

North Kent Lotus Group

Dear Enthusiast

It was a long time coming but the change of venue was a great success.

The atmosphere was great and was enhanced by the nice spread of food Howard generously provided. A good evening and a good start to new beginnings.

Very few cars but the grotty weather put paid to any first night celebratory doughnuts in the car park.

It was great to see Andy as we haven't caught up for a while and I was sorry to hear that Bill is suffering with the dreaded tinnitus at the moment. Andy's thinking of fixing up some karting in the next few weeks, sounds good - I could do with shifting some cobwebs! - anybody fancy it?

I had a chat with Richard P, he's got a Nurburgring session coming up and he had one of the few Loti in the car-park, namely his splendid orange Exige. It's booked with Plans Motorsport down at Dunsfold to give the suspension the once-over before the trip. I took mine there a few years ago and I liked the feel after they'd had it, though Sue complained that the suspension seemed harsher than ever. It goes to show you can't please all the people all the time.

Last month, I forgot to mention that we have new members, Matthew Cook and his partner Trudi. I didn't get much chance to have a chat, but Ian and Heather introduced them and they're keen to get involved with the group. They hail from Salfords in Surrey and Matthew has a blue '88 Esprit. So a big welcome to you both.

And talking of I&H they are still offering accommodation for Le Mans this year. It's a great weekend, so give them a ring (contact number in events panel).

The other Richard I was chatting to on club night, was Richard Cox, he's off to the Monaco Classic, travelling down on the Thursday morning after the next meeting (so won't be at the meeting!) He's promised a write-up of the event and trip - so watch this space next month. He also passed on an email from Peter Ruffoni following up the chat we had last month re the Chris Evans/Jody Scheckter gathering. You can find out about it at www.carfest.org BUT tickets are SOLD OUT!

Now, Vaughn always comes up with something good, and he sent me some pictures and text re a recent visit he made to a local hidden motoring (amongst other things) collection. What made the visit interesting was the discovery of what looks

like the forerunner of the McLaren F1 and you've got to agree - if it's not an early prototype mule, one can easily see that McLaren have taken some design cues from it. You can also see echo's of Bugati Veyron. Have a look over the page.

Here we go again. Now that Proton has new owners, DRB-Hicom, all the usual uncertainties have surfaced. They are currently deciding whether to go ahead with the £500 million investment needed to launch the new cars over the next five years. The result at Bahrain must give a nice boost, even though we know it's just a badge - now it appears that Group Lotus has pulled out of the F1 sponsorship deal although the team will still carry the name and logo. Gerard Lopez, head of team owners Genii, believe it's a good name for F1!! So it's fingers-crossed time again. All we want to see is a new Esprit - how many years have we waited?

Events-wise we have the Goodwood track-day coming up on the 5th May and Crystal Palace on 26-27th May. The Spring Run has come and gone - pictures and report next month.

I'll leave you with Vaughns article over the page along with a report from the Steering Group. Next club night is May 9th at the Plough, so see you there.

Hi John

1966 Elan Type 26 Convertible.

The only truly convertible built as an Elan and when you see some of the design features you can understand why it was short lived. Boot lid drain holes built in and exit behind rear bumper, simple and hidden from view, but not good for production. Door furniture has features of its own and special trims. The Hood I find not so difficult as people have said but then I have owned a 1935 Tourer with an almost identical system.

Pic's as promised. Watch this space - it's trying to get away, Scruff must be calling.

Howard



John

STEERING GROUP REPORT

Dear Member,

We have now had our first monthly meeting at the Plough, Leigh Road, Hildenborough, Kent, and apart from the weather which reduced the number of Lotus in the car park, it was great. 30 members were enjoying themselves in an area reserved for us. At 9pm we were invited by Howard E. to enjoy a buffet that he had very generously arranged. The buffet was excellent and augurs well for the future.

All we need now are sunny evenings to see the cars!

The monthly meeting venue was one of the topics for discussion at our recent open meeting and thankfully has now been resolved. Removing concerns over the White Rock.

For those of you who were not able to attend the open meeting the following topics were also discussed Aims and future guidance of the Group, Communications - Newsletter and Website, Treasurer's report, Membership, Future events. We did manage to cover the Agenda.

The meeting turned out to be a surprise for all concerned in a variety of different ways and for some a disappointment and others a challenge. Unfortunately some of the Steering Group felt they had to stand down and this is always a shame, after much time and effort has been put into what sometimes seems a thankless task. The positive and upbeat side to having an open meeting is that the future becomes more clear after having taken on board the concerns and issues raised. Our recommendations to resolve these issues will, in the interest of openness, be made available through the monthly Newsletter. John Frisby has said he will be pleased to continue with the Newsletter. Thank you John.

You can be assured that the commitment to succeed and go forward is the aim of the NKLG. Friendly as always

Howard E. John U. Ian B. Heather B.

P.S. When it was decided to move our venue Joan and John U. went to see Frank at the White Rock. He knew the 'Pool' was causing a problem and understood the

Letter to the Editor

John

The other day Diana and I were invited by a member of the MG club to joint them on a visit to a private farm museum in Staplehurst (well my Elise has an MG engine!). I should point out this collection is not open to the public but they do open it by prior arrangement to small groups.

Although much of the collection appears to be the results of a compulsive hoarder with everything you would expect from tractors, farm carts, agricultural tools, second world war relics, down to a strange collection of "loo chains and tin baths" on show.

Using the term "on show" is stretching the point as they are housed in a collection of unheated old barns and sheds and exhibits appear to live where they were first left and appear to be slowly disintegrating.

Still our time was not wasted other vehicles included a fire engine, an old truck (circa Corporal Jones the butcher) and others appear to have been used for Wedding hire. Regards

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