

North Kent Lotus Group



Editorial.

A bit of a bumper edition this month, with forms and policies attached, and, as we are now so accustomed, an entertaining piece from Vaughn.

We are now well into the year and by the time you read this two events, the film night and Chatham show will already have passed. Last minute commitments prevented my attendance at the film night, and the plan is to rebuild the Elise suspension and brakes before it goes back on the road, so I wasn't at the Chatham event either. Hopefully we'll have a report on both of these for next month's newsletter.

The forthcoming important event is the AGM. As last year, this is a month late this year, hopefully I'll be organised enough to get it back on track in March next year. See notes in the box below regarding this.

The other important thing at this time of year is membership renewal. I should have mentioned this in last month's newsletter, but hopefully most of you are more on the ball than I am and are getting your subscriptions to John. The fee remains the same at £5 for individual membership and £8 for 'family' membership.

It has occasionally been apparent that the Club has experienced some difficulty in contacting some members, and for that reason the Steering Group felt that we could improve our efficiency by asking all members to complete a membership form at the time of membership renewal. Our thanks are due to Richard C for developing and refining this, as it also takes into account our obligations under the revised data protection laws. We request that all members complete and return a copy of the form, attached to this newsletter, to ensure that our records are complete. We have a number of very long-standing loyal members, but addresses and contact details can change over the years, and we want to be sure that our records are complete and correct. Our thanks in advance for completing these.

Finally, and as ever, my thanks to Vaughn for his contribution. I know that he's a little embarrassed that he appears in almost every newsletter (as evidenced by his futile attempt at anonymity with his sign-off last month of 'A N Other'), but I for one am very grateful for his input and I am sure that the membership appreciates it. I thank him on everyone's behalf, but do please express your appreciation when you see him.

AGM

Wednesday 11th April, 7:30 for 8:00.

We're hoping for a good turn-out for this important event, so do please get there if you can.

Last year the members of the Steering Group were re-elected for another two-year term, so we don't have any elections this year, but there will be a number of items to discuss and hopefully some of you will bring along matters that you wish to raise.

One item that was discussed last year was the 'club rules' in the form of the Code of Practice. There was some minor adjustment to the proposed wording of this, and the updated version is attached to this newsletter, and, subject to the Membership's approval, we'll sign this off.

Another item that was raised last year was the possibility of creating a register of specialist tools that members hold, and would be willing to lend to others. I am sorry to say that this very good idea wasn't developed over the year by the Steering Group, however Richard L, who suggested it in the first place, has rekindled the idea and he is willing to lead this initiative. This idea may be further developed to include details of specialist suppliers and services, but this will be discussed further at the meeting. Particular thanks are due to Richard for driving this. He is the one person in the short-term who would have benefitted from this facility, but his Elan restoration is so far progressed that this will all come to fruition too late for him (unless of course he's thinking of doing another one, but I believe I know the answer to that!)

Disaster and Recovery.

Have you ever wondered just why you ever started on a project, well recently I have?
(*I have, try building a garage! Ed.*)

At last year's Lotus festival at Brands Hatch, I noticed a nice yellow Elise S2 for sale on one of the Lotus dealers displays, Castle Sportscars. Although I am not in the market for a replacement Elise, Diana would eject me from the house if I was, this particular car caught my eye as it had a nice looking additional fibreglass front bib/spoiler.

My Elise, like most Elise's I have seen, has had numerous DIY cosmetic repairs for a scuffed front clam shell just below the number plate, so I thought an additional spoiler fitted to mine would tidy everything up.

After speaking to the salesman, they still had one left in the stores, although it was not that cheap, I decided to order one and was informed that "It just screws onto the clam shell". He also stated that they would find and supply suitable screws but this statement should have rung the alarm bells in my mind.

After it arrived, I discovered that there were no fitting instructions included although there were several indentations in the fibreglass where the screws were to be inserted but yet again those bells should have started to ring again!

I primed and painted the spoiler to match the car and fitted it. So far so good, but at this point things started to go "downhill".

