

ELFIN

OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 144 - March 2017



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ELF – IN



❖ Small, slight, and delicately - made or proportioned, quick, agile and delicate (as in movement or thought), having an otherworldly, unearthly or magical quality.

- Webster's Dictionary.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

THE CLUB KING IS DEAD LONG LIVE THE CLUB.

As most of you know, we have lost our champion and EODC President-for-Life, **BRIAN 'Brique' REED**, who sadly and suddenly passed away in mid December 2016.

We now have the task of replacing the irreplaceable. Brique started the EODC, with the blessing of **GARRIE COOPER**, back in 1978 and single handedly ran and ruled the club up to the day he died. This "monarchy" meant the Club maintained its popularity, affordability and informality over the years.

Fortunately over the last decade or so, Brique was kept in line by his magnificent companion, **CHERYL REID**, who dragged the club into the age of technology and a level of professionalism where it can now boast of things like; an up to date database of members, a good looking colour electronic newsletter, a great range of merchandise and a healthy financial status. Good job Cheryl. (She's almost earned the right to change her name from Reid, to Reed.)

The excellent news is that Cheryl has agreed to continue her work with the Club, but she will need support. So this is a sad, but great opportunity to develop some areas of the club to ensure an active and fun future.

In the short term, I have been asked to assume the role of President until we can have a proper election. I suggest we quickly move to appoint:

A social secretary (let's reinstate at least an annual rally run to a lunch spot)

A merchandise officer

Cheryl will continue to organise club membership and communication.

Our annual BBQ will continue on the Friday of the Australian Grand Prix at The Elfin Heritage Centre and we can use this opportunity for a relaxed AGM and appointment of new Club Officers. (see Membership page for further information)

Please give consideration to how you can get involved. Call me on 0408 059 002 or email me at bill@elfinheritage.com.au with any suggestions or offers to contribute to our long-term future.

We also welcome any articles, reports, photos that can be added to the newsletter.

We owe Brian Reed our best effort.

BILL HEMMING



EODC DIRECT CREDIT DETAILS

Bank Account No. 5003785

BSB 633-000

Bendigo & Adelaide Bank

Make sure your **NAME** appears on the transaction so your payment can be identified.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC. BITS 'N' PIECES:

"Bitten by the bug...?"

That is something Murray Rainey once asked me. I had forgotten that term but when I was growing up in the 50's and 60's if you were hooked on racing you were said to have been "bitten by the bug". My father was a mechanic and worked for a time on race cars for Tom Hawkes, Murray Rainey and Ron Redpath. My brothers and I grew up listening to the tales of racing so it was inevitable that I would eventually be "bitten by the bug".

In my late teens and early 20's I was in the Army, then got married and raised a family so finances and time precluded any opportunity to be "bitten by the bug" - apart from a dabble in the late 70's with the family car.

Then in the mid 90's I bought a Morris Minor modified it and went racing - by now I was well "bitten by the bug" The Morris, by the way was a good car, I had a lot of fun with it, it was never going to knock off the mini's but it was still a quick little car - 16.2 secs for the Geelong Sprints back in 2002 and 28.0 something at Rob Roy.

I built the Elfin Clubman in 2006 and have been racing it in hillclimbs since and now the Hayward, so yes I have been "bitten by the bug".

MIKE BARKER

ROLE OF THE HERITAGE CENTRE

Apart from displaying the proud Elfin history and cars, the Centre also acts as clubrooms for the EODC and members are always welcome for a cuppa.

The Centre has also become a renovator and service centre, especially for the modern Elfins. Ex employees from Elfin Sports Cars Pty Ltd, Arthur and Kon have recently repaired and fettled MS8s and Type 3 clubman cars.

To keep the Centre fresh and relevant, there is usually room to display owners cars on a medium term basis which gives visitors some variety. For example, at the moment, it is hosting:

- T5 Clubman Prototype owned by the HSV chief designer, Julian Quincy (this car will be departing shortly to its new owner Joe Farmer in Queensland. Joe was previously the Qld Elfin agent and built a beautiful C3 clubman.
- 623 F3 owned by Andrew McLaren. Gorgeous little Corolla engine car in fantastic condition which is currently for sale.
- 600D owned by **JOHN DALZIEL**. An immaculate Repco Brabham engine, ex **GARRIE COOPER** car.
- Type 500 FV owned by **DAVID NUTTER**. This freshly restored car is for sale at a very attractive price.
- NG Vee owned by **GEOFF KELLY**. Recently purchased, Geoff had no room at home.
- Mono owned by ex Elfin employee Bob Mills who now lives in America. This car was gathering dust and poorly displayed at the SA Birdwood museum, so the Centre rescued it!
- C3 Clubman owned by Robert Wilkinson whose increased family duties have forced him to lay the car up.
- 600B owned by Tim Dash. This ex John Bowe and Ross Ambrose car is on hold while Tim's twins grow up!

