

# ELFIN

OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

# NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 148 - March 2018



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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.

## EDITORIAL:

Well it's March already - where has the last 12 months gone?

March means it is time for our first newsletter for 2018. A big thank you to **CHERYL** for the work she does in sourcing articles and putting it together. In this issue you can read about:

"Elfin at the AMF" - In December the Sporting Car Club of SA hosted the EODC at their Adelaide Motorsport Festival (AMF) - a **BRIQUE REED** Tribute which consisted of a display of our cars with parade laps around the Victoria Park Circuit on the Saturday and Sunday. Read **GRAHAM BOULTER's** report on the event.

"Eighty Years of Rob Roy" - 2017 celebrated 80 years of Rob Roy with three EODC members competing in their Elfin at the MGCC Historic and Classic Rob Roy in November. MGCC's guest of honour for the meeting was another of our member's, Elfin legend **GRAHAM HOINVILLE** - you can read a report of the day by our "EODC Track Spotter"

"Ever dreamed of competing in Europe?" - Well a number of our members have done just that over the last few years or so, including **LAURIE BENNETT** and **BILL HEMMING**. In this issue you can read **MARK GOLDSMITH's** report on his and **RICHARD NITSCHKE's** exploits at Zolder, Snetterton, Dijon (where **STEVE WELLER** joined them) and Silverstone.

"EODC Clubman of the Year" - Of course, March is also the time when we announce our Clubman of the Year. I am sure you will agree that this year's winner is a worthy recipient of the award, who is it? Read on to find out.

March is also time for our Elfin AGP BBQ - For catering purposes, please don't forget to let **CHERYL** (0419 581 815) know if you plan to attend the BBQ on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, and if you will be bringing any guests. Visitors will be required to pay \$20 to help offset the costs.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2018, don't forget to slip \$25 into the mail, or use our Direct Debit facilities!

Cheers for now  
**MIKE BARKER**



### EODC DIRECT DEBIT 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.

### ELFINS AT THE AMF

In a fitting tribute to the late **BRIQUE REED**, the Sporting Car Club of SA's Adelaide Motorsport Festival hosted the EODC at the Victoria Park Circuit in December. Some twenty two cars were displayed and driven in lunchtime parade laps on both days of the event.



The gathering featured most examples of **GARRIE COOPER's** cars ranging from **SAM SHAHIN's** early Cooper Austin (above right) to **ANDREW MANNING's** 2010 MS8 from the Walkinshaw period. With perfect weather and a great crowd of motorsport enthusiasts it is hard to imagine a better venue to highlight the EODC's commitment to preserving the Elfin heritage.



Most would agree that we had a "plum" spot in the area, which in March of each year is the Clipsal 500 merchandise sales area and paddock. There was a steady flow of admirers through the marquee including quite a few luminaries giving advice from various angles...how the particular car was presented in "the day" or in fact when they owned /raced it.

(At left Brian Morrell, **BILL HEMMING** admire the ex Morrell Streamliner of **BILL ATHERTON**.)

While we did not compete as such, we were allowed around fifteen laps each day. It was a parade, however the safety car that we followed, proceeded at a pace suffice to say, that allowed for a certain degree of enjoyment.

Credit must go to the organisers **MIKE BARKER**, **BILL HEMMING**, **MARK GOLDSMITH** and **CHERYL REID** who all did a marvellous job in pulling the group together. It was nice to see Elfin historian **BARRY CATFORD** along, the cars beautifully prepared, and the whole outing running like clockwork.

This was my first official involvement as an EODC member. I now have my cap and polo top (there's no escaping Cheryl), have met a few owners, so I'm looking forward to the next opportunity.

### GRAHAM BOULTER



*The dinner on Saturday night was also well attended and participants had a great time comparing notes. (Note **BILL HEMMING**, **GRAEME WRIGHT** and **JOHN TAMKE** at left) Many thanks to all the owners for going the extra mile to have their car on display whether it was by 'driving from distances far and beyond' or 'burning the midnight oil' to have the car ready for the event. Ed.*







# ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

## EODC PARADE AT ADELAIDE FESTIVAL OF MOTORSPORT (photos courtesy of John Lemm)



Thank you BOB ANDERSON (MR5), JOHN ANDERSON (Cooper Butler), BILL ATHERTON (Streamliner), JOHN BECKER (Streamliner), LAURIE BENNETT (600B), GRAHAM BOULTER (623), JAMES CALDER (Mono), GEOFF EDWARDS (C3), MARK GOLDSMITH (400), BILL HEMMING (FJ), DAN JEFFRIES (Streamliner), TREVOR LAMBERT (ME5), PHILLIP LANE (700), SHANE LEE (F Vee), ANDREW MANNING (MS8), RICHARD NITSCHKE (300), SAM NITSCHKE (clubman), SAM SHAHIN (Cooper Austin & MS8), JOHN TAMKE (Mk2 Clubman), DICK WRIGHT (Type3 Clubman), and GRAEME WRIGHT (Mallala).







# ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

## EIGHTY YEARS OF ROB ROY



The MG Car Club's 26<sup>th</sup> Historic & Classic Hillclimb on the 19<sup>th</sup> November featured three EODC members competing in their Elfin Sports cars.

Class N for Sports Cars 1941 to 1960 featured two of the classic 1960 Streamliners. **BILL ATHERTON** (at left #37) in the ex Brian Morrell and Frank "Snowy" Elkins car bagged a second place with 27.32, only just pipping **COLIN SULLIVAN's** (at left #80) classic Streamliner with a 27.98.



The star of the day was our President **MIKE BARKER** (at right) in his 2005 Type 3 Elfin Clubman with a very quick 22.75. Mike won the honours in Class F for post 1975 Clubman Sports and won the Tony Gaze Trophy for the fastest Sports Car of the meeting. He also had the second fastest time of the day, only being beaten by Darren Visser in his Bates Cyclo with a record 21.71 for the Under 1100cc Air Cooled Racing Cars 1960 to 1972 Class.

Elfin owner and legend, **GRAHAM HOINVILLE** (pictured at right on his birthday) was given a special tribute and parade in celebration of his huge contribution to motor sport and his historic connection with Rob Roy. Graham turned 89 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. His book is now on sale and is a must read.

(See [www.vhrr.com](http://www.vhrr.com))



It was also great to see John and Shirley Hartnett, former Victorian Elfin agents and owners and developers of the two classic Streamliners with Coventry Climax engines, independent rear suspensions and four wheel disc brakes. Another legend spotted was Norm Beechey. All in all, it was a very pleasant day with a big crowd in to enjoy the final event of the 2017 season to celebrate eighty years since Rob Roy opened in February 1937. It is the world's second oldest permanent built hill climb and a very important part of Australian motor sport. Hopefully we will see more Elfins competing there in 2018.



### EODC TRACK SPOTTER.

(photos courtesy of Matthew Magilton)



## ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

**ELFINS IN EUROPE** (*experience some of Europe's best known circuits with Mark Goldsmith and Richard Nitschke (RCN), words by Mark Goldsmith*)

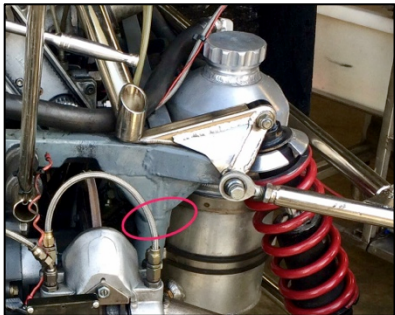
### ZOLDER

A weekend that didn't go according to the script! Zolder is a fantastic circuit. Built in 1963 and held many Belgium Grands Prix interchanging with Spa-Francorchamps. A very fast circuit with a mild hill cutting through the forest and is just over 4.5k's long. It has been slightly modified over time with speed reducing chicanes. We had great practice and qualifying sessions dodging the rain. **RCN** was very quick as we both tried to get used to another new track!

First race it was lightly raining, then after the second lap, the heavens opened and it really came down. Even the stickiest AVON wets couldn't cope with the sheets of water on the track causing aquaplaning. The local kids were charging past into the spray. The brightest rain lights got lost in their spray at 30 metres. **RCN** and the Catalina were drowning out there! I (Mark) was lucky enough to pick up a second in my Class, of only five runners in the field of 26 predominately 2000cc Formula Fords. The second race was five hours later, with rain reducing to intermittent showers, easing. But another front was expected. It was only up until the last 20 minutes that I changed back to slicks and we had a fantastic dry race. I jagged a win in our group that put me in the middle of the pack of the other 2 litres. **RCN** started well but again the gearbox gremlins from last year, attacked and he had to retire. We are having a few days over the border into Germany then back to the UK for Snetterton.



