

# North Kent Lotus Group



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## Editorial.

Not too much to report this month, other than an apology for the last-minute postponement of the AGM last month. Hopefully work commitments will allow me to be present for the next clubnight and it will all go ahead as planned then. (12<sup>th</sup> April, to confirm).

As previously reported, all Committee member positions are to be re-elected this year. We haven't had any notifications of anyone wishing to be considered for these, so the hope is that the current committee members will be formally re-installed on the evening.

Two important matters are to be discussed on the night. One, the Christmas meal! The other matter that is to be presented to the Membership for ratification is an updated set of guidelines on how the North Kent Lotus Group is to be administered. There is an existing set of guidelines, however the Committee was of the opinion that these required an update to better accommodate changes arising from the way the Group has evolved and also to accommodate changes brought about by social media.

I am aware that this matter was extensively discussed some time ago (before my time!) and that there are a number of members who feel that we are simply a club of like-minded friends (as indeed we are) who do not require any form of regulation. Equally there are others who feel that some hard & fast club rules are required, so that everyone has a clear understanding of how things should operate. It was against this background that the current guidance note was established.

The Committee was aware that some members still the wish for defined rules to be established, however the perceived difficulty with this approach suggests that if rules are broken there needs to be some form of sanction imposed, and it was felt that this is clearly not in keeping with the 'friendly club' approach. It was acknowledged however that the term 'guidance' may be seen as a bit 'woolly' and that something more robust was required. It was therefore agreed that our guiding principles should now be set out as a Code of Practice, which it is hoped will be perceived by all concerned as a reasonable middle ground. The draft Code is attached to this newsletter for your consideration prior to the AGM.

I have received items for the newsletter from Chris, Vaughn and Richard (with a further instalment of the Elan restoration) but I have held these over until next month. I have however included another item from Vaughn, which may be helpful reading to some of you. As ever, enormous thanks for the contributions.

Finally, in case it's slipped anybody's mind, a reminder that it's membership renewal time, so if you haven't already done so please get your payment to John when you can. Fees remain as last year (£5 single, £8 'family' membership).

## Contacts

**Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, The White Rock Inn, Underriver, TN15 0SB**

**[www.northkentlotusgroup.org](http://www.northkentlotusgroup.org)**

## A Word of Warning about Batteries and Chargers

At a recent NKLG meeting I was talking to John Frizby who related his experience with a faulty battery which caused him all sorts of problems with his Elise prior to being replaced.

Back in the April 2009 NKLG newsletter, I reported that my original Elise battery had failed and I was advised by a battery expert that the one specified by Lotus was really under specified for cold crank capacity e.g approx. 360 Amp. In addition, as Elise owners know, the cars immobiliser drains the battery over time and it is advisable to keep it fully charged.

At that time, I purchased a replacement Varta 41Ah battery and a CTEk XS 800 battery conditioner and all was well for some eight years.

Then last week I wanted to start the Elise and although the CTEk has been connected 24/7 the battery was flat and all sorts of strange events occurred when trying to start it eg. all external lights and display warning lights came on, buzzers went off, none of which could be turned off except by removing the battery connections. A subsequent independent battery test indicated that my battery was nearly flat, the plates had become sulphated and it needed replacing, although the CTEk did routinely pulse the battery to reduce this latter problem.

Now Varta have uprated their batteries to 44Ah/440 Amp cold crank and 52Ah/520 Amp cold crank with roughly the same footprint dimensions as the original (only small height differences) and the S2 Elise alternator has a maximum output of 85Ah all of which is good news

I also notice that Club Lotus are advertising the CTEk Model XS 0.8 battery “conditioner” BUT BEWARE it cannot “RE CHARGE” flat batteries with a greater capacity than 32Ah but should be ok for “conditioning” e.g topping up a non flat battery. However, the specification quoted in the Lotus Club advert is very misleading and needs to be viewed with suspicion eg. 1.2Ah to 100Ah!

In my case my sulphated 41Ah battery may have overloaded my CTEk 800 (upper limit 32Ah for charging) which just gave up and died, hence the eventual flat battery. I spoke to a CTEk specialist who advised me I should use the more robust higher capacity charger model MXS 3.8 which can cope with up to 130Ah capacity batteries and has better charging, absorption and pulsing de-sulphation capabilities plus a Cold Weather program.



