

## sefac the history of our club





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his anagram would officially be understood to mean the following, "Societa Esercizio Fabbriche Automobili e Corse" or more affectionately as "Sempre Enzo Ferrari Al Comando" - Always Enzo Ferrari in Command!

The wording can be found in any Ferrari handbook and refers specifically to the aims of the House of Maranello.

In our case, SEFAC is the official title of our own Ferrari Club of South Africa, which happens to be one of the oldest Ferrari Owners' Clubs in the world. It was first coined by the founder of the Club, the late Pierre Bastiaan Kelfkens and stands for "SOUTHERN EQUITORIAL FERRARI AUTOMOBILI CLUB". Please note the spelling of the word Equitorial and not Equatorial. The connotation being not only that of South of the Equator. but, more importantly, the letter "i" indicates the equine relationship to the home of the Prancing Horse (il Cavallino Rampante). Pierre Kelfkens was a man amongst men, a true gentleman, and a person who loved life and was loved by all who knew him. Pierre was born at the end of the Great War, on the 1st of May 1918. After matriculating, he studied Quantity Surveying and soon set up a successful practice. However, Pierre always found time for his first love - motor cars. He was one of the founder members of the Sports Car Club, a member of the South African Motor Racing Club - which administered Kyalami in the old days - and was also an active campaigner on the racetracks of South Africa.













t was in 1957 that Gigi Lupini, father of the Lupini brothers, imported the first Ferrari into South Africa, a 212 Barchetta (Chassis No. 0154). The car was raced under the Scuderia Lupini banner but with little success. In the mid-1960's Pierre purchased his first Ferrari, a 275 GTB short-nose, from Tibor Scheimann, owner of Concessionaires T.A.K. Motors, then the official Ferrari importer. In 1967, being the true Ferrari enthusiast, he decided to begin a Ferrari Owners' Club, the primary purpose of which was to record all new Ferraris that reached South Africa's shores. As time went by, an occasional luncheon was held in order for the owners to get to know one another and share insights on these exotic machines. It is encouraging to note that what started out as a group of friendly owners, has developed into one of the oldest Ferrari clubs in the world, passionately dedicated to maintaining and honouring the very high standards set by Enzo Ferrari himself.

JUST AS FERRARI TODAY SYMBOLISES THE ULTIMATE TRADITIONS OF STYLE AND PRECISION IN AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING. SEFAC REALISED THE NEED TO ORGANISE SUITABLE EVENTS WHERE THE MAESTRO'S WORK COULD BE DISPLAYED AND FULLY APPRECIATED BY ALL.

In 1966 Pierre started bringing the few owners together for occasional luncheons and social gatherings. By the middle of 1967, Pierre wrote to 'II Commendatore' requesting permission to start an official club. After Mr. Ferrari's approval was received, one of the first recorded luncheons was held at the Zoo Lake Restaurant in Johannesburg. Initially, the events were social 'get-togethers' held at a selection of centrally-located restaurants.



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In those days a few telephone calls were made to members informing them of upcoming 'short runs'. These would more often than not take in a brisk drive to a guesthouse near Sabie in the Eastern Transvaal as it was known then, and a round trip of a mere 600 kms was not unheard of. The annual events calendar was not particularly busy and membership numbers were not high since there were so few Ferraris in the country back then.

In order to qualify for membership then, as is still the case today, the ownership of a Ferrari was required. Some very special Ferraris have graced our Club. Founder member Dr. Hugh Gearing is remembered by many for his daring exploits in the ex-Tazio Nuvolari Scuderia Ferrari Alfa Romeo Monza, as it tore around the racetracks of our beautiful country.

The Club was deeply saddened by the death of Pierre Kelfkens on the 9th of September 1983, following a fatal road accident in the Kruger National Park. SEFAC had lost not only its founder but also a good man, amongst men.













nother important Ferrarista in South Africa was the late Otello "Jack" Nucci; a personal friend of Il Commendatore. Otello always hosted the Scuderia Ferrari Team when they visited South Africa for either Formula One or endurance races.

Apart from his passion for Ferrari, Otello played a very important role in the history of South African motorsport. He owned many significant cars including a Maserati 200, famously raced by Fanie Viljoen. In 1962 Otello persuaded Eugenio Dragoni to enter the Ferrari team in the Rand Grand Prix, offering his workshop at his home as a base for the Scuderia. This proved to be the start of a long-standing association between Nucci and our beloved team.

