

# **The Formation of the Model T Ford Club of South Africa (the MTFCSA)**

## **Chapter 1**

In 2008 I was invited by Philip Kuschke, one of a handful of passionate Model T Ford Enthusiasts in South Africa, to participate in the Centenary Rally celebrating 100 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century car of the Century, the Model T Ford. At that point in time, I had owned my Model T Ford Speedster for sixteen years and in that period had only encountered a few Model Ts at the car shows and events that I had attended.

What a wonderful surprise to find that there were Model Ts from all corners of the country ranging from a 1907 Model S Ford to a 1927 Model T ford bakkie, that had converged on George for the centenary celebration. We were soon mingling and meeting all the people that we had not met before and talking to people whom we had only communicated with on the phone or by email.

As this is not an article on the 2008 event, as that can be read in articles written by people far more knowledgeable on the event than myself, however, just to say that we met a whole new group of friends. Thanks however, to Philip Kuschke, the Southern Cape Old Car Club, and the sponsors of the 2008 centenary run, for the tour and the planting of a seed.

Driving home to Gauteng after the event I thought to myself that it would be a tragedy if the group of people that we had just met, never get together again, this sparked the idea of forming a club for just Model T Fords in South Africa.

How to form a club where the members were spread all around this vast country of ours was difficult to visualise and I eventually decided that the Model T Ford owners would have to decide as a group how they would like this club to develop and how they would be part of a club with a group of friends that owned these wonderful cars.

I obtained from Philip Kuschke the names of all the people that he had approached to be part of the 2008 tour which he duly sent me and whilst I was in the middle of compiling a register of Model T Ford Owners, South Africa along with the rest of the world was struck by the global financial crisis, and by November of the same year the project that I had been assigned to in my company was shelved. This forced me out of the country and into work in South America from 2009 to 2014, which put my plans to establish the Model T Ford Club on hold.

I was fortunate enough to be able to retire early, and in 2014 I returned home to start enjoying my retirement and to get heavily invested in all my projects that had been hidden away during my sojourn in South America. It was not long before many of the Model T Ford owners, old and some new ones were in contact with me looking to buy Model T Ford Spares (which thankfully I had bought in 2002 to prevent the previous owner from shipping them overseas). At this point I decided to create a WhatsApp group for everyone that I knew that had an interest in Model T Fords and added everyone that I knew on to the group. At the same time, I heard from my very good friend Emil Kuschke that his brother Philip was attempting to create a Model T Ford Register. After many cups of coffee, telephone calls and emails, Philip, Emil, and I decided to resurrect the concept of having a Marque Club for Model Ts in South Africa and decided to form the Model T Ford Club of South Africa 'MTFCSA'. We prepared a prospect for the Model T Ford Club and started getting this document out to as many Model T Ford owners as possible.

By Some good fortune Model T Ford owners were invited by Mike Liesegang the chairman of the Model A Ford Club of South Africa to a Ford sponsored day to be held at the VVC on the 5 November 2016. We quickly sought permission from Mike and the Chairman of the VVC to use this auspicious occasion to launch the Model T Ford Club of South Africa. This permission was kindly granted, and an emotional inaugural meeting was held.

Importantly at that point in time the members present decided that as a club we would not be prescriptive as to how the club would operate and allow the club members to steer the club in the direction that they would be part of. So, I guess that this is the first chapter of what I hope will be a long association with people who love the Model T Ford and that it will be, as one of the members eloquently described it as “a club for cars and not just another club for people”.

Hugh Clare-Talbot: Interim President  
February 2017

## CHAPTER 2

The following people were present at the founding meeting of the Model T Ford Club of South Africa held on 5 November 2016: Hugh Clare-Talbot, Philip Kuschke, Kevin Casey, Emil and Hanneltjie Kuschke, Ali van Jaarsveld, Arthur and Elize Duvenage, Paul Mouton, Taco Kamstra, Paul Hoogendoorn, Siggie Duvel, Jonathan Tacon, Paul Koski and Tazz Premrajh



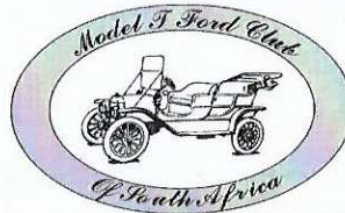
**Above:** Some of the attendees of the founding meeting

Hugh Clare-Talbot acted as interim president for the club during 2017 while Emil Kuschke was the secretary. These two gentlemen drafted the club’s constitution which was approved at the club’s first Annual General Meeting. They were also responsible for the design of the club badge.

The club’s first Annual General Meeting took place at the George Old Car Show on 10 February 2018. By this time the club membership had increased to 23 members (see attendance register below).