### SNETTERTON



Well it's amazing what a difference 48 hours makes! Our last outings at Snetterton proved disastrous for both of us in different races. **RCN** had a fantastic race with the front engined Formula Junior as an invited guest. Carved his way through most of the field and had some good dices only to snap a U/J on the finish line. He coasted over to take the flag and won his class, but the car was broken. I finished the last race which was fantastic, and when loading the car discovered a large crack (at left) in the chassis near where the rear suspension mounts .... too big to ignore. If it lets go

you become a passenger! So we've had a mad scramble. Catalina - to fix the minor damage the half shaft made while rattling around and have a new LH drive shaft with universal joints welded. (Similar to the other side that failed earlier.) We have in the nearby St Neots a firm like our Hardy Spicer in Oz. (at right) Very handy and they know their stuff. **RCN** was there waiting just before they opened! "Yes, come back for collection in 6 hours!" My car - I needed to drain coolant and oil. Remove gearbox/transaxle, dry sump tank, some suspension, and rear wing etc. also off. Then reload it into a trailer and take it to those lovely Lola Heritage people at the back of a farm half an hour away for some superior welding, way beyond my pay scale! (Read ability!) Five hours to strip it down and trailer it over to them and they had the crack welded and ready for collection four hours later. Brilliant! Yesterday was a long day but everything is back together and both cars back on the ground and touch-up painted after the repairs. A quick wipe over, then loaded back into the trailers as we head off tomorrow for Spain to catch-up with the 'Girls', taking our cars with us!! It was a tight time frame, but if it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done!!







# ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

## ELFINS IN EUROPE continued...

### DIJON

A fantastic day with Race One done in the sun and dry. Brilliant.... although out classed by some of the machines here. I didn't mind getting lapped by the quickies, they sounded great as they passed. Just to prove that the Aussie's know how to party and are very friendly, we moved the cars out of our tent, borrowed the ARE tent, and had every one chip in a bit, got some beer, chops, snags, steaks and had Klaus engaged in our usual Aussie/Deutsch catering alliance. Invited all our new friends!!! It was a good night, but pretty damn cold but good fun. Racing today, Sunday, was delayed due to thick fog! Safety car couldn't see the Flag Marshalls on a test run! "Review in an hour...." We were then given 20 minutes to get to the grid and as it was raining everyone swapped to Wets. What a scramble! Had a great race with **STEVE WELLER** in his Elfin 600B nose to tail. We put on a good Elfin display down at the back end! Great race. Good result. Winners are grinners ....

(MARK GOLDSMITH, RICHARD NITSCHKE and STEVE WELLER)



### SILVERSTONE

Great weekend! Exhausted and also a little bit 'Tired and Emotional!' It is our last event on our Northern Hemisphere Campaign. Silverstone Finals. This is a fantastic complex and an F1 Circuit. The facilities are excellent. The race meeting was terrific but for the cold and the wind. Hell it was cold!! What's that saying, "As cold as a mother-in-laws kiss." Seven degrees at breakfast then it warmed up to 11 during the day. Hard to get heat into the engine let alone tyres! So we went through Practice on Friday and had a bit of drizzle, no big deal, and Saturday Qually in the dry. **RCN** had a dry first race with a bit of drizzle during the middle which provided some entertainment. He kept it straight but others didn't. My race started dry and rained while we all had slicks on. You had to really concentrate. Not easy for me! A few slid off the track in the kitty litter. This is a huge event. 300 entries from all genres and some of the cars are simply outstaing. **RCN** was racing in the Formula Junior Championship and I was able to get a gig in the Derek Bell Trophy which is a bit "college" over here. **RCN** had a great last race (see preparation photo below), quicker time each outing and a few tussles along the way which kept him very busy. He came back with a smile on his face!! I think it was relief that the car was going to roll back into the container next week. My race was fantastic simply for the terrific cars I was racing with; F5000 of all flavours, and in F2 Chevron 49's, Ralts, March's and Lola's. There was also a brace of Historic F3 that seem to go a lot faster than they should and don't need to slow down for corners! I was a very happy back runner having a real go with a similar back runners in F5000. Took two seconds off my 'qually' time. Smiles. We had a dry track and as it was going into a container on Tuesday, I was able to run the tyres to the limit. 30 minute race and I now burn about one litre per minute -ish, and I hold 29.4 litres!! Yes it was touch and go. But what could possibly go wrong? Great race in and out of the pits.... At the end I was very pleased that the whole deal had worked. Three visits to Northern Hemisphere, two summers

of racing, 15 odd events across UK and Europe with each meeting being about 100-120 minutes of racing, plus private practice sessions of about an hour. The FF has taken us about 54,000 kilometres shared between Tim Kuchel and ourselves. The ML Hermann has covered about 26,000km following along and shopping! It all worked so well and we pack everything up and bring it home, with all goals met or exceeded. Peter Brennan, from Melbourne, is now the new custodian of the FF and trailer where he will be bringing over his immaculate Brabham BT40 to do the same. We are both feeling pumped and a little relieved.... Now the packing and loading begins.