These vehicles sit alongside The Centre's own stable of

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| * MR8 F5000 | * 400 Repco Brabham Sports Car |
| * Elfin Streamliner | * Elfin Clubman |
| * Formula Junior | * Mallala |
| * Road Car Prototype | * MS8 Clubman and Streamliner |

Why not put your pride and joy on display!



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

BITS 'N' PIECES:

ELFINS FOR SALE - Don't forget, EODC members can advertise their cars/parts etc. for free in both the Newsletter **AND** on the Elfin Heritage website (www.elfinheritage.com.au).

We have also had some success selling cars by displaying them at the Elfin Heritage Centre for convenient viewing by potential purchasers. Advise bill@elfinheritage.com.au.



..... to all those members who attended to their membership renewals so promptly, many before Christmas. By now you will have received your 2017 EODC membership card which is your receipt as well as your club card required when you enter for a race meeting. Please note that if you have NOT received your current membership card then you are NOT financial. (All memberships run from January 1 to December 31). Membership renewals can be **paid via direct credit** (see editorial page for details) or by **cheque payable to EODC** and posted to **Cheryl Reid - 2/6 Merton St, IVANHOE 3079**.

WANTED:

ANECDOTES and PHOTOS for a new **ELFIN** coffee table book.

We are about to publish a new 400 plus page, full colour Hard Cover book titled:

ELFIN - THE SPIRIT OF SPEED

This book will sit comfortably alongside the existing **ELFIN - AUSTRALIA'S SPORTS AND RACING CARS** book which will remain as an important chronicle. Our new book will be more about the people involved in Elfin and have specially commissioned glamour photos of each model alongside previously unpublished historical pics.

We are in the final stages of pre print and photo sourcing, and throw out a last invitation to EODC members for any interesting stories or photographs that may enhance our book.

Please call **BILL HEMMING** on 0408 059 002 or bill@elfinheritage.com.au if you think you may have any suitable material.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

EODC LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This year's EODC Clubman of the Year trophy has been replaced by a Lifetime Achievement Award and is posthumously awarded to **BRIAN REED**. 'Brique' refused to be considered as a candidate for Clubman of the Year on many occasions, and was jokingly reminded that it would be awarded to him following his death. He was a tireless ambassador for Elfin, ever since the purchase of his Clubman in 1963 and later Formula Junior; the formation of the EODC was one of many endeavours he pursued to promote the marque.



Brique had been thinking about the possibility of a Club for Elfin enthusiasts for quite some time, and early in 1978 wrote to **GARRIE COOPER** outlining his plan and requesting that he become patron of the Club. In his usual quiet manner, Garrie was rather guarded in replying to the request, and while he was quite enthusiastic about the notion of a club, he was less enthusiastic about his role however when assured it was purely a figurehead, he agreed and so the club was formed.

Brique published the first edition of the Elfin newsletter in 1980 and at that stage there was already a healthy membership of 28. 143 editions later, membership stands at 654. He wrote, edited, produced and distributed the newsletter from 1980 up until his death in December 2016. For 38 years he led the club through the deaths of both **GARRIE** and **LORRAINE COOPER**, several ownerships of the marque, countless annual BBQ's, Elfin displays, club dinners, and EODC runs. In addition he supported innumerable owners, drivers and enthusiasts; patiently answering their questions, providing history on their car and when unable to help out, pointing them in the right direction. He was a stickler for accuracy and would go to extraordinary lengths to add to his vast wealth of knowledge.

The highlight of the Elfin events Brique organised, are the two memorable Tour to Tarrengower runs in 1993 and 1995. They included 95 kms of open road cruising from Bendigo to Maldon and back again by both Elfin Sports and Racing cars. Held over a weekend, the events involved special breakfasts, lunches, jazz afternoons, dinner dances, police escorts, closed roads, brass bands, Chinese Lion dances, vehicle displays and support from an entire community. The 'Tour to Tarrengower' is fondly remembered by all participants (and many locals) and Brique was particularly proud of his effort in organising these.

Thank you for all your endeavours Brian Reed.

CAMS Licences - CAMS has once again confirmed our affiliation for 2017. This means that EODC members can apply for Level S2 speed event licences through our club. Our members are entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership of CAMS.