New MSX 3.8 Charger

So, you have been warned – Good luck.

Vaughn

## **North Kent Lotus Group. Proposed Code of Practice.**

### **Aims of the Group:**

To provide for a monthly meeting place for the purpose of social activities, produce a monthly newsletter, provide a dedicated website and the formulation of an annual events calendar.

### **Membership:**

The North Kent Lotus Group is open to all who have an interest in Lotus cars. To qualify for voting rights, a member must be a paid-up member of NKLK.

### **Subscriptions:**

Subscriptions will be set annually by the Steering Committee, and payment will be due 1<sup>st</sup> March each year. The subscription is to cover the costs of the website and ongoing club needs. Additional activity costs will be funded separately. An additional charge will be made for hard copies of the monthly newsletter if required. Members will be notified of subscription rates for the coming year in the newsletter.

### **Management:**

A Steering Committee shall be elected at the AGM. This committee has the responsibility for all matters arising for Group activities. The stewards of this group shall be made of existing full members. Should any one person on the Steering Committee be unable to attend a steering group meeting then the duties of that person shall be covered by those at the meeting. All members of the Steering Committee shall stand for two years, at which point they will stand for re-election if they wish.

### **Steering Committee Members:**

Co-Ordinator.

The Co-Ordinator must be appointed at the General Meeting and is responsible for overseeing the North Kent Lotus Group activities and for arranging Committee meetings.

Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall manage all financial matters on behalf of the Group and shall, with the Membership Secretary, be responsible for the collection of membership subscriptions. The Treasurer will also confirm to the Newsletter Editor which members have paid for hard copies of the newsletter.

Membership Secretary.

The Membership Secretary shall keep up to date records of the Group members and shall take the minutes of the Steering Committee meetings and of the AGM. In conjunction with the Treasurer, the Membership Secretary shall collect membership subscriptions. Cheques for subscriptions shall be payable to the Treasurer. It is the members' responsibility to advise the Membership Secretary of any changes of address, telephone number etc.

Events Secretary.

The Events Secretary shall coordinate events and produce an events calendar, to be approved by the Steering Committee. The agreed programme of events will be passed to the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster for publication.

Events Secretary Support.

This shall be one or more individual, who will assist the Events Secretary in formulating the events calendar, including undertaking necessary research and investigative work.

## **North Kent Lotus Group. Proposed Code of Practice.**

### **Webmaster.**

The Webmaster shall be responsible for the organisation and operation of the NKLG website. All electronic communication shall be via the Steering Committee or NKLG website. No member shall publish items under the NKLG identity without consent of the Steering Committee. Group members are responsible for their own personal data security before submitting to the website. By submitting personal details and data the member will be deemed to be granting permission to publish these details.

For other social media representation, sites shall be created under the NKLG ownership with the approval of the Steering Committee. The type of sites may include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Comments can be added to these platforms by non-Members; but the Webmaster reserves the right to remove comments or deny access to Contributors (even if they are Members), if any comments breach the following guidelines:

Comments should not be defamatory; libellous; or bring NKLG into disrepute.

Comments should not contain items or links that breach copyright.

Comments should not link to items that are illegal.

### **Newsletter Editor.**

The Newsletter Editor will produce a monthly newsletter covering events, activities and general items of interest to the membership, and provide material for the Webmaster to upload to the website.

### **Annual General Meeting:**

A general meeting shall be held each year. If possible this will coincide with the March clubnight. Nominations for Steering Committee positions shall be made a minimum of one month prior to the AGM and details circulated to the Membership fourteen days prior to the meeting. The sitting Steering Committee members will stand down from their post after a two-year period, but may seek re-election for a further term. The Co-Ordinator must seek to find a working Steering Committee.

### **Extraordinary Meeting:**

An extraordinary meeting can be called as necessary by Co-Ordinator.

### **Code of Practice Changes:**

Changes to the Code of Practice can only be made at the AGM, with the Membership's approval.

### **North Kent Lotus Group:**

In the event that NKLG no longer exists the Co-Ordinator shall ascertain the Group assets and seek to sell non cash assets. The resulting cash assets shall be donated to a suitable charitable organisation. If a suitable charitable organisation has not been identified by the Membership, then the Co-Ordinator will be responsible for nominating a suitable organisation.