



North Kent Lotus Group



March 2010

Dear Enthusiast

A snow-free March meeting! Although three snowy meetings on the trot seemed unlikely despite the proper winter we've had.

So that made for a good turn out for the quiz night - our occasional test of knowledge. John Harper put together a collection of motoring brain teasers - although he nearly didn't make it with the questions as he'd been working in Bristol for the day and was running late. He just made it by the skin of his teeth and proceedings got under way just after nine.

Six teams of varying numbers took around 90 minutes to wade through 179 questions and I must say John picked some real tough but good questions.

With scoring ranging from sixth place 38 points, through to the winning team "Bahrain or Bust" hitting 124 there was plenty of head scratching.

And the winning team? Richard, Graham and John T. I can see a pattern emerging..... But anyway a good night was had by all and the winning team each received a bottle of vino. So a big thanks for John for "Lotus Mastermind 2010" Incidentally, it was good to see Mike Gay-Cummings from the Kent group at the quiz - I hope he enjoyed it.

John U had a phone call from Andrew and He and Debbie have invited us all to a gathering at their lovely home in Dorking along with the GT40 Club. It's not until 5th September but it gives you plenty of time to to keep the day clear. It will be a bring your own picnic affair and should be a great day out and a chance to drool over some GT40's (and our own equally lovely Lotus'). Andrew has now sold the GT40 he had but is now having one built/restored in New Zealand using two ex Le Mans cars and one is an ex Jackie Ickx car! It all sounds pretty exciting stuff so I'm looking forward to September 5th.

The events list for the year is included and the first up and coming is the Spring Run on 18th April. Last years one was enjoyed by all so Howard and Tim are busy putting

together this year's one and I'm sure Lorraine will be lending a hand. I don't know too much about it as yet, only that it will include a coffee stop and lunch and (hopefully) a car related visit in the afternoon. We'll be meeting up at the Moat as is traditional for a sharp 10 o'clock get away so aim to get there at 9.30. It's the weekend following the next club night, so there won't be another newsletter before, so make a note in your diary. It'd be helpful if you could let Howard know if you're going so as to help with numbers for lunch. So please give him a ring or send him an email - details over the page.

The Bexhill 100 Motoring Club Classic Car Show is also on the events list and entry forms have already been sent out to those of us who were there last year. John U has asked to let him know if you're going as he is going to organise a small display. We had a lovely day last year and it was well worth the effort. The closing date for entry is 30th June so have a chat with John at the next club night as it'll be easier doing one entry for the whole group.

Bexhill was a pretty easy going event and as long as your car was classic or interesting everyone was welcome, not so for Leeds Castle. Two years ago we had a thoroughly enjoyable day at Leeds, last year it was cancelled and this year they want to add a craft fair and helicopter rides so car numbers will be limited by insisting on pre 1980's only - so I think we'll leave this one up to the individual.

And I think the same might be said for the Lotus Festival at the Three Counties Showground. It's just that bit further than Donnington and it adds about another 60 miles for me so I think I'll be giving it a miss. Is anybody going on the Saturday?

Terry is busy keeping the website up to date and I see he's added some more interesting videos and Clive has supplied pics of his Plus 2 he owned for 27 years. We're *slowly* building a profile of members cars., I think it makes for an interesting website. Please email your pictures and details to Terry.

If you're thinking of going to the Silverstone Classic, Richard passed on details of a 25% discount offer from the Daily Telegraph - the details are over the page. You need to be quick as the offer ends 31st March.

The Telegraph are getting very generous! Neil has also supplied details of a free Lotus DVD offer (just pay postage) - that's also over the page.

The traditional Goodwood track day will soon be upon us and it's oversubscribed as usual. Chris, John U and myself will be on track and if anybody wants to join us on the journey down please give me a ring. We've had news that the Club Elite track-day at Goodwood, traditionally at the end of the Summer will not happen this year so that's a shame but it should be back on the calendar for next.

It's been a bit rambling this month and sorry that it's a little late - Sue and I had a week off. We had a nice break at Stopathom but it's back to the grindstone now.

Howard has supplied details of a hydrogen bomb over the page - Crokenhill was nearly wiped off the face of the Earth!!!

Don't forget that this will be your last newsletter if you haven't sent your fiver to John - so please see details over the page.

The next club night is not until 14th April so the Spring Run and the Club Lotus Festival will be a few days later. Please let Howard know if you will be having lunch on the run. So I'll see you on the 14th and on the 18th.

John

BATTERY BOMB

This time last year I reminded members about pre-checks in order to have a flying start to the new year and I am sure that between us we have discussed most of the obvious items to check.

If we are totally honest how many of us check the battery. If the car starts we praise the Lord, go for a spin, return and have a cup of coffee. This may be OK but it may not ! This brings me to the reason for the title BATTERY BOMB.



The two pictures clearly demonstrate how dangerous a battery can be and it is very rare. This one exploded in front of me November last year.

The possible results does not bear thinking about. However, somebody was looking after me and I still have my sight.

You may understand how a battery works and that it contains sulphuric acid which vents off a potentially explosive mixture of oxygen and hydrogen. If this is not kept under control by a regulatory system of charging and non charging the correct balance will not be maintained. This balance is very important. If the potentially explosive gases that are given off come into contact with a source of ignition ... a spark from the battery for example ... then serious consequences may ensue, as is evidenced in the photos.

It is also important to fit the recommended battery to the car it is not always a good idea to accept the advice of a sales assistant in a shop or garage.

Since the 1980's, fully sealed maintenance free car batteries have been available and appear to offer advantages over the traditional vented battery. These sealed for life battery's require critical control over their charging and it is recommended that a vented battery is fitted to older cars fitted with a dynamo (as apposed to an alternator).

Battery maintenance is therefore as important as the other more usual checks we make after a winter storage period. A visual check to the outer case is important. If the case is found to have a defect in any way, including positive and negative terminal damage the battery should be replaced.

An old battery should always be discarded. Some say it pays to buy a new battery after five years even if the existing battery appears to be working well (it may be under stress).

Always keep the electrolyte topped up with distilled water and if this appears to require more water than normal, the reason should not be neglected. The same goes for a battery that becomes hotter than normal.

Some electrical problems can be traced to battery, dynamo or alternator. For example, flickering dashboard illumination, an ignition light that some times fades goes out and comes back on while you are in driving mode.

Finally it is essential to use an electronically-regulated charger made for the purpose, and thankfully a hydrogen bomb is rare.

Howard

DAILY TELEGRAPH SILVERSTONE CLASSIC OFFER

To claim your 25 per cent discount, To take advantage of this offer, call 0871 297 0055 quoting booking code 'SCI0DTE'. Lines cost a maximum of 10p per minute from BT land lines. Other networks and mobiles may vary.

Visit www.seetickets.com/silverstoneclassic. Tickets must be booked by March 31, 2010. Subject to availability.

Free Lotus DVD offer

Have a look at;

<http://www.dukevideo.com/Promotions/Telegraph.aspx>

Hello John

FYI the Sundridge fete committee have now confirmed the date for their fete and classic car show, which we talked about before Xmas, will now be Sunday 18th July from 2pm to 5pm.

I think it was going to clash with our BBQ before.

It's a fairly low key affair with cars lined up in a field in rows ie no displays but there was everything there last year from veterans through to pre war, sports cars, Americans etc - about 60 cars - so if the committee think it worthwhile including in our programme of events for the year I'm sure a few will turn out. I'll certainly lead by example!

We will need to be there before but not by much, probably an hour, but I will double check that so I have all the facts.

The location is about 100 yards from the what used to be the Lamb is now a chinese restaurant.

Cheers
Roger