Apart from team manager Dragoni, Otello had close ties with Enzo Ferrari and Mauro Forghieri, architect of Lauda and Scheckter's championship successes. Many Ferraris passed through his hands and Otello played an important role in the development of SEFAC, culminating in him being made Honorary Chairman.

SEFAC became far more active when Libero Pardini, the Club's Honorary President and the late Giorgio Cavalieri, the Club's past Chairman and Life President, took control of the activities in July 1977. Family notwithstanding, Ferrari remained their greatest love. Phil Howie, who joined in 1975 and after having served on the Committee for over 20 years, was awarded honorary life membership in 1995 and regretfully passed away in 2001 while Giorgio sadly passed away in 2020. Libero, with his majestic Daytona, continues to be an active member of the Club.

The Club began to organise more regular breakfast runs and social events, and the first Concours d' Elegance (Show Day) was held at the Hyde Park Shopping Centre back in 1978. The SEFAC Kyalami Day is still the Clubs' largest and most popular event and has been a great success ever since its introduction on the 7th of May 1978, with its first sponsors being Pirelli and T.A.K. Motors. An opportunity for members to test their super cars and not least, their driving abilities!

A regular newsletter kept members informed and SEFAC soon grew to 75 members by 1980, with chapters

established in Durban and Cape Town, while in 2014 a Garden Route chapter was established in Knysna.

SEFAC presently comprises some 300 members; Ferrari enthusiasts all with approximately 900 cars between them. The Kyalami Day remains the highlight of the SEFAC calendar with over 200 cars and close to 1000 guests attending on the day. It has been a long-standing tradition to open the event to the public allowing the Tifosi, both young and old, to share the passion that is Ferrari. Recent Days have seen up to 15,000 spectators in attendance.

As the Club has grown, so have the sponsors with whom the Club continues to have strong relationships. SEFAC is very proud of its close relationship with the Official Ferrari Dealer, Scuderia South Africa. Moreover, the Club is invaluably assisted by sponsors: Sela Brokers, Phoenix Logistics, HOT102.7FM, Integra Signs, Timeless Model Cars, Grand Prix Store, Xpel, Tiger Wheel & Tyre and Asanele Consultants.

In 1992 the Club celebrated its 25th anniversary in style, a high point being a memorable evening with the great Grand Prix Champion, Juan Manuel Fangio, a great man whom we found to be so humble and warm.

Another great man with the same virtues is the famous and extremely talented F1 car designer Rory Byrne. A great friend of the club, he always finds time from his busy schedule to attend events, sign autographs, and donate special bits of F1 Ferraris that have been the basis of many a special trophy at our club events. On our trips to Italy and the Ferrari Factory, Rory was always at hand to pave the way to make our experience that bit more memorable. Rory's family are often welcomed at our events, adding interest and prestige to the presentation of trophies and prizes.

1997 saw the Club celebrate its 30th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of Ferrari. Several events were organised, the main one being the SEFAC Dream Drive to Cape Town. Some 35 members drove from Johannesburg to Cape Town, covering a distance of over 1800 km. A weeklong series of festivities in and around Cape Town proved to be a resounding success. Libero and Yvette Pardini together with Giorgio and Emi Cavalieri and their Ferraris attended Ferraris 50th Anniversary celebrations in Italy to represent SEFAC.





In 2000, the Club's newsletter was converted from a quarterly colour brochure to a bi-annual colour magazine. The magazine spreads SEFAC news to the management offices in Maranello and the desks of Ferraristi the world over. It is certainly something of which the club is very proud.

2007 saw our 40th Anniversary which was celebrated by all our members throughout the year's programme. This included the official Relay procession with Ferrari's 60th Anniversary standard moving through our beautiful country on its journey back home to Maranello. Certainly, the September tour from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town was a major highlight with our members' cars painting the beautiful coastal roads red.

