



North Kent Lotus Group



February 2008



Hi John

Been meaning to send you this picture for ages , but you may already have seen it. Back last September we were caught in huge traffic hold ups on the A11 on our way back from the Lotus factory do and in the end diverted through Thetford town - you may have been in it too.

The pic shows why! My son Richard's colleague at Honda HQ has an Elise and I believe the guys were from the Seloc outfit. Apparently took over an hour to extract the driver with only minor injuries. Don't know any details but looks like too fast too close to me!

Cheers
John W

Dear Enthusiast

I don't think I need to add much to the above email that John Winn sent to me. What a mess! But good news that it was only minor, injury-wise. If you look closely, it looks as if the front "A" pillar has held up pretty well - full marks to Lotus.



I've had a lot of emails this month, Neil's the most prolific, Lotus-wise. He sent me pictures of Yalding-on-Sea (or is it in sea) which he suggests it not really Lotus friendly, but seeing the pictures of the new Elise submersible he could be wrong.

If you haven't seen it, just imagine a roofless Elise looking like something out of a 60's Stingray type TV underwater puppet show.

He also sent me the results of an eBay sale.....winning bid for a Mk I Lotus Cortina wood-enrtrimmed steering wheel£1900 - that is the right number of nought's!

We had a steering group meeting earlier in the month to discuss the coming year, so here's a few things for your diary. All dates are provisional at the moment but it doesn't hurt to pencil them in. The Bromley Pageant is earlier this year on the 15th June; the Barbecue will be on the 20th July: a "Summer Picnic" on the 17th August;

we've been invited to a Bodiam Castle gathering by the Triumph Owners Club on July 6th; we have the bi-annual "Komosa Cup"- no date confirmed as yet: a DeHaviland Aircraft Museum visit and display and last but not least the Christmas meal on Friday 5th December. Plenty of other stuff will crop up as the year pans out.

I've had to slot in a kind of "stop press" paragraph here. Howard has just phoned me regarding the Bromley Pageant - he tells me that the organisers now want to charge five pounds for every car displayed. Welcome to rip-off Britain. Sue and I will be away during the Pageant, so it's difficult to comment on our club display, but I wouldn't pay, just out of principle - without the cars they wouldn't have a show and when you consider the effort (and sometimes money) us exhibitors put into the Bromley Pageant I reckon they've got a bloody cheek. What do you think?

The Komosa Cup is due to be organised by John H this year, as he and Andrea won it back in 2006. So he's getting some ideas together. He was also telling me about a broken wiring cable on one of his vans that his local workshop wanted to charge £1500 to repair. It was one of those "leave the most obvious thing till last" type of problems - with labour and other costs building up in the meantime.

Needless to say he didn't pay £1500.

The White Hart have given us pride of place for our trophies. You might remember a few newsletters ago I included a picture with suggestions for what to do with them, well here's another of them in their new home above the bar. I'm not sure where the centre "pitcher" style one came from though but it looks good.



Whilst on the subject of the White Hart, the Landlord asked Howard if anybody from the group has left a wallet of photographs behind. He found them a month or two ago and thought that they might belong to one of us. They include shots of what looks like a VSCC gathering and also some Brands Hatch, possibly a Britcar meeting. If they're yours give the White Hart a ring or pick them up next time.

Now, some hot news, Tim has sold his Esprit. It went very quickly on eBay and he was well pleased with the sale price. The car wasn't due to be picked up until this weekend so at the moment he may still have it. What will he buy next now he has a large wad? I think he's got a

deposit on an Eagle or is it the twin-turbo BMW engined 500+bhp'd Esprit that has been it the news along with the Eagle at the moment. Esprit? – too long to wait, Eagle? – you never know, or could he be thinking about the newly updated Exige Sport Cup 260. Mind you, the P word keeps coming to mind.

Talking of which, it was good to see Robin on the club night. Terry was telling me about his new acquisition a few weeks ago and I must admit that it didn't really sink in when he told me about it, but when I walked out to have a look I suddenly thought, oh of course it's *that* Carrerra GT. I haven't seen one in the flesh and I wasn't dissatisfied.



I had an idea a while back and thought it would be nice to run some kind of a photographic competition within the group and hopefully try and get Club Lotus involved. Well, we had a chat about it and Pauline has agreed to look after the whole idea. Nothing has been fully decided yet but she has come up with a pretty good set of general rules and ideas. Basically, the submitted photos must be Lotus related and we'll keep it as simple as possible. Full details should be ready for next month so watch this space.

Andy has been struggling to get a full grid together for Filching since Christmas, so myself Shane and Andy are going to have a go at the three hour endurance at Buckmore Park on March 15th. Give me a ring if you want to enter (01634 294689)

Other up and coming events include the first Lotus-on-Track round for the year at Brands on

Easter Sunday (23rd March) – if the racing's anything like last year it should be another cracking year. Plenty of Lotus stuff will be on display but please, let the weather be a little warmer than last year – something just above Artic temperatures would be nice!!

I've had warnings from two reliable sources (Neil & Andy) that the variable speed cameras on the M25 will be set to 80mph as a maximum (when variables are not being used) The setting was 93mph – so be very careful.

Did anybody go to the Pistonheads gathering at Wadhurst Station last Sunday. Sue and I were passing through with the intention of stopping but it was packed to the rafters and we couldn't face queuing for a cup of coffee, so we didn't stop – it all looked a bit manic.

Have you seen the three-wheeler Lotus have developed with

American company ZAP (Zero Air Pollution). It's electric and does 0-60mph in 5.7 seconds and a top speed of 156mph and there's a free Noddy hat with every purchase.

Terry is making progress with the web site and he's trying to get some interesting content together, so if you have anything or suggestions get in touch with him at td_100@mac.com

Don't forget this is your last newsletter if you haven't sent John your fiver. The next club night is on 12th March so see you there.

John



John

Sorry I could not get to the club night this week but I was having to work very long hours this week (must be getting old!).

If you need something for the newsletter please help yourself to the following (and attached images).

"Paul Izzard, who is the new owner of Kermit sent me the attached photos of the body restoration he is doing.

He told me he has had Kermit in his garage with a de-humidifier going flat out for the last few months to ensure the fibre glass shell did not have any trapped dampness in it. He has now ground all the paint/filler down to the fibre glass base, routed out the cracks and repaired them, and reinforced the various areas with thin fibreglass. Although he did not say so, I suspect a very thin filler was applied next, followed by plenty of rubbing down. I expect he will have sprayed the front section with primer by now.

He is keen not to allow any moisture into the shell structure prior to the final top coats as trapped moisture causes micro blisters (Bill and Andy will tell me if that is right).

I hope that when Paul has finished he may invite me to "race" the Elise up to Oxford and see Kermit as it should have been when I owned it. A picture of both cars together would be nice."

Regards
Vaughn

