



North Kent Lotus Group



March 2009

The club night on the 11th had quite a buzz about it which is a good sign for this time of the year. A couple or so of the regulars were missing but it was good to see some old faces that we haven't seen for a while. We've lost a few members at the start of 2009 but we had several new ones last year so it still brings the count back to around the fifty mark.

I've been accused of being a bit of an anorak if I report the number of cars in the car park each month, so all I can tell you is that there was more than six! As I said, a lively night and a lot of the talk was of events for the coming year - Ian and Heather have supplied a full copy with this newsletter. There's a few TBA's but they will be filled in as the year progresses. We did have the rolling road day earmarked for the 30th May but Richard P can't make it as he's off on one of his Nurburgring camping track-days - not sure if it's the new Caterham or the Exige. Perhaps you could give us a write-up all about it for a future newsletter, Richard. Anyway, as he is organising the rolling road we'll have to hold fire.

As far as immediate events are concerned, we have the Club Lotus festival at Donnington on the 18-19th April, which this year has the opening rounds of the Lotus on Track Elise series during the same weekend. Sounds like a stop-over on the Saturday night is the thing to do! I gave the show a miss last year but shall be going this time. Normal arrangement, meet at the Hilton, Dartford Crossing at 7.30 either day but things can be firmed up at the next club night.

Also in April is our first Spring run for quite a while. Howard

is looking after this one and he's put in a bit of homework to ensure a good day is had by all. It'll consist of morning coffee, lunch and optional afternoon tea and will start at 10.00 sharp from the Moat at Wrotham on April 26th. More details next month.

The spring run and Donnington should give some chances for pictures for our photographic competition again this year. Pauline has had a chat with Alan Morgan and he's very enthusiastic about supporting the whole thing. He's offered to use the winning entry for the front cover of the January 2010 club magazine as long as it fits the criteria laid out in the rules. So that gives it all a nice bit of prestige. I've included the full rules on the reverse of the events list - so get snapping.

We've solved the mystery of the fastest moving Elise this side of the Watford Gap (well, it's not really a mystery but it sounds good) No, I'm talking about Normans's bargain that sold superfast - well, we've found out who's bought it, Simon Capel, Graham's son. It's good to hear that somebody in the group has it, as Simon is now a fully paid up member. As far as the car is concerned, I don't know anything about it, not even the colour. So it'll be good if Simon could make it to one of our up and coming events. - or even a club night - it'll be good to see you.

The Filching karting took place last month and David gave it a try for the first time, so NKLG participants included Andy, Bill, David and yours truly. It was a somewhat Burchett whitewash as Andy and Shane made the podium with Andy's daughter Terri's boyfriend taking the top

place laurels. Still, we all had a good time.

Howard sent me an interesting item which comes under the "you have been warned" heading. It's another government scam which you may already have heard about - but I've included over the page if you haven't. It's get your cheque books out again time.

Going back to the club night, as I said, it was good to see Judy; Roger and Peggy; Malcolm and also Clive who has promised to bring his classic bike along to one of the balmy Summer nights we're going to get this year (we hope!) Malcolm now has a Turbo X180 Esprit and was telling me about his brake woes on track. He was at Castle Combe and suffering chronic brake-fade, he since has had some work done with added "Green-Stuff" pads and still isn't happy. I know Tim didn't go much on the GS pads on his GT3. So anyway Malcolm is now looking to do the full upgrade.

Talking track-days, the Goodwood May day is looming and I see David is giving it a go this year. The line-up from NKLG includes John U, Chris, David and me. It's a great day - come and soak up the atmosphere and get a few free rides.

Something that Neil sent to me was the Darling Buds Classic Show on 12th July. This is really a pre-1980's show although they do allow a small percentage of modern - perhaps we could put on a small display of baby Elans? See Neil.

Last month's article supplied by Vaughn resulted in a swift email from Diana - the couple in the photograph was in fact Vaughn and his sister, not Diana. She

said thanks for the compliment, as Vaughn's sister is much younger! Full apologies have been forwarded to Diana but I don't think she's going to sue!!

On the email front, Neil being the most prolific, sent me details of a type 47 for sale on eBay for £74,000. It's an ex-Chris Barber car with plenty of history but it's all in bits - half restored. It would be a nice little project for someone but I don't think it will sell as quickly as Norman's Elise did. One other email I received was from Roger and I've printed the article over the page - it makes interesting reading!

Finally, just a quick update on John U's oil-cooler that he's recently fitted - he still had a very slight leakage from the hose which he came to the conclusion needed replacing. It turned out to be another one of those over-priced items from Lotus again ie £90 - but he tracked down a hose fabricator in Powder Mill Lane in Dartford (I know it well!) who charged him just £10. If you want further info on the company (Thames Hose & Couplings) speak to John next time you see him.

Sorry the letter is a little late, things should be back to normal next month. The next club night is on the 8th April, so see you there.

John