

North Kent Lotus Group

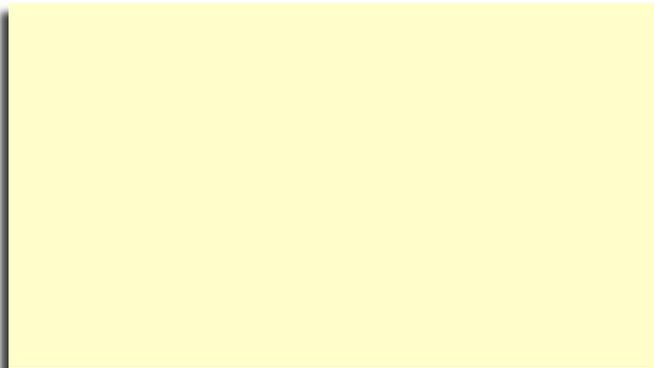
Dear Enthusiast

A very wet club night but a dry barbeque which, on the face of it, is the best way round. It was torrential on the Wednesday evening so we had just three cars in the car park - the barbeque saw 16 in the perfectly prepared field complete with food tent, generously supplied by the landlord. It all went very well and big thanks must go to Magnus & Julie, John & Joan and Howard for providing another successful BBQ and also all who supplied some food. Howard did look the part in his specially commissioned Lotus chef's hat.



There's more Barbeque pictures on the website, so take a look.

The grotty weather on club night may have kept the Loti in the garage but the Plough was buzzing with a big turnout people-wise. It was good to see Bill who we haven't seen for a long time, so the new venue is proving popular with everybody.



Two new members this month, both found us via the website so Terry's efforts are paying off; Richard and Hilary Barrington from Brasted, they have a +2 which is undergoing restoration and Steve Harding from Paddock Wood who has an S4 Elan in Gold Leaf colours which, incidentally, was one of the three on club night, so he's not afraid of bringing it out in a spot of rain! So welcome to you all.

The Lotus festival at Brands is looming and I'm looking forward to it.

The full Grand Prix circuit; Lotus-on-Track races; Classic Lotus demos; 50 year Elan celebration; Lotus rally-car demos; lots of trade stands and most important of all a NKLG stand with a big opportunity to pick up some new members.

It's a two day event and Howard is looking after all the arrangements - by the club night we had 14 cars signed up but there's always room for more, so please get in touch with Howard if you want to be on the stand.



Emails received this month include details of the new "Lotus Originals" store in the old Cafe Royale building in Piccadilly. Boasting 4800 sq ft of retail space, it should be impressive - has anybody been there yet? Perhaps we could arrange the autumn run to stop off there - I'm

sure we could park outside. Lotus probably blew all their marketing budget on the store as Howard E sent me a email saying that the factory won't be attending the Paris motorshow this year!

Sue and I couldn't attend the Silverstone Classic this month-although we had planned to go. A posse of NKLG people did go and speaking to John U he tells me that Magnus' recent engine-out overhaul and MOT on the Esprit was only just completed in time for the trip to Northampton. He and Julie made it to the circuit, but unfortunately a cam-belt pulley was rubbing on one of the hoses.

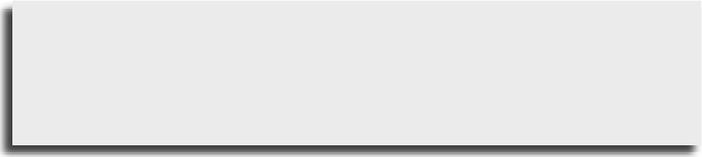
Anyway, to cut a long story short, the AA man in attendance, had some wonderful stuff called "Kracken Tape" which is a silicone tape which hardens with heat - brilliant for mending leaky hoses and lots of other things. Do a Google search, it's on the Internet and it's the sort of stuff that should be in every

tool-box or boot.

That's all for

this month, I'll leave you with Chris' Crystal Palace report over the page and see you at the next club meet on August 8th. It'll be great if this weather holds out!

John



Motorsport at the Palace	
Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May 2012	
<p>For the third year running our Group organised a stand at the Crystal Palace for the motorsport sprint event and this year some new faces from NKLG joined some old regulars on the stand for each of the two days. It was nice to have this variety and ensured some Group cars not seen before were on display.</p> <p>On the Saturday Mike Peck with his beautiful Seven Series 2 was joined by John Underhay in his (or Joan's) M100, John Cowley in his Elan S4, Matthew Cook with his Espirt Turbo S and Chris Couldrey's Elise 111R – a varied group of Lotuses. The weather on both days was very hot with a stiff wind blowing which ensured some very red bodies by the time Sunday evening arrived.</p> <p>Last year's report on this event give details about the format of the sprint and some background history on racing and motorsport at Crystal Palace since 1899 and I will not bore you all with a repeat of all that. (Go to the web site if you want to look back over it!!)</p>	<p>As far as the sprint was concerned the event again had a huge variety of cars covered by 30 Classes over the two days. Whilst there was some repetition of cars on the Saturday and Sunday between the Classes, each car had two practice runs and three timed runs on each day. 89 car sprinted on the Saturday and a similar number on the Sunday.</p> <p>Not many Lotuses, just an Elan, Seven S1A Elan Plus 2, Series 1 Exige, a pink Espirt and a gaggle of Caterham Sevens.</p> <p>The Espirt, I think belonged at one time to one of our NKLG founder members Cliff.</p> <p>Last year I wrote about John Potts from NKLG and again he was at CP driving two cars owned by a close friend. On Saturday he used the Monaco (as Sunday last year) but on the Sunday he drove the ALTA Norris Special which had actually raced at CP in period and is a very famous car which regularly appears at the Goodwood Revival, Brooklands and other VSCC events. Both cars went very well and John had a great time.</p>
	
<p>The stand on Sunday (Sorry to Peter Matthews who Lotus Sunbeam has been cut off the end of the photo)</p>	<p>ALTA Norris Special driven by John Potts to great effect. For those with eagle eyes this picture was taken at last year's Goodwood Revival because I forgot my camera at CP !</p>
<p>On the Sunday we had Paul Sewell with his modified but pretty Elan S4, Trevor Buesnel in "Merlot" his wine red M100, Simon Davies in the now fully restored Elite which is running very well. It sound lovely – I know because I followed him home!!, Peter Matthews in the Lotus Sunbeam and my Elise 111R which I had left on the stand overnight because I had to attend a wedding in London on the Saturday afternoon.</p>	<p>The fight for fastest time of the day was very keenly fought this year with five or six cars all on with a chance. In the end top honours went to Gary Thomas in a car called Force PT in 33.80 sec. Second was Fryth Crosse in an Ensign and third Gary Shelchley in a Megapin in 34.53 sec. All the fasted times were set on the Sunday. Full details of results are on the Motorsport at the Palace wbsite.</p> <p>All in all another enjoyable day's motorsport in glorious sunny weather in south London!!</p>

If you've had good service from a local car related company or national specialist please forward the details to Terry at group@northkentlotusgroup.org for inclusion on the website.

Chris