MARK GOLDSMITH







**ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.**

## **2017 EODC CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR - GRAEME WRIGHT**



This year we have chosen to honour one of our quiet achievers, **GRAEME WRIGHT**. A tireless worker for the club, both on and off the track, Graeme (and his enthusiastic wife Mary) have passionately supported EODC events since joining the club in 1987. Many club members, especially those in Victoria and South Australia, will know Graeme and acknowledge his humble, friendly and supportive manner. He is someone who can always be relied upon to help out at all times. The proud Elfin owner of two Mallalas, S6315 and S6316 (currently undergoing restoration), as well as a Clubman Mk2(replica), Graeme has competed in historic events since 1983, with success at Phillip Island, Sandown, Winton, Mallala, Eddington Sprints, Maryborough Wings and Wheels, and the Ballarat Festival of Motoring. Congratulations Graeme!

**GRAEME WRIGHT** is a worthy winner of our club trophy and joins an illustrious list of past winners:

1984 - IAN HOBBS; 1985 - PAUL HAMILTON; 1986 - BOB MINOGUE; 1987 - HARLEY BOGGIS; 1988 - ALBERT MIDDLETON; 1989 - BARRY CATFORD; 1990 - STUART KOSTERA; 1991 - GRAHAM HOINVILLE; 1992 - GRAHAME WARD; 1993 - BRIAN LEAR; 1994 - ROSS WILLIAMS; 1995 - JOHN BLANDEN; 1996 - RICHARD HARRIS; 1997 - STEPHEN KNOX; 1998 - BRIAN LEAR; 1999 - AARON LEWIS; 2000 - GEORGE SPANOS; 2001 - BILL PROWSE; 2002 - IAN ROSS; 2003 - CLIFF COOPER; 2004 - BILL HEMMING & NICK KOVATCH; 2005 - BRIAN SAMPSON; 2006 - BILL HEMMING & NICK KOVATCH; 2007 - LAURIE BENNETT; 2008 - TONY PARKINSON; 2009 - The HAMILTON FAMILY & LAMBERT FAMILY; 2010 - LAURIE BENNETT; 2011 - IAN BROCK; 2012 - JEFF BROWN; 2013 - MIKE BARKER; 2014 - MARK GOLDSMITH; 2015 - SHANE HUGHES; and 2016 - BRIAN REED (Life Time Achievement Award).

### **2018 AGP ELFIN BBQ**

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

Date: Friday, March 23rd

Time: 6:30pm onwards

Cost: Free for current financial members and their partners,  
\$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. The cars on display are pretty good too!

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

Please contact Cheryl on 0419 581 815, or email [reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au](mailto:reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au)



# ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

## MEMBERSHIP:

We wish to introduce our new members to the EODC.

### No. 670 - BILL BENTLEY (SA)

Bill is the owner of the first Streamliner built in 1960. The car has been off the road for a few decades and he is in the process of repairing the frame, engine, gearbox, diff and body work. (Certainly a challenge Bill!) We wish him well in his endeavours.

### No 671 - PETER GENTRY (NSW)

Details to follow in the next newsletter...

### No 672 - PAUL LITTLER (Q'LD)

Paul has bought **MIKE CONNELL's** Mono which has a history of many races throughout Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. At the moment he is giving the car a full refresh of the bodywork and will use the car in local sprints and hillclimbs. Look out for the duo later in the year as Paul is also considering entering the Tasman Revival!

We hope that all members will have a long and happy association with the EODC.



## VALE: SHANE HUGHES

Shane Hughes had a passion for motor racing since boyhood, and dabbled in tintops and powerboat racing early in his life, and in 2011 returned to the track with his 1972 yellow Elfin 600 Formula Ford. His professional career as a jazz musician and music teacher (brass) at a Melbourne secondary college was seriously interrupted when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2014, and despite showing amazing resilience - always with a new goal or project on the horizon - on February 4 this year he lost his life. Shane displayed great club spirit when he participated in the 2012 display at Clipsal 500 in Adelaide as an 11th hour replacement. He towed his 600 through the night in time to take to the track on Saturday, then drove back to Melbourne on Sunday night in time to go the school Monday morning. A number of EODC members attended his funeral and we noted with interest Shane's Clubman of the Year trophy proudly on display. Shane will be remembered for his passion for life and his story of great courage in the face of adversity. We send our condolences to Paula, his wonderfully supportive partner, and his family. RIP.

## WANTED:

ELFIN Mono, Catalina, or Streamliner.... Any condition.

Roy Tait 0490 081 965

[royptait@me.com](mailto:royptait@me.com)



## EODC CONTACTS:

President:	<b>MIKE BARKER</b> - <a href="mailto:mbar6415@bigpond.net.au">mbar6415@bigpond.net.au</a>	0407 825 545
Membership/Newsletter:	<b>CHERYL REID</b> - <a href="mailto:reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au">reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au</a>	0419 581 815
Memorabilia:	<b>BILL HEMMING</b> - <a href="mailto:bill@elfinheritage.com.au">bill@elfinheritage.com.au</a>	0408 059 002





# 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

or email reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au

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