



North Kent Lotus Group



August 2009

Dear Enthusiast

It seems a long time since the last letter but with it being a five week month and the last one being earlier than usual I suppose it is.

A bumper barbeque again this year with 43 meals served and only a few spots of rain at the end of the afternoon. The food went down well and a big thanks goes to Lesley for helping yours truly on the main grill with Pauline, Sue and John C in attendance to ensure a successful day. Thanks also go to John and Joan for their efforts.

Frank the landlord opened up the field again and we had quite gathering - *not* exclusively Lotus. We had two Caterhams, two MR2's and an Austin 12! Which Mike and Penny bought along. So quite a diverse bunch. Incidentally, Howard was a little late arriving to the bbq and was then heard to be using the F-word quite a lot!!



I spent some time chatting to Len who'd brought along his stunning "Espionage" Exige complete with pinstriping - very smart.



We were discussing the dilemma of whether he should stretch it's legs on a track but it's sometimes difficult to make that decision with such a nice unspoilt car - we all know that trackdays can take

a toll on paintwork, tyres, engines etc but then again Exiges were made for them.

A busy month - and this coming Wednesday is the annual mid-week run. I'm looking after this one and we'll meet up at the traditional spot - the Moat at Wrotham at 9.30. Bank Holiday Monday is the Bexhill Classic car show and John U has arranged a group stand, so get in touch with him if you'd like to attend. We did this quite a few years ago, with Andy in charge, and I remember a nice sunny day, so let's hope for a repeat. I don't think they run the mini hill-climb anymore (probably killed off by the health & safety brigade) but it should be an enjoyable day and makes up for the cancelled Leeds Castle event.

27th September - Harpers Hunt - give him a ring - it should be a good one. John would like to get an idea of numbers and it'll be good to know by the next club night.

Magnus and I had a great time at Abingdon on 24th July and despite a heavy downpour in the morning with



a sky to match we had a dry afternoon and some very nice sessions. Motorsport Events lays out some nice circuits and Abingdon is one of them - with the perfect blend of some nice sweeping bends with massive run-offs and technical chicanes to keep everything safe. I'd certainly do one again in the not too distant future if anybody fancies it.

Magnus wanted to check the noise level of the Fury before taking it to Abingdon and discovered that Brands Hatch does it free of Charge most days. It's probably best to phone them first though.

We've decided to set up a new private email distribution list so that we can keep you informed and reminded about up and coming events etc. Neil is looking after this and we've included a sticker with the new address. Neil would be grateful in you could send an email to him at the new address so that he can build the new distribution list.

My entries for the photo competition are building up, in fact I'll be able to choose from a few, so I must get them printed and get the best off to Pauline - last weeks trip to Malcolm Ricketts in Welwyn added some more possible's and this must also be a good time to say thank you to Malcolm for putting on such an enjoyable evening at his splendid workshop complex.

The time just flew by, chatting about all things Lotus and the very pleasant evening made up for the rather tedious stop/start M25 journey on the way up.



Despite a big turnout only a few of us NKLK's made the trip up; John H, Howard, John U, Chris, Sue and me to be precise.

Due to the Welwyn event, we cancelled the monthly meeting this month and moved it to Wednesday 19th which turned out to be a good move as it was the best evening weather-wise

so far this year. I wasn't able to make it but John U reported no less than four M100's in the car park including one owned by a new member whose details I don't have yet but I'll report back next month.

I saw my first Europa on the road today and whilst it has definitely got that Elise/VX220 poise, it didn't look at all bad amongst all the usual commuter stuff - it's got to be an underrated car.



Well, you missed out on a cracking weekend away. We all had a very nice time and could have done with a bit longer (in fact Tim & Lorraine did stay on).

It was good to see the Museum at Beaulieu - although we'd all been there before and the accommodation and company was excellent. Unfortunately for them, John and Michelle had to pull out but Tim and Lorraine took the slot so we did fill the hotel in the end. A big thank you goes to Heather and Ian for arranging the whole thing and lets hope it now becomes an annual event again.

Well that's about it - Sue and I will be away next month so we'll miss yet another club night but I'll have my spies out.

Hope to see you at the Moat at 9.30 on Wednesday morning otherwise it'll be on Harpers Hunt day.

Next club night is on 9th September

John