

The Houw Hoek Rally

Or what to do when the wheels fall off....

By Louise Farrell

Photos: Di Dugmore, Colin Greyvensteijn and Märkye Middelmann

The morning of the Houw Hoek Rally, 19th October 2024, started as any rally morning. Running around packing the car with both luggage and liquids. All went well with very little traffic on the way to the start at the N1 Winelands One Stop.

After receiving our rally notes and a very quick take-away sandwich, we were on our way.

For whatever reason, our car, 1963 Daimler 250 decided, again, to have a puncture in the front passenger wheel. This is the same wheel that had the puncture on the Deep South Rally. Greg is now saying it is my fault as it is always on my side of the car - is he trying to insinuate something?

Bear in mind that we are now under stopwatch timing and we are barely two kilometres from the START board.

11 minutes later the wheel was changed, and we were off again. We now had 11 minutes to make up, so any recommended rally speed was irrelevant.

The remainder of the day went sort of the same. Fast to one point and slow to the next. Rallying is really mind boggling. You think you are on time and by the time the results come out, you are way off.

I think by now that my "NAGGIVATING" needs some polishing up. Possibly the use of a big stick might do the trick.

The tea stop at Franschoek was absolutely fabulous with the hosts serving us an array of scones, croissants and drinks. Thank you very much to Wilfried for the brilliant arrangements.

The afternoon run went much the same as the morning run, with us under and overestimating our times. Never mind, we had a fabulous day.

We arrived at the Houw Hoek Inn and, again, Wilfried had arranged a marvellous luncheon out on the veranda.

Greg then left to return to Cape Town for his 50th school reunion and I spent the afternoon in the new curio and delicatessen at the hotel. Some lovely things to purchase and at very reasonable prices.

So now it is time to prepare for the prize-giving and dinner dance. There were quite a number of surprises with the usual candidates receiving first and second place and Roger Lewis and Tatiana coming third overall.

We then proceeded to the dinner dance and, as usual, the buffet was

excellent with many varieties. I am sure everyone enjoyed what was on offer.

The highlight of the evening was Greg returning from Cape Town at 8.30 in time to join me for dinner and the dancing festivities.

The dance floor was continually occupied, and a lot of fun was had by all.

A big thank you to Wilfried and Liezl for a very well organized rally (it was Wilfried's first attempt at setting a rally and he did really well). Well Done Wilfried.

The impressive Middelmann Bentley Coupe



A quick briefing prior to start

➔ PTO



The starting line-up at the Winelands One Stop



Running repair time for the Jag



Roger Lewis, Rob and Maryke Middelmann and Joan Parker enjoying a day out



A close-up of Nick at work in the Porsche



Three generations of Middelmann members: Nick, Vice-Chairman, Matt on his first motorcycle rally entry and Robert, Vice-President



Matt Middelmann's BMW Motorcycle - 1957 BMW R50



Harry Heynes' 1930 Ford Model A Roadster



The long and winding road...



Russell Ludwig and family in the 1966 Karmann Ghia



Uwe Swoboda's 1949 Cadillac



Mike Baudains shows off the 1989 Ford Sierra



Bruce Eastman in the 1980 MG B Roadster



Paul Furbank in the 1967 Jaguar E-type



Sandra Middelmann's 1963 Porsche 356



Steve & Shirley Woodward's 1969 Alfa Romeo GT Junior



*Bruce Eastman relaxes as he sets his Master Timer!
Liezl knows what lies ahead!*

Houw Hoek Entry List

Driver	Navigator	Year/Model
Ronald Gush	Pamela Gush	1934 Austin 10
Peter Truter	Darryl Simpson	1965 MG B Roadster
Greg Björkman	Louise Farrell	1963 Daimler 250 V8
Bruce Eastman	Jennifer Eastman	1980 MG B Roadster
Roger Lewis	Tatjana Kozlova	1950 MG TD
Ernest Uwe Swoboda	Roy Darphin	1949 Cadillac Sedan
Mike Baudains	Pam Baudains	1989 Ford Sierra
Russel Ludwig	Carina Ludwig	1966 VW Karmann Ghia
Steven Woodward	Shirley Woodward	1969 Alfa Romeo GT Junior
John Ryall	Lisa Morkel	1988 Ferrari 328 GTS
Paul Furbank	Douglas Furbank	1967 Jaguar E-Type
Joachim Wedler	Angelika Wedler	1965 Porsche 911
Nick Middelmann	Sandra Middelmann	1963 Porsche 356
Colin Greyvensteyn	Megan Greyvensteyn	1972 MG B GT
Matt Middelmann		1957 BMW R50
Joan Parker		1950 MG TD
Harry Heynes	Diane Heynes	1930 Ford Model A Roadster
Rob Middelmann	Maryke Middelmann	1996 Bentley Coupe
Wilfried Schulte	Liezl Schulte	Rally Organisers