Not long afterwards during a trip down the A21 dual carriageway there was a "Big Bang" followed by lots more banging and crashing from the front of the car followed by me making a rapid change of direction from the outside lane towards the hard shoulder (honest I was only doing 70 mph). Closer inspection showed many of the screws holding the spoiler to the clamshell had pulled out due to the air pressure being exerted on the spoiler's top surface thus allowing the front edge of the spoiler to start hitting the ground. I had just read Adrian Newey's book "how to build a car" and his explanation about aerodynamics so I think I understand a little more about the physics of downforce.

The result was that the spoiler was damaged (scuffed and cracked) and the return journey home was painfully slow as I did not have the necessary tools in the car to remove the damaged spoiler. Thankfully the remaining screws just kept the spoiler off the ground providing 30 mph was not exceeded all the way home on the hard shoulder, all very embarrassing.

It was now obvious to me that this particular salesman had never fitted a spoiler himself and I should have used common-sense and employed bolts and washers rather than the supplied self-tapping screws. I subsequently managed to have the damage professionally repaired and the whole spoiler underside was reinforced with additional fibreglass which has made it even stronger.

After priming and painting the repaired spoiler, it was time to install it using stainless steel M6 setscrews/penny washers and Nyloc nuts. These were purchased from GWR Fasteners.co.uk of Shropshire. Naturally the penny washers are fitted to both sides of the installation to spread the load eg. Bolt, Washer, Spoiler, Clam shell, Washer and then Nut.

The first photo overleaf shows the spoiler in primer and the general design/new fixings.



The finished and painted installation is shown below and I can report the ground clearance did not seem to be affected.



Only time will tell if it will now remain attached but one local member of NKLG has suggested it reminded him of fixing "Go Faster Stripes" to cars in his youth!

Vaughn

Contacts

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, The White Rock Inn, Underriver, TN15 0SB

www.northkentlotusgroup.org

North Kent Lotus Group. 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 (also referred to as NKLG, or the "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 NKLG.

Subscriptions:

Subscriptions will be set annually by the Steering Committee, and payment will be due 1st 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 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.

The committee shall comprise Co-Ordinator, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Events Secretary, Events Secretary Support, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. Subject to the approval of the Committee, the make-up of the Committee may expand as necessary to adequately manage the Group.

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.

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

North Kent Lotus Group. Code of Practice.

publish items under the NKLK identity without consent of the Steering Committee. Group members are responsible for their own personal data security before submitting to the website.

For other social media representation, sites shall be created under the NKLK 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 NKLK 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 club night. 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 this Code of Practice can only be made at the AGM, with the Memberships' approval.

North Kent Lotus Group:

In the event that NKLK 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.

Data Consent:

By becoming a Member, the Member is giving implied consent that North Kent Lotus Group can use the data collected (as part of the Membership Application or renewal process) to facilitate communication and organisation of activities, within the Club, for the benefit of the Members.

In addition, the Member gives implied consent that by submitting data for publication to the Website and/or social media, they grant permission for NKLK to publish these details.

Should the Club desire to share this data with external bodies, then explicit consent will be requested from each Member.

North Kent Lotus Group Membership Form

We offer 2x types of Annual Membership – “Single” or “Family” (For spouses/partners). Please complete the form & indicate which Membership you are interested in.

Memberships are renewable at the beginning of March.

Please complete in full. A current Email Address is required in order to receive electronic versions of the Newsletters. (Note that postal despatch of the Newsletter will carry a surcharge on the Membership Fee)

Please indicate your Membership Preference:

Single:

Family:

Member Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Additional Family Member 1:

Additional Family Member 2:

Additional Family Member 3:

Email Address**:

Contact Number(s):

Lotus Owned (If applicable):

Colour:

Year of Manufacture:

Any other details of Interest:

Newsletter Despatch Preference: Postal:

Email:

By completing this form and paying the Membership Fee, the Member acknowledges the Code of Practice defined overleaf.

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** Email – Note we have historically experienced issues sending emails to BT Internet Users. Please provide an alternative email providers' email address (such as Gmail or Outlook).

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Code of Practice

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