

North Kent Lotus Group

Dear Enthusiast

Happy New Year and from what I've heard it could be a good one. Well, for starters, Lotus is to be the featured marque at the Festival of Speed so put the date in your diary, 28 June - 1 July. Chris Parker passed on the info and he suggested that we take a look at the Goodwood website.

Not all good news though. Peter Smith Sports Cars has gone into liquidation and on the club night Richard C mentioned an online auction to dispose of parts and spares etc. The closing date was the 12th of this month - did anybody manage to have a look or make a purchase?

Re the club night - another cramped one with pool taking up the main bar. It's not comfortable being corralled into a small area, so I think it's a case of watch this (diminishing!) space.

Terry bought along his latest, a GP Mini-Cooper, he'd been talking about one for a while and with a production run of only 2000 with just over 400 being sold in this country a little searching was required. There's quite a following for them and with each one being individually numbered they're listed and registered on the owners website - I couldn't see Terry yet though! It's very nice - has echo's of Elise interior with it's alloy look and also only has two seats - the rear's have been replaced by a strut, rather uncomfortable to sit on I should think!

It may be too early to mention, but look how long they've been banging on about the Olympics, I'm talking about our 20 years celebration. Yes the Group was founded in 1994 - Ok I know it's two years away, but time flies so it's not too early to think on about how we can celebrate.

Going back to events this year Roger sent us a reminder re the Lotus Festival at Brands. We really must ensure we secure a club stand. Once again, please have a look at the website www.lotus-festival.com

Now, Howard sent me a very brief email re the Elan type numbers - I'm none the wiser. He was referring to his newly acquired Type 26. I really need to dig out one of my "Lotus Listings" type books. He also forwarded me a Pistonhead link talking about advisors suggesting that Proton should dispose of Lotus.....here we go again. Let's hope there's no rich Russians hanging around.

It's always good to get stuff to include in this letter and this month Graham Capel has commented on Vaughn's article from last month, which is very nice to receive. Please keep them coming. Mick and Lesley have supplied some info re a planned 50 year anniversary Elan race at the Silverstone Classic and Roger has forwarded a very convincing argument for abandoning any thoughts of travelling to France in June!!!

Incidentally, Vaughn has also picked up on last months suggestion of "first cars" articles - but he's adapted it to memorable cars he's driven, so that'll be included next month.

Nothing to report re coming events but it may be a good time to remind ourselves that we usually have a Spring run. Jon and Michelle and Howard have put some good runs together over the last couple of years

or so, so does anybody fancy having a go. The normal format is start from a meeting point, then a coffee stop and finally a nice lunch with some good roads linking it all up. Any suggestions are welcome on club night.

Short and sweet again this month, I'll leave you with the aforementioned contributions and a quick reminder that the £5 subs are due (see separate panel). I'll see you at the White Rock on the 8th February.

John

Hi John

My mate Dave Hughes from Cardiff has been trying to organise a race for Goodwood but they don't seem to be interested but as you can see from the attached email the organisers at Silverstone seem to be.

Happy Christmas

Mick and Lesley

Date: Mon, 19 Dec 2011 14:07:47 -0500
Subject: All Elan race at Silverstone Classic
Hi All

As you may be aware there is a proposal that a race should be run at some time in 2012 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Lotus Elan.

A proposal has been made that this may be possible at the Silverstone Classic Event to be held on 20-22nd July 2012.

The grid is able to take up to 58 cars and the event would consist of practice on the Friday with a 20min race on Saturday and a 20min race on Sunday.

Assuming we could get 40 Elans to the meeting the cost for both races would be in the region of 740 pounds plus VAT per entrant.

Could those on this email list contact any Elan owners both in the UK and Europe who may be interested in taking part and give me an indication as to whether they would like to attend. Also ask them to contact me so I may add them to the email tree.

I will be talking to the organisers on Wednesday and will keep everyone posted as to developments.

I would imagine that two classes would run, one for appendix K , and one for HSCC roadsports spec cars.

Any comments would be greatly appreciated.

Regards
Dave

As John said in the newsletter last month, in a mad moment I volunteered to organise a display at the Senlac Classic Car Show on 17th June. If you would like an entry form, let me know and I will either email it or I can give you a copy on a club night. To make it easy, if you want me to send off your completed form for you, I can do that, subject to you crossing my palm with the entry fee of £3.50.

My plan is for us to meet up at the Little Chef on the A21 at Lamberhurst ready to leave for the showground at 8.30am (to be confirmed nearer the time) so count back from there if you want to start the day with a Little Chef full English or just a coffee.

If you haven't been to this show before, it's very similar to the Bexhill show with plenty of classics of all types on display, a few auto jumble and other stalls to rummage around and plenty of room for a picnic. If you want to travel further afield, it's about ten minutes' walk to Bodiam castle and to Bodiam station for the Kent and East Sussex steam railway. The really adventurous could take the train to Tenterden for lunch, leaving their car keys with me safekeeping of course!! 17th June also happens to be Father's Day and the railway serves Sunday lunch in their Pullman car, subject to booking in advance, so there are plenty of options for an entertaining day out.

Alternatively, you could go to Le Mans but I think the ACO have made a major blunder organising their 24 hour race on the same weekend as the Senlac car show. First you have the hassle of organising ferry

tickets and trying to find accommodation somewhere within a fifty mile radius of the circuit, both likely to be ludicrously expensive, then you have the hassle of getting through the traffic and queuing for half the day to get in, dealing with the crowds and the fact that someone is sitting in your seat making implausible claims that, even though you have the correct ticket, somehow it's their seat because they are French.

And that brings me to another point. France is full of French people. It's infested with them, except Le Mans, which is full of Brits and Dutch and Germans. You could stay at one of the campsites and pitch your tent six inches away from a tent full of boisterous drunken Germans who want to be your friends at three in the morning and when you finally get to sleep, you wake up halfway through the following day to find the race is nearly over but you can't see it anyway because the Germans have built a twenty foot high wall of empty lager cans in front of your tent. Then you have the weary drive home, your kit either saturated with water or covered with dust depending on the weather, while you keep swivelling your eyes through 360 degrees on the lookout for the French traffic police who are on a double bonus to catch Brits driving 1kph over the speed limit and, when you finally get home, you realise how much more fun you would have had at the Senlac Classic Car Show. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Roger