Thank you to all those members who contacted me in a variety of ways following Brique's death. I was quite overwhelmed by your messages and very touched your words of sympathy and support. To those who attended his funeral I send a huge hug.

I'm sorry I didn't speak to all of you, but once again the 'turn out' was stunning and I know Brique would have felt very humbled by your presence.

CHERYL





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

THE ELFIN CONNECTION

Some months ago in 2016 I received a phone call from an EODC member. From his usual enthusiastic tone I recognised who it was. "I have found another Elfin Road car." I informed him that the only Elfin Road car built by Elfin Sports Cars was in the Elfin Heritage Centre parked nose-first against a wall because **BILL** (HEMMING) didn't like the frontal appearance. "I will email you an image of the car" came the response. I instantly recognised the car from a previous for-sale advertisement that used the Elfin in the blurb. I showed the ad to **LORRAINE**, Julie and Steve. Steve agreed to check it out and came back declaring it not to be an Elfin but the owner insisted that **GARRIE** (COOPER) had some part in it.



Further information from our latest owner throws further light as to the road registered car's origin and Garrie's involvement. The printed SDS Delta coupe information sheet begins, "Limited production of the exciting S.D.S Delta sports coupe has begun with the first spaceframe nearing completion at Elfin Sports Cars.

The two-seater is initially being offered as a 'kit' of frame and body, suitable for the Passat motor and transaxle. A Volkswagen-based fibreglass body fit may be offered in future, along with turbocharging or air conditioning options for the S.D.S." (Although apparently not with both)

The basic cost of the frame and body components is expected to be \$5200, tax paid. Additional optional items for almost every function in the car are being secured, usually at attractive prices." There is no date shown on the four page document which is identified as Stead Design 14 Nicole, Drive Corromandel Valley 5051, but given that one of the options is an Audi Fox engine it would put it somewhere between 1973 and 1979.

I have been taken for a brief spin in this car, which is obviously road registered and can report that it is well built, rides firmly, has no headroom and goes and sounds like a competition car.



I personally believe that **FULVIO** (MATTIOLO) did weld up a spaceframe for this car as the current owner said was told, but that's where the reference to Elfin Sports Cars should end. Garrie would have had time during the seventies to help Terry Stead with his project, in fact probably welcomed it as he was considering just such an Elfin road car design during that period and into the early eighties.

BARRY CATFORD

FACEBOOK:

For those interested in social media **MARK GOLDSMITH** and **JAMES LAMBERT** have been using Facebook as a way of sharing images and successes of Elfins of the past. There is a wealth of history contained on these sites and yet another way of sharing your memories and photos. Why not join all pages! **ELFIN 60's Sportscars**, **Elfin Types 600 to 600E** and **Elfin Monocoque Aficionados** - devoted to the sharing of Elfin information and history. Thank you to the administrators...





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

VALE BRIAN 'Brique' REED

In 1963 Brique celebrated the completion of his Bachelor of Music Degree with the purchase of his beloved Elfin Clubman. He successfully requested CAMS Licence #18 to match his racing number, and vividly recalled his first motor sport experience.

"I remember it well, January 26th 1964 Calder Motor Raceway. I was in my Elfin Clubman that had just been road registered, running on tyres I remember which were guaranteed for about 90 miles an hour, and that thing could do 125!"

"I was up against Bib Stillwell in the first race against the Cooper Monaco, and alongside him was Norm Crawfoot in the Cooper Jaguar, and me in my little Elfin Clubman on the front row.

"I had two spins.... I remember chasing Norm Crawfoot in the big Cooper Jaguar, and finished fourth so I was quite chuffed with that!"

The same year he had his first drive at Bathurst in a Hillman Imp with his future wife Lorraine Hill. He must have impressed many people because in that same year he was also invited to join Lex Davison's Ecurie Australie, a team which was to also include Davison, Rocky Tresise and Tim Schenken. This would have no doubt led to his involvement in the Tasman series, however none of this occurred due to the tragic deaths of both Davison and Tresise.

Brique's exposure to Bathurst in 1964 made him a regular there and he drove in some twelve Bathurst events from 1964 through 1980. Brique was also a works driver for AMI (1965-1969) and Mazda (1973-1974). He was also part of the team that set the Ford Falcon XP on the map with its 40 endurance records during the 70,000 mile Ford Falcon-Mobil Durability Run at the You Yangs in 1965.

In 1966 Brique drove the race of his life against many international drivers: Jackie Stewart, Richard Attwood, Paul Hawkins, David Piper, whilst sharing a Porsche 906 Prototype with Alan Hamilton in the Rothmans International 12-Hour Sports Car Race at Surfers Paradise. They finished 4th.

