



# North Kent Lotus Group



January 2009

Dear Enthusiast

Happy New Year - another one !!

I should have mentioned last month that Sue and I were off to Australia to visit my sister at Christmas and now that's come and gone and all I can say is we had a great time. Didn't see any Lotuses out there - the nearest thing was a Caterham - did see this property company though,



which, I think has been printed elsewhere in the past (was it the Club Lotus mag?) but anyway, I had to repeat it.

Not a bad turn out on club night. It was good to see Bill and Andy, who we haven't been for a while. Andy's keen to do some runs etc and he's also arranging some karting at Filching in February - more of that later. We had two new members turn up, Len and Juliet Morris from Biggin Hill with a Nightfall Blue S2 Exige, so a big welcome and we hope you enjoy the group and we see you at plenty of events and club nights.

Talking of events, Ian is drawing up a full list for this year - like we used to have, so you can put dates in your diary. The regular events update will appear again next month. We're having a steering group meeting next week to firm things up. As we're having such a cold (proper) winter we might get a decent summer - keep your fingers crossed for some decent hood down weather.

Something that was discussed at the meeting was the offer of a "rolling road" day. I don't have full details at the moment but we'll be able to run checks on max BHP etc. It'll be a social event with some refreshments etc and details will be in the next newsletter.

As you know, Norman is back on the scene, although he's still talking of moving over the water - I had a chat with him this week and he tells me he has an S1 Elise coming in which he will be selling for around £6000 ideal if anybody wants something cheapish for trackdays. He reckons it's a nice little car so give him a ring.

The magazines seem to be full of Lotus at the moment, it's probably the Evora effect. Octane finally did the Seven article, visiting the old Hornsey site and also in the same issue, an article on the Delorean and a report of the Bond Esprit from *The Spy Who Loved Me* making £111k at Bonhams.

Autocar did another article on the Evora just before Christmas "It's going to give Porsche a hard time" and the action photo inside the mag is the best picture I've seen yet (I haven't seen it in the flesh so I'm still not sure) to give an idea of what it really looks like. 2009 could be Lotus' year - shame about all the financial problems.

As for the name, if you read the Motorsport letters page, Evora is a town in Southern Portugal so owners will want to head down there like Elan owners head for central Wales! - I've had an article I've kept for few years now taken from the now defunct RAC magazine, entitled "The Open Road" which includes a visit to the Elan valley

in Wales. I'll do it one day. A club weekend away perhaps?

Not only are the magazines showing an interest in Lotus but the big manufacturers are using the engineering consultancy again and we now have, along with the Tesla, an electric prototype based on the Europa being developed by Chrysler - just research at the moment.



There's a new Lotus website [www.lotus-central.com](http://www.lotus-central.com) which has done a nice job - it's got all things Lotus and is well worth a look. We'll try and get ours linked. Speaking of which, Roger (amongst others) has asked if we could have a forum on our website. We've looked into it and it will cost money (surprise) so we would have to tread carefully. At the moment, the response to requests for email addresses, to enable us to send out last minute messages etc has not been very encouraging so perhaps NKLK prefers the good old-fashioned methods. Watch this space - but if you do want to let us have your email address please send to [info@northkentlotusgroup.org](mailto:info@northkentlotusgroup.org)

Does anybody have any photographs from the Christmas meal - I took some but they weren't any good and Terry would like some for the website. If you have any please email them to Terry at the same email address.

Whilst on the subject of club bump. Howard has been doing a little investigation into

back issues on this newsletter. I've printed a list of missing issues over the page, so if anybody has kept them, perhaps you could have a look through to see if you have them. We're pretty certain that some months were never produced, so we'll have to write those off. So get in touch with Howard if you can help.

Richard had a look in his pile and couldn't find any missing copies but it might have prompted him to have a clear out! He has a huge pile of back issues of Autosport and Motoring News from the late nineties which he is about to dump or they are free if you would like them. If you can lighten his load please give him a ring

We were talking about last years opening round of the Elise Cup on club night (remember the one in the snow at Brands) and after a bit of investigation it appears that this year's first round is at Donnington during the same weekend as the Club Lotus festival. Sounds like a good idea to me to have the both together - another weekend away perhaps?? Anyway the date is 18-19 April.

Emails I've received this month include details of a change in venue for the Jim Clarke Revival. It's moving from Hockenheim, which is a shame and will now be at the EuroSpeedway Lausitz - I haven't got a clue either.

Neil sent me an extract from *Cortina Times* magazine of an alleged discovery of the Jim Clarke rally Lotus Cortina. I was amused by the comment in the article that of the 3,300 Lotus Cortinas built only 6,000 now survive!!! He tells me it's an exaggeration but I bet

there's a fair few fakes around. Neil also sent me a link from the Evo magazine website, where you can watch some excellent Lotus videos - take a look at [www.evo.co.uk](http://www.evo.co.uk).

Anyway, earlier on I was talking about karting and as the full events list won't be ready 'till next month I'd better tell you about our first outing for the year at Filching. It's scheduled for the 22nd February and Andy is looking after it. Give him a ring and blow a few winter cobwebs away.

The Sunday after the karting (1st March) is the first Goodwood Breakfast Club meeting for the year - I've just checked the theme and it's titled "Mini Mayhem - for all Small Sporting Runabouts" - Celebrating everything from the original Mini to the archetypal hot hatch and modern Supermini, plus RV sporting light aircraft. Hmm, not sure about that one, perhaps we need to discuss it at the next meeting.

We're going to try an early Spring run including Edenbridge for lunch - date next month.

I thought there wouldn't be much this month - I know it's mainly waffle but it has filled a page. Don't forget to send your fiver to John U if you haven't already done so.

Next meeting is on 11th February so make a date in your diary.

John