



The 17th Citroën Light 15 Capital Mystery weekend.

Incorporating

80th Anniversary of the Traction Avant (light 15)

1 and 2 November 2014.

As usual the Light 15 Mystery week end has an early start and members had to assemble at the starting point at 07h30 on Saturday morning. The day started out quite cool with some cloud cover. The starting point was at the corner of Eight street and Liebenberg road in Midrand. This had members guessing as we usually assemble at some eating place or other before setting of on a mystery trail.

Upon arrival we were greeted with a view of the magnificent Russian Orthodox Church building with its five gold leaf encrusted domes. Once again we were surprised as none of the members knew of the existence of this, the only Russian Orthodox Church in the Southern hemisphere (?).



Pictures courtesy: Van Onselen, Ria and Vos Eggink



Picture courtesy: Rob Clark

After doing the tourist thing and a blessing from the resident priest, we headed off into the distance armed with some directions and no idea where we were off to. As it turns out we landed up at Southdowns shopping centre in Centurion where members did what they do best.... EAT. Breakfast was served at Cappuccino's.



Picture courtesy: van Onselen

Once prised away from the breakfast table we were once again en route to a destination we didn't know about, but soon we were passing through the village of Irene, along tree lined streets of the main thoroughfares at a sedate pace befitting of an 80 year old.



Picture courtesy: van Onselen

Past Waterkloof Air force base (aka Gupta International) and onwards to Fort Klapperkop. Fort Klapperkop was the third fort erected before the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War (1899 to 1902) to protect Pretoria. The fort has been restored historically correct and arranged as a museum, with permanent exhibitions of Anglo-Boer War objects and furniture. The Fort includes the following rooms: Ammunitie, Hospitaal, Keuken, Machine, Telegraaf, Stal and Manschappen. Unfortunately due to time constraints we didn't get to go inside, but rather admired the view over Pretoria



Picture courtesy: Fort Klapperkop publicity

Picture courtesy: Rob Clark

From Fort Klapperkop we again followed the cryptic directions, which took us past the Voortrekker Monument where we were confronted with a traffic jam, caused by the "konsert in the park" organised we think by the VF. Again time constraints prevented us from visiting the monument. We continued on our sedate way eventually ending up at the Freedom Park where a very well informed tour guide, gave a talk on the meaning of the place.



Picture courtesy: Rob Clark

Leaving Freedom Park with a new set of directions, some had the wrong set, we headed down the hill into the central business district of Pretoria, where we encountered the mother of all traffic jams around Church Square. This gave one time to notice none of the Traction overheated and Oom Paul had been given a new set of clothes. For some unexplained reason the bronze statue had been painted a shiny silver?????? The four commandos are still resplendent in bronze. The traffic jam meant we were unable to visit the Capital Theatre, so onwards to I don't know where. All we know is several members got lost due to misinterpretation of the directions. Nevertheless, the resourceful Citroënista's managed to get back on track and we ended up at our lunch venue at the Blue Crane Restaurant and again settled in to do what we do best.....EAT.



Rear view at Blue Crane Restaurant

Picture courtesy: van Onselen

Finishing a leisurely lunch, final directions were handed out and we set off to next cultural site on our journey. Directions were tossed out the window, once we realised Loftus was a no go area with the World Super Cross circus in town. So a few quick diversion brought us to the front of the Union Buildings. This beautiful Herbert Baker designed building was the perfect back drop for the Traction.



Pictures courtesy: Rob Clark

1937 Traction Avant Coupe

An interested observer

Ever onwards and armed with new directions, members were geared themselves for the final leg to the mystery destination. After being led a merry chase around most of the cultural sites in Pretoria, some of us were looking forward to relaxing with a cool drink somewhere. As is the wont, some members ignored a line or two of the directions, thinking they know better, and got ourselves hopelessly lost. This interlude reminded of the “Top Gear” challenges. If something goes wrong, or someone gets lost, everyone pitched in and..... left the “lostlings” to their own devices. Finally after much googling and asking we all made it to our destination at the Faircity Roodevallei Hotel and Conference centre.

The theme for the dress up dinner was “the Movies” and once again members excelled themselves with their outfits.



Dressing up for dinner.

Picture courtesy: van Onselen

Once again the Light 15 Mystery Weekend had dished up its helping of mystery. Many of the places visited, had sadly, not been visited, ever, by some members. But, this is what makes these events so worthwhile and interesting. You get taken out of your comfort zone. You visit places you would ordinarily never think of visiting yourself and you get to do it in some of the most amazing innovative cars ever built.

Big thanks to the organiser's Deon and Christa van Onselen. Your effort and hard work is appreciated.



Picture courtesy: van Onselen