



North Kent Lotus Group



May 2010

Dear Enthusiast

Too early in the year for a "car-park" club night, but there was a buzz at the White Rock this month. It could have been that we all congregated in the centre bar - a little tight but as I say there was a real buzz. When I first arrived I got chatting to Bob G and he was telling me about his long term TR7 project, purchased many moons ago which cried out for a V8 (he's a V8 fan and has a V8 Esprit) I was reminiscing with him about ownership, as I had an eighteen month old one when nobody (particularly the Americans) wanted them and picked up one at a rock bottom price - happy memories - although not so happy memories of rear ends flapping around on wet roundabouts and the cooling fan dropping off and wrecking the radiator!!

The diversity of cars in the group got me thinking of a idea that never came to fruition a few years back - we should have a club night or Sunday gathering where we bring anything interesting - *but not a Lotus* - and if you haven't got anything interesting, bring a friend - with something interesting!

Trying to save a bit of cash I decided to look around for some cheaper tyres for the I35. I thought that Toyo R888's would fit the bill, as they are more or less equivalents to the Yokohama A048's fitted as standard. Terry suggested a tyre dealer up North - but he gave me the same answer that others had given; Toyo have restricted the distribution of the R888's and the price has shot up since January. So I'm giving Toyo T-IR's a try. I'd arranged to have them fitted, as the wear on the rears was too close for comfort and the day before the fitting, the rear offside decided to get a slow puncture so that was a stroke of luck! I should think the wear on the new ones won't be a bad as the A048's (the rears last around 7-8k miles) and at £380 a pair, fitted, it's no joke. A spare set of track days wheels is the answer. Anyway, I got them from Fawkham Tyres in Longfield and they seemed pretty good on price and did a good job - so here's a free advert - Fawkham Tyres 27 Main Road, Longfield, Kent DA3 7QT 01474 702209. Whilst I was paying for the tyres, another Elise turned up, so the pilot got a NKLG card thrust into his hand - so we might see him at a meeting! - I'll let you know how the tyres fare.

They'll have a chance to perform this Sunday (22nd) as it's the Komosa Cup (if we make it!) - probably too late by the time you get this letter but it's 9.30 at the Moat and John U promises that it won't be too involved. Full report next month.

Welcome to Howard Tunbridge from Tunbridge Wells. Two Howard's in the group now, but Howard T turned up on club night and he has a I I I S Elise as well as a Lancia 4x4 and an Alfa 156. I haven't spoken to him but will do soon.

John H seems to becoming a regular feature writer for Club Lotus magazine. Did you see his Lotus models article in the latest edition. I hope that when he hits the big time he remembers that it all started in the NKLG newsletter!!!!

I didn't make the annual Chris Parker track-day at Goodwood this month and I thought that they'd been lucky with the weather as it stayed dry and fine in North Kent on the day. But it wasn't to be, which was a pity after all the lovely weather we had in April. Chris' post-trackday email contained the line "there were so many spins on the wet track yesterday that the marshals lost count" and "At one time there was a queue in the paddock, each waiting for the 'are you all right' discussion with John Powis (the ARDS instructor)" It's always sad to hear of incidents on track with bent fibreglass involved. Everybody's there to have some fun and go home in one piece but it seemed that this year's was one of those that it's better to forget. I hear that Chris' Elan was one of the victims, so lets hope that the damage is minor. I'll try and get an update.

And with Goodwood in mind, Terry emailed a reminder re the June Breakfast Club on 6th June. It's the supercar one so should be worth going. I probably can't make it as we're off to Le Mans on the Wednesday that week but if anybody fancies a convoy down or a meet-up, drop Terry an email at the above address.

Over the page, Roger has given us a little brain teasing photo competition. It's one of those cars you think you've seen before in a magazine etc but it's got so many styling que's, it completely throws you. Anyway have a go - no prizes but the winner buys Roger a pint (surely some mistake).

Neil sent a Youtube video of a neat piece of incar video. It might be a Lola T70 kitcar BUT it's some kitcar! If you do a Google and type in "bridgetogantry Itemid=300055" you'll find it - sit back and enjoy!

Jon and Michelle have come up with a great day for us next month. It's a "Vino Run" visiting some Kent vineyards with a lunch at the Chapel Down Vineyard at Tenterden. Full details are over the page and we do have another meeting beforehand so you can have a chat with J&M about it then but give them a ring to book your place - it should be a good one.

And talking of runs and days out, Howard and Tim had a brainwave between them - we should formulate a "Drive Visit and Eat" database. Basically it could be a database of places to visit, places to eat and drink and places to drive. - Houses, gardens, pubs, museums etc etc and if it has a motoring slant all the better. It'll help us when we're putting runs together - predominately Kent based but don't forget we have weekends away!

I think it's a great idea and perhaps it could be a page on the website (what do you think Terry?). Let's see how it develops - Howard has said he would be happy to collate the info. Watch this space.

The idea obviously came together when they went out for a spin and a quiet pint together, as Howard's email finished with the line "Tim has not lost his touch even with all that extra power however I think Lotus was his training ground"

I've just had a look at the space left for this letter and realised I've waffled a bit too much this month so I'll just say that the other events to mention is the Crystal Palace Sprint day on 30th May - shame we couldn't have had more cars on the stand; and the Snetterton Lotus Festival. Both are not to be missed. The Lotus Festival is on 19-20th June but I think we are aiming for the 20th - is there anybody who would like to take up the organising? Paul at Lotus on Track has offered us quite a few free tickets so please get in touch with Ian if you can help.

We'll be a Le Mans next club night so if I don't see you at the one of the events I'll see you in July. The June club night is on Wednesday 9th. *John*