# ATTENDANCE REGISTER

AGM of the Model T Ford Club of South Africa



DATE: 10 February 2018

NR	NAME	CONTACT NO	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
1	Ockert van der Berg	0834401852	ockert.dientie@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	THASVIR PREMRAJH	0837822531	tPremrajh@yahoo.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Deville Koch	0825692138	Naasue@Jansons.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Susan Koch	0726115974	" "	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Tina Mouton	0825701062	tinapm4@gmail.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	ARTHUR DUROUACHE	0829457949	artcurtford@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Kobus Botha	0828070747	kobus@belairs9.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	TOM VAN DER VUUR	0839481168	vdvurth@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	CASSIE LOURENS	0829045360	cassiejl@lantic.net	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	SHAWN VENTER	0727729600	s.venter@absamail.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Syd Biddulph	0732018666	biddulph@sektor.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	MIKE ALEXANDER	0824954780	mikealex@telkomsa.net	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	ALI VAN JAARSVELD	0729048305	ali@flameout.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	KEVIN CASEY	0826301824	KEVINJCASEY@VIAPIA.COM	<i>[Signature]</i>
15	Oliver Gerondeanos	0721175078	olivergerond@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
16	Danie Schmidt	0823517039	danie.schmidt@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
17	SHAWN VENTER	0744846011	shawnv@wemail.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
18	Phillip Rosser Kuschke	08285651521	philros@telkomsa.net	<i>[Signature]</i>
19	Johann Claassen / Ansie	08244793486	claassenj@mweb.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
20	TIM RIDDELL	0828084000	tim@reddell.org.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
21	KOWIE LOMBARD	0828924042	kowie.lombard@lantic.net	<i>[Signature]</i>
22	PAUL HOOGENDOORN	0728080600	paulhoog@absamail.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
23	Emil Kuschke	0826554879	kusch@mailzone.co.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
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At this AGM the first club committee and area champions were elected (see portfolios below).

- Election of Committee
  - President National – Philip Kuschke
  - Secretary National – Emil Kuschke
  - Treasurer National – Paul Hoogendoorn
  - Website Editor National – Thasvir Premrajh
- Election of Area Champions of the above
  - Gauteng – Emil Kuschke
  - Western Cape – Tim Riddell
  - Southern Cape – Phillip Rosser
  - Eastern Cape – Paul Hoogendoorn
  - Natal (Piet Retief) – Kobus Botha
  - Free State – Kevin Casey

The club gradually started to gain momentum.

In 2018 the club organised its first tour in association with the Southern Cape Old Car Club. The organising committee which consisted of Philip Kuschke, Emil Kuschke, Phillip Rosser, Mike



Alexander and Danie Schmidt organised the 2018 Ford Vintage and Veteran Tour attracted 45 entries from all over South Africa. Veedol Oil in conjunction with the Samuels Group was the main sponsor. An interesting fact is that the Ford Motor Company used Veedol oil in Model T Fords since 1914.



**Above:** participants on the 2018 Ford Veteran and Vintage Tour

When the Covid-19 pandemic occurred in 2020 most motoring clubs in the country virtually came to a standstill. This was the time when the Model T Ford Club became more active, however. It was also the time when the club realised that committee meetings could be held using ZOOM. Shortly after the start of the Covid-19 restrictions in 2020, the club's first newsletter, *T-Time / T-Tyd* appeared. Club members were asked to propose a name for the newsletter and of the many suggestions submitted, Paul Hoogendoorn's was accepted after consultation with the club members. Phillip Rosser was asked to act as editor for the for the newsletter, and the first *T-Time* appeared at the end of April 2020. The club is proud to present the *T-Time* quarterly.

# *T Time / T Tyd*



*Official newsletter of the Model T Ford Club of South Africa*

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020**

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The club had planned to hold the 2020 Annual General Meeting during the SAVVA Veteran Tour, but due to the Covid-19 restrictions the tour was cancelled. As a result, the committee decided to host the AGM for the first time using ZOOM.

The meeting was conducted successfully on 26 September 2020 using ZOOM. At this meeting the club committee and area champions were elected as follows:

- **Election of Committee**

President National	– Emil Kuschke
Secretary National	– Philip Kuschke
Treasurer National	– Paul Hoogendoorn
Website Editor National	– Tim Riddell

- **Election of Area Champions**

Gauteng:	– Emil Kuschke
Western Cape:	– Tim Riddell
Southern Cape:	– Phillip Rosser
Eastern Cape:	– Paul Hoogendoorn
Natal:	– Kobus Botha
Free State:	– Kevin Casey

The club committee approved a proposal for Emil and Philip Kuschke to compile a club calendar. The first calendar appeared in 2021 and the second in 2022. The calendar initiative was so successful that the funds generated was sufficient to provide each club member with a calendar free of charge.

On 17 March 2021 the club achieved another milestone when the first Technical Evening was presented. Phillip Rosser presented the restoration of his 1927 Model T Ford Pickup using ZOOM. The good attendance figures for the Technical Evenings attests to the success of these presentations which takes place every third Wednesday of the month. Kobus Botha is currently the co-ordinator and ensures a smooth discussion session where members also socialise at the end of the presentation and get to know each other better. These meetings allow members to get to know each other and share their expertise with fellow club members. Thank you too kobus for ensuring the success of these meetings.

Long live the Model T Ford Club of South Africa!

Philip Kuschke  
16 December 2021

**Chapter 3 (to follow ...)**