

# Swartland Rally Report 2024



Thanks to Russell Ludwig for the report.  
Photos Viv James and Di Dugmore

The Swartland Rally is one of the big events that Crankhandle Club members look forward to each year. This year's rally was filled with great scenery, roads less travelled and, for those of us that don't get out of Cape Town too often, it was a great way to enjoy its greater surrounds.

We met at our regular start, the N7 Engen Garage North of Cape Town, early in the morning of Saturday the 15th of April. It was one of those days that started off with light drizzle and one wasn't sure which way the weather was going to go. Thankfully, by mid-morning the sun came out and the roads dried up which allowed for a very pleasant day out.

This year took us from the N7 towards the small town of Riebeeck-Kasteel and then on to Wolseley for a much-needed morning break of coffee and muffins at Die Boord Restaurant and Farmstall. We then left Wolseley behind and headed towards the Slanghoek Valley, and we were blessed with great weather and beautiful views.

After driving a long circular loop, we headed towards the town of Tulbagh for our lunch stop at the Bike Forge - a petrolhead's delight - tucked away behind a long driveway of trees. As the name suggests, it is geared towards motorcycles but the owner and

family are keen motor enthusiasts and were very welcoming. We all settled in and enjoyed a good lunch and refreshments while listening to Mike, the enthusiastic musician, playing classic hits. During the lunch break we took the time to walk through the small, but interesting, motorcycle and racing museum at the back of the restaurant. A perfect lunch location where everything is dedicated towards motorcycles and racing in South Africa.

After lunch we all headed to Tulbagh for our evening stop. Tulbagh has come alive again after Covid and we were welcomed with great hospitality in the town. We all stayed at the Tulbagh Hotel, a grand old lady which has been renovated beautifully. After we had all settled in, we enjoyed drinks on the terrace of the hotel before heading into the restaurant for our evening meal.

The day wouldn't have been complete without the formal proceedings. During our dinner the prizes were handed out and we were all able to review the scores from the day. Andrew and Annelie Murphy showed off their stuff with an impressive winning score of 49. Next were Colin and Megan Greyvensteyn with a score of 70, followed very closely by Ron and Pam Gush with 79. The rest of us shared stories, laughed about the mistakes and strategised on how we could do better next time.

This event would not have been possible without the hard work of the organisers and the patience of the marshalls. A big thank you to Steve and Shirley Woodward for once again putting on a great event and choosing an interesting route, stops and comfortable accommodation.



Megan Greyvensteyn checking rally instructions in her '72 MGB GT



Ralph Thomas & Rick Brown - '34 Riley Lynx



Russell and Melanie Ludwig's Karmann Ghia → PTO



*Philip & Shirley Roux's '55 Citroen, Tom & Pam Gush's '34 Austin 10*



*Greg Bjorkmann's '62 Daimler 250 V8*



*Rally winners were Andrew and Annelie Murphy in their '84 Mercedes Benz 380 SEC*



*The '61 Porsche 356B was driven by Dave Alexander & Di Dugmore*



*Rob and Maryke Middelmann's '58 Corvette*



*Theo Clark admiring John Ryall's '88 Ferrari 328 GT*



*Ron Gush's '34 Austin 10*



*Graham and June Challenger following the massive avenue to lunch at The Bike Forge, outside Tulbagh*



*Above left: The tops: from left Greyvensteyns, Murphys, Gushs and Woodward*

*Above: Congratulations to the winners*

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*Magnificent sunset over Tulbagh scenery*



*The spirit of the Rally. A jolly good time was had by all.*

