

North Kent Lotus Group

Dear Enthusiast

Sunday 13th March was the Lipscomb test weekend day that saw a few of us gathering to have a go of the new super-charged Evora S, not enough time, but 20 minutes gives you a chance to get a feel. I suppose the immediate comment must be the smoothness and refinement, especially having a go less than an hour after driving my bone-shaking Elise. The general feeling was "very nice" but at £65k it should be. Lipscomb was confident they would sell the Old English White one they had with Le Mans detailing during the weekend.

Other than that Lipscomb was a pretty low-key affair. There was an F1 simulator and a chance to see a £36k Fiat 500! Not quite your normal 500 - paddleshift, turbo'd and a Ferrari badge. Kind of a lottery winners shopping car, good fun though.

But back to the Evora, generally it was thought, nice car shame about the price and the design still doesn't work at certain angles. Judging by the sales figures overall the Evora isn't quite doing as well as hoped - but we can still cheer it on at Le Mans and I must say the pictures of the GT4 black and gold race car at the Geneva show did look pretty stunning.

Climbing back into mine afterwards, with all its rough edges - I still felt happy, but then again I do wear horsehair shirts every third Sunday. We all finished up at the Angel at Addington for a very nice spot of lunch.

Seeing the F1 simulator in action jogged my memory re the new simulator centre near Gatwick that Neil forwarded de-

tails of a while back. There was a consensus that it's worth giving it a try, so we could look into organising a group of us to have a go. Have a look at the [website - puretechracing.com](http://puretechracing.com), and we could have a chat about it at the next club night.

And another interesting link that Neil sent (www.topspeed.com) included an article entitled "Lotus goes back to the drawing board with the Elan and Esprit" evidently they look too much alike, but in fact if you look at the front-on view, although they are virtually the same, the Elan looks more like the Esprit should, if you know what I mean. It's lower and more sleek. They're also getting poor feedback re the projected weight of the new Elise, 224 kilo's heavier than the current model. Is it a case of back to the drawing board or rename the car or both? I know Lotus is tied to the "e" letter but I can't quite understand the continual resurrection of the old names - they were icons of their day but move on or be continually bashed for not keeping true to the original concept. That's my moan for the month!

I have an apology re John H's mystery photo, basically I forgot to print the photo but it does add a new angle to trying to guess the mystery car!! I quote from Mr. H "...don't know if you've twigged yet, but not only did you print the answer to the Espada Mystery Car pic that you didn't put in the newsletter, you didn't print the answer to the Last Mystery Car pic you did print, The Terrier. It's all going Pete Tong!" I blame

the continuity department. Last month's picture is one of those names from the past - an Arkley SS. No picture this month, but next month, no doubt.

Anyway, John has supplied some interesting photo's this month of his recent visit to the old Cheshunt factory.

I'll get him to resurrect the mystery photo next month and this time I'll try to get it right.

Club Lotus has passed on details of the Lotus parts sale. If you have a look at the Club Lotus website you can download the list. It's mainly Elise, Esprit and M100 but worth a look. I know that Chris was getting all dewy-eyed over one item on the list - a greatly reduced super-charger for his Elise. I wonder if he bought one??

We, (the steering group) are having a meeting to discuss events etc so full details will be in next month's newsletter. I know I said that last month!!

I'll leave you with John's pictures over the page and see you at the White Rock on 13th April.

John



Was up there the other day. Stopped off to see how the old factory was.....



As you can see, not exactly cared for, but...

...there is a Jewson man who knows what it once was and why people who do not need building materials often turn up for a look..



...he will show you around inside. A guided tour, as the place in some respects, is not safe...

If you are lucky he will take you up into the office above the showroom and show you the "drawings table" ACBC put in where the draughtsmen's drawings were kept...



...and also point out the wall safe Chapman also had put in, that they don't have the key for, and which he claims has not been opened since Lotus left....!