



North Kent Lotus Group



June 2009

Dear Enthusiast

Le Mans has come and gone again and Audi's stranglehold has finally been broken by Peugeot. Lots of happy French at the end! We had a lovely time staying with Ian (aka Wheelnut - don't ask!) and Heather - and it certainly did beat camping! We met up with Richard C and for those that remember him, Mike Bowles but didn't bump into any other NKLG members.

Not sure if it was the record attempt scheduled at Snetterton the same weekend, but there didn't seem to be that many Lotuses about at Le Mans this year.



Wheelnut tunes into Radio Le Mans

News is a bit thin this month - not much has happened in the group and on top of that, the extra meeting at the Harrow last month was cancelled at the last moment as John U discovered that they had a special night and there wasn't any tables left for us. He went along in case anybody did turn up and said the bar area was pretty deserted so it could have gone ahead - although the car park might have been a touch overcrowded!

We were well and truly in France by the time the club night was underway but John U tells me that we had a good turn out with around half a dozen cars in the car park and 20 odd in the bar. A topic of discussion was the Rolling Road day next month, which at

the moment hasn't had much of a response. We need around a dozen cars to make it viable and time is running out as Richard will need to confirm or cancel within the next few days. So, if you fancy a fun day with a chance to find out what your Lotus (or anything else you have) is pumping out PLEASE GIVE RICHARD A RING with the utmost urgency. It'll be a shame if we have to cancel this one so please give it a go. Richards number is over the page.

I've mentioned the World record Lotus gathering which John H has reported on over the page and the only other event of note was the arrival of the Evora at Lipscomb's. A low key affair with no chance of a ride or drive in the new car - just a sit in it. Tim and Lorraine and John and Michelle were there when I arrived and the general opinion of the car was good from first impressions. The design is growing on me and it comes across as pretty solidly put together. Sitting in it was a far better experience than the Europa they also had on display. I couldn't believe a that lump of leather glued into one of the dashboard cubby-holes was pulling away - and this was on a demo car! The Europa - a missed opportunity?

I wonder who will be the first Evora owner in the group. I've had one offer of a first-drive write-up from John H and he supplied me with a first impressions precis which I'll have to hold over till next month, perhaps by then he would have had a drive. Bell and Colvill seem to be very generously pushing totally no pressured free test drives. I must try to get down there.

The weekend away is now fully booked - a touch low on numbers but Heather has found us an excellent hostelry - the East End Arms at Lymington owned by former Dire Straits bassist John Illsley. There's secure classic car parking and who knows - Mark Knopfler might turn up, he used to do a bit of historic racing though you don't hear much mention of him these days.

As for up and coming's I've mentioned the rolling road; there's the Darling Buds the day after on the 12th July and the Barbeque on the 26th. Magnus and I have booked an airfield day at Abingdon on the 24th July - I know airfields aren't very "cool" but I've done Abingdon before and it's good value and fun and Motorsport Events run a very safe and well organised day. There were still places available so if you fancy it have a look at motorsport-events.co.uk.

Magnus will be using the Fisher at Abingdon but needs to get the noise level checked before the day as it is a little on the noisy side and we all know how strict the the rules are. On a recent jaunt he had alternator trouble and thus a flat battery and finding himself in Edenbridge phoned Richard hoping he might have some fully charged jump leads to hand - Richard, of course, was at Le Mans! Anyway a gang of nearby Builders soon had Magnus on his way - with sharp shove.

And talking of builders, Howard sent me a picture - we all know that he's currently hell bent on transforming Chateau Crockenhill and he's tried to convince me that Mick is currently fabricating Elan dashboards in his backyard - I don't think so!.....D'you think the club

should have a whip round for a chair for him though?



One of my trade contacts has asked me to find out if anybody has a set of Caterham Minilites to spare - so I've put a request over the page I don't have his number to hand but if you give me a ring I'll pass details on. Please have a rummage in your garage or loft etc - you might find some you didn't realise you had! - He's a Caterham man and I do try to get him to come to one of our events. He gave me a glowing report of the last Goodwood breakfast meeting which he did attend. I never seem to be able to make it.

Well, that's about it. Please get in touch with Pauline & John for bbq tickets or pick some up at the next meeting and PLEASE phone Richard P re the rolling road day - YOU WILL NEED TO PHONE TONIGHT - the number is over the page.

Next meeting is on 8th July so see you then.

John

PS please don't forget the photo competition! Bring your snaps along and pass them on to Pauline.