



# North Kent Lotus Group

Dear Enthusiast

Just as you think things are resolved for the Christmas meal, it all goes diff's up. It would appear that the new venue, Da Luca, was being run by two families - not always the most harmonious of partnerships - anyway, they've fallen out with each other and gone their separate ways, with one side running off with the furniture. We knew you wouldn't want to sit on the floor, so John and Joan have secured the Harrow at Knockholt for this year's meal. It started with me getting the date wrong on the events list last month which is now right (if that makes sense). Chris pointed out my error whilst offering a suggestion for John H's pal with his deflation problems (see over the page).

With the change of venue for the Christmas meal the day has also changed to the SATURDAY evening as they were unable to accommodate us on the Friday. So please change your diaries to Saturday 3rd December. The menu and all the booking details are included. The price is less this year (excluding the beef option) even though we've included a service charge.

We received a bit of bad news concerning John Cowley. Those that know him well know that he's a keen cyclist - it keeps him fit cycling to work every day. Well, he was on his way to work and an idiot workman dropped a road cone right in front of him - quite by accident I hasten to add - but then he was walking BACKWARDS at the time! John had to spend time in hospital and will be out of action for some while so we all wish him a very speedy recovery.

And whilst on the subject I also hear that John Haige is also not well at the moment - I don't have any details - but likewise, get well soon.

The club night, as usual, was pretty buoyant but Frank had shifted us over to the right of the bar, a rowdyish pool crowd was in again and we weren't impressed. Howard E had bought in boxes and boxes of accumulated motoring magazines that were destined for the tip. We thought there'd be plenty of takers but the evening just didn't lend itself to peaceful browsing of Evo's, Octanes and Classic and Sportscar etc etc. Roger and technology saved the day though, he emailed from Greece to say he'd have them all. Incidentally, whilst there he spotted a Greek registered S2 Exige on the island of Milos but said the roads are terrible. Perhaps it's the new R-GT Rally version!!

Also on club night, Simon was brandishing a copy of the latest edition of Classic and Sportscar with a picture of him (and car) on the front cover - fame at last! It's the Lotus feature that Club Lotus were asking for volunteers for back in the Summer.

It's always good to get snippets of information and/or tips via email or on club night. One from John P and one from John H. John P told me that on a recent round trip to Northern France he recorded a 20% reduction in fuel usage on a "hood up" versus "hood down" trial. When you think of the Elise "targa" opening, the rear window/roll hoop must play havoc with the airflow over the car. If you've got a Series one it makes sense to take the window out in the Summer! (you can't with an S2).

John H's wasn't so much a tip but more of a comment via email (see panel). We haven't seen much of him lately - his MR2 saga completely cheesed him off I'm sure he'll turn up soon. Anyway he's sent a mystery car pic (next month, now) and he reported that "Harper's Hunt" went down well despite no NKLG

participants (report to follow?). I must admit I don't have enough brain cells for one of John's hunts.

On the subject of magazines I don't know if you've seen the Evo Magazine "Magbook" titled "Lotus Legends". Priced at £8.99 and is a compilation of Evo Lotus articles etc. It looked good although I didn't have much time to have a good thumb through in W. H. Smiths. So check it out.

Since last month, Jon and Michelle slipped in one of their excellent Sunday lunches at Richard Phillips restaurant at Chapel Down Vineyard. Apologies if you missed out but it was a rather spur of the moment event. J&M managed to attract no less than 21 diners and they booked us into the special elevated "Chef's Room". Even Mark, Caroline and the family made it up from Folkestone - so it was good to see them again. Mark has now swapped his Boxster for a Cayman so he and Tim had plenty of notes to swap.

We met up with Jon & Michelle at Lipscomb for a quick coffee and look at the Loti on sale. Sue and I were a little late so we didn't get to have a look at the secondhand ones for sale tucked away in a heated warehouse ready for winter - after last winter they're not taking any chances leaving the Lotus-es shivering in the freezing conditions. We took a direct route down to Tenterden and met up there with the majority who wanted to go straight to Chapel Down. Howard E suggested we make it a regular annual event - perhaps the last Sunday before the clocks change?

Over lunch, Howard reported the sale of his Caterham and so to help overcome withdrawal symptoms has immediately announced the arrival of a new baby (Elan, that is). It's a 1968 late S3 soft-top and from his description can only be described as being perfectly

original with a full natural patina (ie tatty), he'll soon have it ship-shape and Lotus-fashion. (photos please Howard)

The latest Club Lotus mag has just turned up and looks to have some excellent stuff in it including another article from Graham Capel which reminded me to mention that he's offered to do an evening talk. So we'll organise a suitable club night and let you know

John

A couple of points arising from the newsletter.

The text says 2 Dec and the Event Update says 3 Dec for the Christmas dinner!!! Obviously the 2nd is correct! (Not now it's not!!)

Hi John

Got the newsletter AT LAST!

Been agonizing for months over where to take the MR2 for servicing etc in future as I felt/was so let down by the very local and otherwise convenient garage I had been using since buying the car. More of this sort of stuff (experiences, problems and eventual solutions and who supplied them) are what owners like me really need from a club like ours. More please!

On the question of deflating tyres, I had a similar problem with a Rover I owned which also had alloy wheels. In my case the problem was very small perforations in the alloy casting which only started to deflate the tyres after about six years. It was found by Boxley Tyres in Maidstone (very good and helpful) When the tyre was removed you could see the minor "pits" in the alloy. Can be repaired, but in my case it was easier and cheaper to get a second hand replacement wheel.

Chris

Assume S&S will be added to the "recommended list" on the website. More info about what members had done at a particular establishment in the list would be helpful for people like me (are there any...?) rather than just a listing of businesses as we have at present. I had a word with John U the other day (invited him to the Hunt) and think this was the same place he recommended me to go to in future.

as soon as we can, so watch this space.

Another article announced a "rare Lotus" website (www.exclusivelylotus.com) - nothing going on at the moment, but another "watch this space". Also on articles, Vaughn has forwarded me an interesting one which, as space is a bit

tight, I'll hold over till next month.

It doesn't look as though I'll be able to make the Elise Trophy 1000kms at Brands on November 5th - it's all work at the moment! So I'll see you at the next club night which is on 9th November.

John

I would also be interested in reading more about what members do about servicing and tech problems. It seems from the conversations I've had at pub evenings, that most solve their own, but as with Pauline's problem, sooner or later you have to go somewhere for help. I have always felt very inadequate and nervous about this as I know little and am therefore a poor judge on all issues technical. To be honest, that one little problem (if you can call the one I had with the ABS on the MR and it being in the garage for 6 months, "little"...?) nearly put me off cars for life, and I think you know how enthusiastic I CAN be... Some clubs have designated, knowledgeable members who offer advice and tech support. Some of us need that support.....

John H