



North Kent Lotus Group



February 2010

Dear Enthusiast

It's too late to say Happy New Year but I've said it now. Sorry for the lack of a January newsletter, there were two main reasons, the news was more than a little thin and I had two projects which pretty well took up all of my time since Christmas (and before). Not Lotus related so I won't bore you with them.

But as I said the news was thin and the January night was probably the smallest group we've had ever. This winter's a lot to answer for. If the summer is as good as the winter has been bad we should be in for a good one!

Double the turn out for February but still only twelve with one solitary car in the car park but snow still the problem. And the news was still lacking. One new member this month, John Trenaman from Great Chart with a red Series 3 Esprit. So a big welcome and we hope to see you at plenty of coming events this year.

Other big news for this month - Tim and Lorraine have gone over to the other side!! Yes, Tim is now the proud owner of an 18 month old Porsche Cayman S. Not a Lotus but we won't hold it against him!!! and it'll be good to see them and the car. We were discussing a Sunday lunchtime meal possibly? Perhaps a quick emailed ad hoc meeting?

We do have the new events list for the coming year and a spring run has been scheduled but that will be later on. There are a few tweaks to make but the list will be posted on the website very soon and be printed with next months newsletter.

One event that I must tell you about and you need to act very quickly, is the Crystal Palace Sprint meeting scheduled for the May Bank Holiday 30/31 May. It's a Sevenoaks and District Motor Club event and it's described as "Motorsport at the Palace, a Two-day Motorsport Festival". It sounds like it's not to be missed and John H mentioned it to me at the January meet-

ing and suggested a NKLG display etc. Well, Chris has taken up the gauntlet and is coordinating our display/entry. Now, it's limited to five cars only on the display on each day, so there is potential for ten cars in all if we get the response from members and if we get in quickly enough. To be fair, we are suggesting five different models per day, depending on numbers. So a flip of a coin may be necessary if we have too many entries. Entry is free to participants and their passenger but the event is obviously open to everybody as a spectator but you'll have to pay. For details see www.motorsportatthepalace.co.uk. If you would like to be part of the display, please contact Chris on 01732 xxxxxx BY FRIDAY 26TH FEBRUARY as entries have to be in early. We'll have to do it on a first come first served basis and/or flip of a coin. So please get phoning as I think it should be a good one.

I mentioned John H already, but did you see the Club Lotus News? It was more like the Harper Lotus News! It shows you you don't have to own a Lotus to be a Lotus fanatic, how bad will it be when he gets one!! Don't forget John is organising the Quiz Night next month on the club night. It should kick off around 9 and if you don't fancy joining in don't let it put you off I'm sure there'll be one or two that will prefer to sit it out.

Other up and coming events include karting at Filching on 28th February; a Spring Run and Sunday lunch on 18th April; the annual Goodwood trackday on 1st May and the Komosa Cup Treasure Hunt on 23rd May. So, some dates to add to your diary but Ian & Heathers full annual events list will be with you next month.

I couldn't make the February club night but snippets picked up from Jan/Dec - Simon was telling about his "knight-in-shining-armor" act, helping an elderly neighbour on Christmas day with a non-starting car and said neighbour informing Simon of his passion for Lotus in his younger years and subsequently giving Simon a

pile of old (and some rare) Lotus books!! Lucky lucky.

And Howard explaining his about his rather nasty experience of an exploding car battery. He said the knowledge he gained from the experience could easily form the basis of a club night talk - watch this space?

John H Texted me some details of the sad closure of the London Lotus Centre in Park Lane, if you'd ever been there, they had plenty of other exotics to drool over - very sad but as John says - the recession's over then!?

He was also a little worried about Toyota engines in Elises accelerator/brake parts??

Talking of Toyota, a mate of mine sent me a strange text "Just trying my new Prius - chat later, can't stop" Haven't seen him since.

I should be completely back to normal next month and looking forward to a full year's NKLG events. Please get in touch with Chris as soon as possible re the Crystal Palace show. Over the page you'll find Vaughn's ongoing Lotus model collection? story - And Magnus' write up on the very enjoyable clay pigeon shooting day back in January - we'll have to do another one and perhaps a few more will give it a go.

I'll leave you with a picture of the delicious looking FIA GT4 Evora. See you on the next club night on 10th March.

John

Letter to the Editor

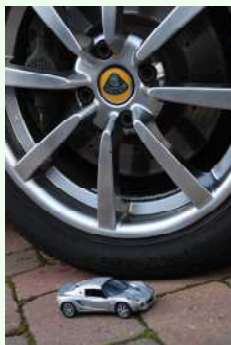
John

Diana has just about given up on me!

You will recall in a previous NKLK newsletter that I requested some assistance in finding a Saico model Lotus Elise S2 111s. John H provided me with some very useful information including when they were last made (several years ago) and what they cost then (about £1.50). With this in mind I searched e-Bay over several weeks and eventually found a second hand open top version in silver (the colour is near enough to my Elise which is Quartz) up for auction.

I unfortunately managed to get into a bidding battle even though I did not start bidding until about ten minutes prior to the auction closing. No sooner had I placed my bid then the e-bay computer automatically pushed up the price. Now I know you should never bid until the last few seconds but I was impatient and wanted that particular coloured model car and hence paid the price for my impatience (my successful bid was £4.21).

Several weeks later I saw TWO new Elise's in a limited edition box again for auction on e-bay and having learnt my lesson I was successful with my bid for £4.29 the pair. Again one was in silver but this time had a matching hard top.



So just like buses, you wait and then two come along together although in this case it was three.

So you can see why Diana is concerned by my current model car obsession.

Anyone looking for an open top dark Blue model Elise S2? - going cheap.
Regards

CLAT PIGEON SHOOT SATURDAY

16TH JANUARY 2010

BY MAGNUS UNDERHAY

It was a wet winter's morning as we stood in the metal hut having a cup of coffee and bacon butty, whilst listening to the rain hitting the roof.

There should have been six but two dropped out due to work and family illness so there was John Frisby, Chris Couldry, John Underhay and myself. The whole set up there is very relaxed and everybody was very friendly.

The format of the day was to be five different disciplines of ten clays, each time two clays were flicked out and we had two shots one at each clay. We had five goes at each discipline which made up our fifty clays.

Mike our instructor took us to the first stand and gave us instruction on safety, how to hold the gun and how to track the clay slightly in front, so hopefully the shot hits the clay. Then the fun started John U went first followed by me Chris and John F, I think looking back John U was at a disadvantage as everyone else had a good chance to watch where the clays went.

We started with the clays being sent down a cutting one before the other and one slightly higher than the other, unfortunately the wind kept blowing the occasional clay into a tree! (We had a good go at pruning it).

The next stand was completely different with the clays being shot up high and coming towards us (sounds easier than it was). After that we had two clays fired off together crossing over, there was a slight delay between them being released which could confuse you as to which one to shoot at first!

We then experienced the "Springing TEAL" the first clay was fired towards us and was low and slow but just a side view and after you had missed that one the "Springing TEAL" just popped straight up and then down.

Mike's quote of "Watch it go up and as it gets to the top just aim slightly below and you can't miss!" Thankfully we all managed to hit it! Chris shone at this one with an eight out of ten.

The last discipline had two clays coming towards us at different angles, somehow I managed to hit all ten, which was certainly my highlight of the day!

We were very lucky with the weather as it dried up and we had a dry shoot and we all had a great time and I am certainly not the only one that wants to go back for more!!

MAGNUS