

In Remembrance of Eric Nicie

By Tony Johnson

This is an article written by Tony Johnson prior to the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club closing:

Eric and Kay Nicie have been stalwarts of the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club for the past 30 years.

Eric was at the very first meeting in 1988 and has been the club's talent scout ever since.

He was the long-time Club Captain, Vice President and for 30 years our spares convenor.

As Club Captain through to 2009, he organised many events including rallies, the club's 10th anniversary, a monster trip in 2009 to Palmerston North and trips everywhere in between. Kay has also played a huge role in the club supporting numerous events. Kay took over as Club Secretary from Robyn Standish and "ran" the club from 1992 through until 2012 – a massive 20 years. Certainly the longest serving person in any role in the clubs history. We are very grateful Kay for your huge contribution over the entire club history.

What about the Nicie Jaguars – they have owned seven Jaguars between 1978 and 2018, a period spanning 40 yrs to date. In 1978 Eric's first Jaguar was purchased from Sibyl Lupp's garage in Wellington. 1968 Jaguar S-type 3.4, 1974 Jaguar Sovereign 4-2l, 1983 Jaguar XJ V12 HE, 1993 Jaguar XJ 40 4litre, 1999 Jaguar S-type 3 litre, 1997 Jaguar XK8 convertible, 2009 Jaguar XF 2.7TTD. All the above, have been fantastic cats and as Eric said "Drive and feel like true Jaguar cars."

His father in 1931 won the NZ light car grass track Championship of NZ, in a very hot 1930 Austin 7 Gordon England special SPORTS two door.

Another memorable occasion was when Norman Dewis driving Eric's Jaguar XJ12 along the Maungatapu motorway on his last visit decided to put his foot down, and I mean down, hitting the ton plus with Eric yelling, "Hey Norm we are on a 100 km road". He eased off, and grinning said "Nice motor" Eric replying "Yes I already know that!" Eric had raced his XJ12 and his 1968 S-type at Taupo and Bayfair when the tracks were open.



Eric and Kay with their XF



***Left to Right - Eric Nicie, Roland Cleaver, Ray Davies
at the 2018 Anniversary Rally—Tauranga***

Kay and Eric enjoyed two Great British Car Rallies and all the other car meets, gymkhanas, etc. over the last 40 years. Last but not least, nearly all the repairs and maintenance on their Jaguars has been carried out by Eric himself, with advice from my peers.

For the 1968 S type however, he did the whole restoration - paintwork, leather, including the full restoration of the motor with telephone conversations with Sibyl Lupp.

The final last hooray was when he sold the S-type after 10 years. The buyer (a club member) two weeks later won the club concours honours, dig that.

The current Jaguar is a 2009 Jaguar XF 2-7 q-cam TTD sports sedan. Power 152 kW 435 torque. By remapping, power can be increased to 182 kws 530 nm with no effort. Top speed 142 kmh.

Motor is a composition iron bloc. Colour, Vapour Grey. Gear box 6 speed ZF auto sequel with paddle shift. Jaguar XF GCH718 was registered on Eric's birth date the 28th April, this is the second Jaguar he has owned on this date.

We will miss you Eric.

Tony

The Club offers our condolences to Kay and family