



**MAZDA MX-5 CLUB
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

PO Box 312 FULHAM GARDENS SA 5024
www.mx5-sa.com.au



20 OCTOBER 2013

**LAST SUPER SPRINT FOR THE YEAR AT MALLALA & THE LAST HILLCLIMB FOR
THE YEAR AT COLLINGROVE**

Mallala

It was a question of choice and lots of MX-5 owners had to decide whether to enter for Round 5 Super Sprint or Round 3 Multi Club Hill Climb. In any case your club was well represented at both events and before you make any ill-informed comments about poor planning be assured that this occurred due to circumstances beyond the control of both organizing committees. As you know from your participation in the social MX-5 club, life gets busy with many activities seeking the same venue and or time slot, thus you have to take the date that is on offer by the promotor.

An early start Sunday morning in fine weather assisted by miniscule traffic congestion resulted in the MX-5 club Flag Marshalls arriving on time as planned.

We shared duties with a contingent of Bolwell club people, which ensured that there were enough people to man (all right, person) the bunkers. Chris Gascoigne and Roger Trethewey had a conflict of interest as they are staunch members of the Bolwell club but we managed to share.

Numbers were down which was both good and bad; low entries means the meeting is not an economic proposition with regard to over head costs of putting on the event, low numbers means that drivers will get through their day quicker and possibly have more laps?

Kari Soutter requested an executive roll at the Marshall briefing and to our surprise she and Poppy were consigned to race-control where they enjoyed a bird's eye view of the day's activities. They will probably take up this officially next season as they have both become motor racing geeks. What have we done!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

While some of us battled flies and heat in our bunkers, Kari and Poppy swanned off in air-conditioned comfort. All right for some I say!!!!!!!!!!

We front line storm troopers had a wonderful day of camaraderie, excitement and enjoyed a nice lunch supplied by MSCA. Did I mention that we were the butt of every hairdresser joke? We took it all in good stride. Chris Soutter had a lazy day as he only waived a flag once while Roger Trethewey and I didn't lift a flag. Chris also took lots of photographs so he more than earned his keep. Thanks Chris.

Karen and Lindsay Caffin for THE SECOND TIME this year provided a professional service, stationed at flag point 3 where they were supported by a new member, Graham Bell, who we made most welcome. Congratulations Graham you are a most worthy member of the exclusive Marshall section of the club.

Andrew Duncan also kindly volunteered to assist us and he got a most entertaining role for his trouble. Andrew was the Assistant Starter and his job was to line up the first and second row of cars



**MAZDA MX-5 CLUB
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

PO Box 312 FULHAM GARDENS SA 5024
www.mx5-sa.com.au



on the start grid (supervised by who else but Kari, with Poppy giving a second opinion). Well done Andrew, we have missed you but I know that you will be back as soon as you can.

Did I mention anything about the drivers?

- Simon Belcher
- Ian Duncan
- Chris Gascoigne
- Peter Nelson
- Paul Clifton (brand new member and most welcome aboard)
- And three others not in our club but they should/will be soon.

As the track became hotter and the wind picked up, lap times tended to be a little longer for most competitors and you must remember that their tires have done a season which has left each car begging Father Christmas for a new set of race tires. As I do not have result sheets yet I can't tell you much more. By the close of day those who wanted more track time got it and everyone was most pleased with their day. Our members' cars looked neat, tidy and reliable on the day with only Peter Nelson taking an early retirement, perhaps he had received a better offer?

On a personal note, I must thank Roger "T" for letting me drive his turbo NB in the parade laps. With 155 kW at the rear wheels and plenty of space at the tail of the parade, was it good, what do you recon?

Thank you to all who made the effort to assist on the day, you are all very important as without you there will be no motor sport for any of the competitors at this level. Motor sport is quite expensive even at amateur level and like a lot of things in Australia, it is dependent on the goodwill of club volunteers. I know that the drivers appreciate your contribution. Your real reward is the fun of being close to the action.

Thanks to Karin and Lindsay Caffin, Kari and Chris Soutter, Roger Trethewey, Graham Bell, Andrew Duncan and Poppy.

Collingrove

I could not attend but I will next year as I enjoy all the fun at Collingrove and it is one of those rare opportunities for people of my age to mix with young people who share my interest and passion. You don't see them in any numbers at Super Sprints but they flock to Hillclimb events where they can do what I did when I was young. Have fun in your streetcar. I can relate to that as I can still remember what it was/is to be young at heart.

Robyn Bostock was desperate to enter as he had installed a roll bar and was trying to get his level 2 license. Robyn drove well at "The Come and Try Day" where his standard NB made Poppy's supercharged car look like a snail. He deserves to do well and he did as he did his best ever time at this the last Hill Climb for the season.

Marque LaMaistre has done something like 400 passes up the hill at Collingrove during the past 4 or 5 years, where he has set a record for his class, so he is a Master, along with Peter Emmes who has similarly collected a class record which I expect he still holds. Back to Marque, I understand that he



**MAZDA MX-5 CLUB
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

PO Box 312 FULHAM GARDENS SA 5024
www.mx5-sa.com.au



did a super time at the recent Officials' Appreciation Day at Collingrove. Believe it or not, he achieved this with a passenger and unlikely tyres that just hooked up on the day.

At the end of the season with tyres jaded, do not expect super times, it is enough that they all had a great year anyway. Even so Marque managed to get down to a pretty good time thanks to a warm track and tyres that worked well. Peter Emmes, another Master of Collingrove, achieved the quickest MX-5 time in, as I understand, a quite interesting car. If you want to know a bit about that car you should contact Peter for firsthand information.

The other MX-5's steadily reduced their elapsed times over the day so everyone had a good day out.

Next year expect to see Ray Dicker, Fletch Bolton, Simon Belcher and 2 or 3 others on the Hill together with the Mazda Reynella boys (by the way, Mazda Reynella is a sponsor for Collingrove).

Below is a synopsis of Marque Le Maistre's Year of Motor Sport.

"Well that's what I felt was a disappointing motorsport season over. Maybe I am a hard taskmaster, but felt that I was slow all year. Should take some solace from the fact that even with tyres that were well past their prime, I set my fastest ever lap times at Mallala, our team came a terrific second place in the 6 hour regularity relay, I won the class in both the from Ian Duncan, I set my quickest times, apart from my record runs set at last year's state titles, at Collingrove. I also feel a little responsible in seeing several new MX5 competitors out at the hillclimbs this year. Maybe it wasn't such a bad year, but if I'm not breaking my record at every event, then I am not happy. I think I could do a 27 second run and still be disappointed that it wasn't 26. The fact that this year at Collingrove has seen many wet days competition, resulting in slower times added to my negativity. Even if on one of those days on my first run of the day, I set the 11th quickest time out of 79 drivers. Maybe it wasn't such a bad year after all! New tyres next year and a bit of a tidy up of the car after 2 years of spending nothing at all on it and new records are for the taking."

Regards

Dennis Hawkins
Sporting Secretary
Mazda MX5 Club of SA
motorsport@mx5-sa.com.au
Ph: (08) 8337 0934 Mob: 0413 353 830