari, and the sole brave motor bike entrant safely managed to correct his speed wobble in its slipstream. Fortunately a number of cars missed that same turn, so the navigators were let off the 'Hoek'.

*But it wouldn't be a rally without a podium, so well done to this year's top three positions.*

- 1) Team Greyvensteyn!
- 2) Keeping it in the family, Team Woodward.
- 3) All the way from the Eastern Cape [Town], Team Gush. Or possibly Team Murphy, depending on that R301 board... The red Ferrari only managed to come 4th. Sorry Enzo.

And don't forget one or two breakdown awards. Agh no man.

Finally a very big Thank You to Dave Alexander & Di Dugmore who managed to set not one, but two route schedules, due to recent Cape rains that washed away some of the roads and passes. All while fitting in a trip to Ireland and, winning a one day car rally there. Well done!



### Team "Low Drag": Darryl Simpson and Peter Truter

The Start was most suitable for all entrants with the weather really playing the game. Nice time/distances to coffee at the tannery in Wellington, then on to casual

snack-type lunch at Franschoek Motor Museum which was both casual and substantial.

Then on with a very pleasant further drive via Helshoogte and on to Stellenbosch, Strand, Sir Lowry's (where we drove into the strongest South Easter I have ever experienced), going up the pass & into Grabouw and on to Houw Hoek by mid-afternoon, amongst some light rain showers & a drop in temp. Then it was time to relax and watch the Proteas eat up England, in the Cricket World Cup in India.

Prize giving and on to a buffet-style dinner. Dancing was left somewhat by the wayside, while we tried to find a seat in the house for the rugby.

Sound was an issue, so we all moved into the breakfast room. What more can I say.... Mooi een Bokke, albeit by the skin of your teeth. Sunday morning saw us all make our various ways home, after a hearty breakfast.

Thanks to all concerned for a wonderful weekend.



### INTERNAL & PARTNERS - Team 'Newby' Neville & Ronelle Young

First rally for Ronelle and me. All thanks to Marius who insisted that we drive his Fairlady Z. What a pleasure to drive that classic sports car. The 240Z got more attention at Franschoek Motor Museum than some other distinguished marques parked on either side.

The weather experienced on Sir Lowry's Pass was the worst I've experienced in my life crossing the pass. Cannot imagine what Marius had to deal with on the AJS.

Had a great time with lots of

friendly people sharing the same passion for motoring. The venue and food were excellent! I think the rally bug bit Ronelle! Until next time (in my own car).

- Neville Young



### A few thoughts on the 120th Houw Hoek Rally - "Team Awesome" (Austin) - Ron & Pam Gush

A memorable event indeed. Especially when one thinks of the first cars to do it, and the probable road conditions at that time. Merely getting to Houw Hoek would have been a win! The CHC is to be congratulated for maintaining this bit of history.

The rally was great. Clear route schedule, easy to find clues, a few calculations at the start to clarify some blank spaces, and we were off, free to create our own mayhem.

Yes, the R301/361 left turn caused a ripple on the duck pond. But the turn was on a given distance, and one could calculate the ETA from the distance and speed. I recall the late Des Hill telling us to believe our own time and act on it. Turn left, said Pam. So turn left, I did.

The wind going up Sir Lowry's Pass couldn't make up its mind from which direction to buffet, but the little Austin behaved faultlessly, as I have learned to expect.

Houw Hoek Hotel was great in all respects. Great room, great food, great company. And the rugby was nail-biting stuff! Well done and many thanks to Di, Dave and team on a stout effort.

➔ PTO





**Team Middelmann - The 'Old Timers' by Maryke**

Oh no! There is something wrong. The clock is not right. Oh dear, are we 2 or 3 minutes out and which way, early or late? Never mind, we will take it as it comes and do the adjustment later when we have time. So off we go and the route is so nice through Fisantekraal. Everything is clear, clean, and green, apart from the golden wheat.

Oh no! There's Nick's bakkie, with Nick's nose under the bonnet. Damn! So, Robert hops out to see what the problem is and, about 10 minutes later all seems well, and we continue. Gee, that bakkie moves!

Another 10 km down the line and the problem re-occurs, this

time Nick pulls off the road and both guys are trying to sort out fuel starvation problems. I am giving advice from the sideline: "maybe there is dirt in the tank". Dave drives by in the back-up vehicle. Fortunately he saw us and returns to the scene. It's quite a nice spot in the middle of the vineyard on a quite frequently used farm road, Nick could have pulled over further as people have to duck past him.

I relax on the back seat of the Cadillac while the men are hard at work and Di takes a duck in the vineyard. Thank goodness, now I don't have to stress whether we are 2 minutes or 3 minutes out and I can enjoy the rest of the drive.



*Oldest Car with youngest Team! 1926 Austin 7 Chummy well done to Ryan & Alexia Walker on getting Jane on the event and getting her home!*



*Marius Le Grange, ready to set off on the 1958 AJS 16MS 350*



*Trusty Marshals & Scrutineers, Simon Rawlinson & Ashley Ellis. Thank You! Always willing.*



*Alex & Mel Stewart made a special appearance to see Bruce and Irene Stewart off in the MG TC that has finished many a Houw Hoek Rally!*



*The Winning Team, Colin & Megan Greyvensteyn, receive the prestigious award from organisers Dave Alexander and Di Dugmore, with Phillipa Middelmann in shot.*



*Team MURPHY received a special award for their sterling efforts! The 500SL Mercedes performed flawlessly and got Annelie and Andrew back to PE safely after a fun weekend!*



*Harvey Metcalf and Johann Rust enjoyed the rally in the 1937 Chev Coupe*



*Wilfried Schulte's '82 Mercedes 500 SL, Dave Dyer's '75 VW Beetle, Sandra Middelmann's '63 Porsche 356*





*Tea stop in Wellington at the Old Tannery*

*Left: Roger Lewis' '50 MG TD*



*Al fresco at the FMM*

*Viv James' '29 Ford Model A*



*Alex and Bruce Stewart's '47 MG TC*

*Left: Kevin and Miriam Agnew's '73 MGB GT*



*Wilfried Schulte gets to grips with the log*



*Theo Clark navigating with fervour*



*Colin and Megan Greyvensteyn featured their '72 MGB GT*



*Neville and Ronelle Young in Marius' '73 Datsun 240Z*