The FXX programme graced our shores in autumn 2009 with four of these fire-breathing specials on track at Kyalami. A highlight of the A1 GP weekend for the scores of Ferraristi present, the event was made even more memorable thanks to Shell organising a very special day at Gerotek which saw Felipe Massa in attendance.









he magnetic appeal of Maranello saw 56 members visit the home of Ferrari in Autumn 2010. A fantastic pilgrimage of automotive and gastronomic delights that culminated in a weekend at Monza, the cathedral of speed, for a memorable Ferrari victory.

2011 saw 45 Ferraris embark on the SEFAC 'Giro del Capo' - an unforgettable event that delivered the best of our fairest Cape's driving roads in the company of almost 100 Ferrari minded SEFAC faithful. The 'Giro' generally returns every 2 years and has become a highlight of the calendar. In 2013 this, together with a Valentine's drive to the Orange River mouth, epitomised the enthusiastic spirit of our great Club.

2017 saw SEFAC celebrate its 50th anniversary, the biggest event of this monumental year was the Kyalami track day followed by a national tour, with over 80 local cars taking part and a number of overseas guests attending with their cars, this was the biggest tour ever

undertaken by the Club and was followed up with a 50th anniversary 'coffee table' book. The book captures the essence of the first 50 years of the club, so here's to the next 50!

The committee continually strive to organise a diverse range of events to suit every Ferraristi. These include a mix of breakfast runs, luncheons, dinners, driver instruction events, classic track and show days, interspersed with cross-country tours.

## Forza Ferrari!



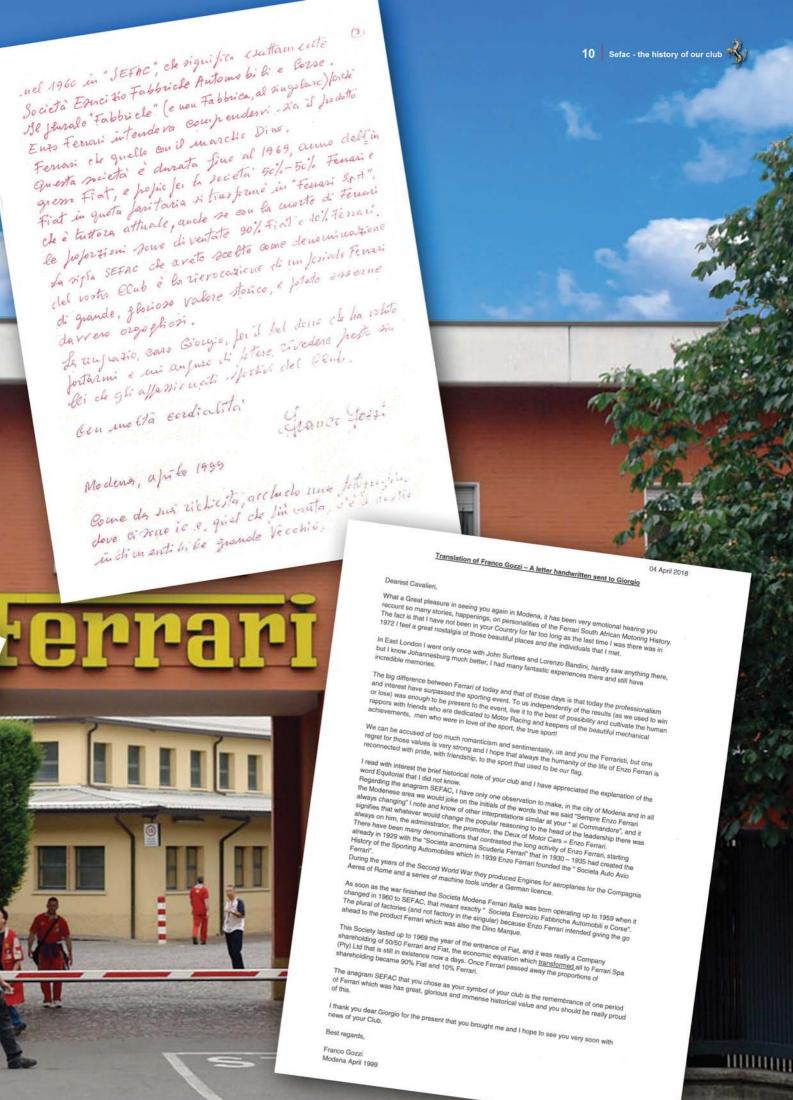
Examples of Sefac memorabilia handed out or sold to club members over the years













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