Throughout his career, Brique managed to set a number of lap records at various race circuits: Winton, Hume Weir (Elfin Clubman), Warwick Farm (Triumph Spitfire), Phillip Island (Torana XU1), Calder (ASP 340C), and Calder (Holden Gemini). He was no slouch at hillclimbs either, setting lap records at Ararat (ASP 340C), Mt Tarrengower (Farrell Datsun) and Mt Leura (Elfin Clubman).

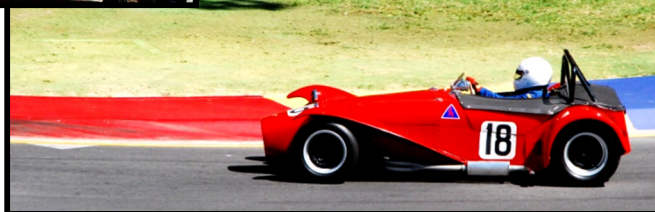
In the latter years, Brique's involvement in historic events in his beloved Elfin Clubman was a familiar sight and he followed this up with drives at Loton Park (UK) in a 1937 Singer Le Mans, and a co-drive with Scotty Taylor at Spa (Belgium) in 2010 in the one hour Stirling Moss Trophy event in Scotty's 1955 Bobtail Cooper. He was thrilled!

Of course, Brique was not only a competitor in all types of race cars, he was a fine journalist, speaker, promoter of all things motorsport, in particular Elfin, a tireless worker for CAMS and Historic Racing and friend to all. His ready smile, wealth of knowledge, unmistakable white hair and engaging manner will be sadly missed.

Vale Brian Reed - a true gentleman.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC. MEMBERSHIP:

No. 653 - GEOFF BALL (Vic)

Geoff is the proud owner of the ex- **GEOFF COHEN** Malmark Formula Vee which has been raced through most states of Australia and also New Zealand.

No 654 - STEVE GILMOUR (WA)

Steve is our mystery member from WA. Steve please contact us to confirm your details and tell us more about yourself.

No. 655 - ROB NETHERCOTE (Vic)

Introduced to Elfin through brother **ANDY**, Rob has just acquired a Type 3 Clubman that was originally built as the Elfin Factory show and demonstration model. It has since competed in regularity events.

We wish our new members well and hope they have a long and happy association with the EODC.

2017 AGP ELFIN BBQ

As usual, our Grand Prix barbeque will be held at the Elfin Heritage Centre, 29 Capella Crescent, Moorabbin.

Date: Friday, March 24

Time: 6:30pm onwards

Cost: Free for current financial members, \$20 per head for visitors.

It's a great way to get into the Grand Prix spirit, enjoy master chef Arthur's culinary delights and share an opportunity to catch up with other members at this fabulous venue.



**FOR CATERING PURPOSES PLEASE
LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING.**

Please contact Cheryl on 0419 581 815, email reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE - ELFIN M620B FF

Ist in class at 2016 Phillip Island Classic and 2015 NSW point score championships, Ist outright in 2016 Qld's Historics with pole position. Set up by Ian Peters. New floor in 2015, gearbox rebuild 2016 and only used twice since. Enclosed trailer spares and moulds are included. Car at Tweed Heads but will travel for interested parties.

PRICE AUD \$26,500.

SEAN SORENSEN 0419 246 662

zorros66@gmail.com



WANTED - ELFIN M620B

Side pod moulds with rear mounted radiator.

SEAN SORENSEN 0419 246 662

zorros66@gmail.com



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Address.....

Postcode.....Fax No.....Mobile No

Phone No.....(home)(work)

Email.....

I am an owner/ex-owner/entrant/driver/mechanic/enthusiast of Elfin cars. (Please circle)

CAR.....YEAR OF MANUFACTURE.....

CATEGORY.....CAPACITY.....

ENGINE.....ENGINE NO.....

CHASSIS NO.....COLOUR.....

Any other significant mechanical details?

- HISTORY OF CAR -

EVENTS CONTESTED (include results and dates)

PREVIOUS OWNERS (and years)

◆◆◆ Please include a photograph of your car ◆◆◆

I wish to become a member of the Elfin Owners and Drivers Club, and

☐ have enclosed a cheque for \$25 - membership fee (no cash please).

☐ have paid my membership via direct credit -

Bank A/C No. 5003785 BSB 633-000 (Bendigo & Adelaide Bank)

Signed

Please return to Cheryl Reid
2/6 Merton St
IVANHOE 3079

or email reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au

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