

Teeeriffic Ts with an S

By Patrick Vermaak who attended the Passion for Speed at Killarney on 3rd February

With no fuel pump, no oil pump, no instrumentation, no windscreen, hardly any brakes or suspension, 116 years old and a chauffeuse, there should be enough reason to remain in the Joubert Pits.

On the contrary, this would prove to be an absolute highlight as Ali van Jaarsveld took to the Killarney International Raceway like the proverbial duck to water, impressing her somewhat bulky passenger with a super smooth, comfortable and downright impressive 3.267km lap in her pristine 1907 Model S Ford. Oh, did we mention that she travelled all the way from Johannesburg and that this was the only Model S in South Africa?

Not since the 1963 F1GP at Kyalami have so many Model T Ford cars participated in a parade lap at any circuit in South Africa and they could not have made a bigger impact. André and Ankie Wessels led the parade with their immaculate 1914 Model T Ford Speedster, dressed in period gear and truly looking the part as they entered Gate 5.

As members of the Model T Ford Club of South Africa, the idea grew over a cup of coffee in George sometime late in 2023. With the oldest car “run” in South Africa, the Crankhandle Club Kalk Bay Run, scheduled for Sunday 4th February 2024, it made sense to utilise the opportunity to its fullest and members expressed interest in doing a parade lap at Killarney on Saturday 3rd February 2024.

Thorsten Pey found himself leading a rather unique collection onto the main circuit in his Land Rover Discovery V8. He was disappointed by the fact that these Fords had long mastered the art of marking their territory, not with oil, but with they tend to blow off a little steam after a hard drive.

Greg Björkman and Louise Farrell had the honour to leave the Joubert Pit lane first, in their 1910 Model T Ford Torpedo. This magnificent blue Ford is visibly more “laid back” than the standard T and it looked in place passing by the Sarel’s Sweep banner on Turn 4.

President of the Model T Ford Club of South Africa, Emil Kuschke, managed to keep the Ford

badge high and his 1914, Model T, Four-seater led the 1915 Model T Ford Runabout of his brother, Philip Kuschke onto the circuit.

Initially the intention was to introduce the Historic Grand Prix Car Association Drivers to the spectators. However the veteran cars proved such a hit that the entire British and Dutch contingent wanted to experience them and every available seat was occupied for two laps.

Eddy Perk (HGPCA) was seen directing the orchestra from the front seat and later waving from the back of the 1915 Model T of Ockert van den Berg! Philip Kuschke took a super enthusiastic, eight-year-old Anika Nortjé for a drive in his 1915 Model T. The 1915 Model T Ford Depot Hack of Riaan van Niekerk (Harrismith) was filled to capacity, whilst the 1914 Model T Ford Speedster of André Wessels (Wellington) attracted much attention from the F1 drivers. Harry Heyns (Somerset West) and the 1926 Model T Four-seater would still be taking passengers around Killarney, had time allowed.

Gerhard Breytenbach flew in from Polokwane on Saturday morning, only to be let down by his Uber from CT International. He then travelled to Killarney International Raceway by taxi. If there was an award for sheer enthusiasm, Gerhard would have earned it and his 1910 Model T Ford Four-seater found itself busy on circuit.

Dating between 1910 and 1926, the nine Model T Ford cars represented the oldest grid ever at the Killarney International Raceway but the car that really blew minds was the 117-year-old 1907 Model S Ford of Ali van Jaarsveld. Driving it as if she had stolen it would be an understatement as she made it look like the most natural thing to do. On top of the fact that there are absolutely no driver aids available - the pedals and controls can best be described as negligible, compared to modern machinery, Ali turned driving into art.

Joining in the lunch-time Grid Walk, the final lap around Killarney almost came too soon and it was a reluctant farewell as the group set off to prepare for the Kalk Bay Run.



Gerhard Breytenbach - 1910 Model T Ford 4 Seater



Ali van Jaarsveld - Patrick Vermaak - 1907 Model S Ford



Phillip Rosser - 1925 Model T Ford Runabout



Harry Heyns - Eddy Perk - 1926 Model T Ford 4 Seater



André Wessels - 1914 Model T Ford Speedster



Riaan van Niekerk - 1915 Model T Ford Depot Hack



Ockert van den Berg - 1915 Model T Ford Bakkie



Philip Kuschke - 1915 Model T Ford Runabout

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Emil Kuschke - 1914 Model T Ford 4 Seater



Greg Björkman - 1910 Model T Ford Torpedo

