



# North Kent Lotus Group



May 2009

Dear Enthusiast

Donington, The Spring Run and Goodwood all in one month. The events have arrived in earnest! Sue and I did an extra early run up to Donington on the Sunday, as we were hoping to catch some of the Elise racing at Silverstone afterwards. We came across only two other Lotuses on the way up which, I suppose was down to the crack-of-dawn start. There was the usual assemblage in the reserved car park but there didn't seem to be many M100s this year - perhaps they went on Saturday? We bumped into an old member from the past, Simon Jacob (I think that's his surname) he's an occasional club night visitor and he tells me that he still hasn't got a Lotus on the road although he still has two Plus 2's and an Esprit - oh well, one day he might turn up in one. Anyway, I told him of our latest venue as his last visit was to the White Hart.



Simon with Bob Dance at Donington

We bumped into Howard, Simon and John H and Howard remarked that it was rather a long way to come to buy a tyre pressure gauge - which is what I'd just done - I've got two but they both give different readings so I thought that a third should solve the argument, which it did - the modern digital flashing-lighty thing that I bought a couple of years ago for a fiver was two lbs out. The old-style sliding one agreed ex-

actly with the new one. - If you're interested, the one I bought is in the club magazine from "Hamilton Classics Ltd" and is not bad for twenty pounds. It's got a nice action and seems well made. They also do the CTEK range of battery chargers and conditioners that Vaughn mentioned last month (www.hamiltonclassic.co.uk) which are also very good.

We didn't stay very long at the show but did have a good look at the Evora - The jury's still out, it'll be good to see it in some other colours, it might be one of those designs that matures.

We headed down to Silverstone afterwards, (as the weekend's racing had been hurriedly shifted there after the Donington track license fiasco) and witnessed the first round of the 2009 Elise Trophy series being won by..... a Europa!

Good weather for the Goodwood trackday - unusual, we normally have rain sometime during the day. In fact it was perfect conditions. David joined us for the first time but he has done Goodwood before. All the regulars were there including Lawrence who was looking well and Howard came down with Tim in the Geneva. Tim's probably itching to get back on the track and he spotted a white Exige S for sale and went out for a test run. He didn't buy it but must have taken the guys number. It was the ex Lotus press car and the one the Stig drove on Top Gear. He wanted just over 20k for it - but it's a buyer's market..... I should think over time the Stig connection will enhance the value and if I was in the market for swap-

ping mine I'd have been sorely tempted - not this year though!

The weather didn't delay things but we did have a half hour hiatus in the morning after a Europa deposited it's oil on the track. John U was one of the first to try some skating before the red and yellow flag went out - but he caught it and didn't do any lawn mowing!

The week before saw the resurrection of the Spring Run on the 26th - eight Lotus plus an MR2 and GT40 - for Lunch (very tasty) was a rather good turnout.

With others joining those of us that were doing the run for lunch, we had 21 sitting down for lunch at the Plough in Edenbridge I think they were a little overwhelmed but the slowish service gave everybody a chance for a good chat. And as for icing on the cake at the pub, Andrew and Debbie turned up in the GT40 and treated us (and the locals) to a little aural exhaust music.



Although it didn't affect a group of bus enthusiasts from snapping a variety of old no. 36's that were turning every couple of minutes - they, coincidentally, had picked the pub to meet up and as John H pointed out, there was a car park of exotica but they were rushing around, David Bailey-like, snapping all kinds of buses. It takes all sorts.....

With a coffee stop in the morning at the Fox & Hounds and a tea stop in the afternoon at Lightham Moat, the day was a big success and thanks go to Howard for organising the whole thing. We had a bit of a palaver getting back to Lightham in the afternoon - some map reading deficiencies added to the near twenty minute wait in a country lane we had whilst a couple of cars were cleared up following a little contact on a bend just up ahead of us - standing around with a string of Lotuses - it felt a bit like a track-day pit lane - good job it was a nice sunny day!



Terry did his Touareg off-road day on the Spring-run Sunday and had a good time. - He sent me a youtube link of his (successful) attempt of climbing an extreme ramp with a short platform leading to an equally extreme downward ramp - one force move would have done Eddie Kidd proud!

*Stop press - I've just seen my first Evora road test - it speaks for itself and it's over the page, OK it might be Microsoft News but it's written by Peter Burgess, a motoring journo of some 30 years..... better start saving.*

Up and coming events; The one off Knockholt evening meeting on the 27th - please phone John U if you want to eat; Le Mans - I've included Ian's and my mobile over the page - if anybody going down to Le Sarthe wants to have meet up; 11th July is the Rolling Road Day which should be a good one. Richard P is look-

ing after this one - please give him a ring so that numbers can be calculated or put your name down at the next club night; the next day is the "Darling Buds Classic" which looks worth a visit and last but not least - don't forget to get your barbeque tickets from John & Pauline The price is the same as last year - £7 and we always have a good time.

I say last, but that only takes us up to July. Heather has done a grand job investigating some hotel/bb's for our weekend away in August. This is fixed for the weekend of 15-16th and Heather has found some really nice looking accommodation. It's a New Forest/Beaulieu trip and will cost £50-60 per night per person for bed and breakfast. The two evening meals and any entrance fees etc will be extra. There was a good response on club night so spaces might fill up fast. With it being the middle of August, accommodation will start to become scarce if we don't move fast - so Heather has asked for a deadline of **26th May** for you to get your name down. We might need to make a small deposit to secure the booking - So please phone Heather and Ian **ASAP**.

See below for contact numbers for all the events and also details of some Classic and Sportscar magazines that Duncan is disposing of.

I've tried to get this month's letter out as quickly as possible to give enough time for the weekend away booking, so if I've left anything out please accept my sincere apologies if there's any mistakes Sue sends her sincere apologies!

We'll see you at the special meeting at The Harrow but we'll be on the the other side of the water at the next club night on the 10th as we're going down to Le Mans a day earlier than usual this year.

John

PS don't forget the photo competition!!