

North Kent Lotus Group



Editorial

This is likely to be the last newsletter before the AGM at the March club night, so this is the last opportunity to plea for candidates for the Newsletter Editor and Group Coordinator roles, and I haven't heard anything from anybody yet! YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU, so please, consider whether you can spare a little time to benefit the Group. I am happy to report that we have a tentative volunteer for the Web Master's role, but this will need to be formalised at the AGM, and if anybody else wishes to be considered for this, please make yourself known.

One person who did put a lot of effort in for the benefit of the club was Roger R, who organised an excellent quiz night, reported elsewhere, but the turn-out was so disappointingly poor. Luckily we had 12 people on the night, which did give us three teams, so there was at least some competition (a term I use loosely when you're competing against Richard C!), but after the work put in by Roger it would have been good to have more members benefit from it. It is acknowledged that some people were away, and others were dealing with issues that they would far rather not have to cope with, but it would be interesting to know whether people stayed away in spite of the quiz, or because of the quiz.

Please let your views be known in this respect at forthcoming club nights. One thought was that the subject matter may have discouraged some, it was purely Lotus-related, and the question was raised as to whether a combined Lotus & General knowledge quiz would be better received. Again, your views would be appreciated.

Finally, we have a preliminary events schedule for the year at the back of this newsletter. If you are aware of anything that you think should be added to this, or any thoughts on events or activities that could be arranged, please let a member of the Steering Group know.

One final point. The AGM is on 11th March. Last year we had a little less than 50% of the Group in attendance, so please, if you are able, put in an appearance on the night to see if we can beat that figure, it would be great to see you all there.

NKLG Quiz Night

Members had to put their thinking caps on for the Lotus quiz held on the first club night of the new year. There were five rounds of questions covering famous Lotus people from the past, Formula One, road cars, Lotus on TV and film and naming the year various key Lotus events took place, and there was a picture round featuring Lotus cars that got no further than various stages of pre-production.

Team Malepropism (or should that have been Malepropshaft?) featuring Graham, Richard, Steve and Vaughn took the chequered flag and won the prize of four bottles of wine but not champagne to avoid everyone getting soaked. Team Clueless belied their name pushing the Maleprops hard until they suffered brain fade in the closing stages to come second, and the Sofa Surfers came in a valiant third but were quite relaxed about it.

A good time was had by all but the season for outdoor events can't come soon enough.

Roger R

Fancy a High Carb meal for a change?

This particular recipe has been in the making for quite some time and at long last it is ready for consumption, I hope you enjoy it.....It was with some fear and trepidation that I decided to carry out a complete overhaul myself of the two DCOE Weber Carbs.

Some had argued to send them away to a professional and others had suggested to simply replace them with new ones. My decision had been influenced by the existence of an extremely good Youtube video covering re-assembly of DCOE Weber Carbs, a local firm that specialises in vapour blasting Carbs and a high desire to keep with the original units. The Carbs were in such a poor state that I almost felt embarrassed when I took them for a quote for vapour blasting. I was really pleased when he told me that he could get them looking almost brand new and he had seen some in a much worse state than mine.



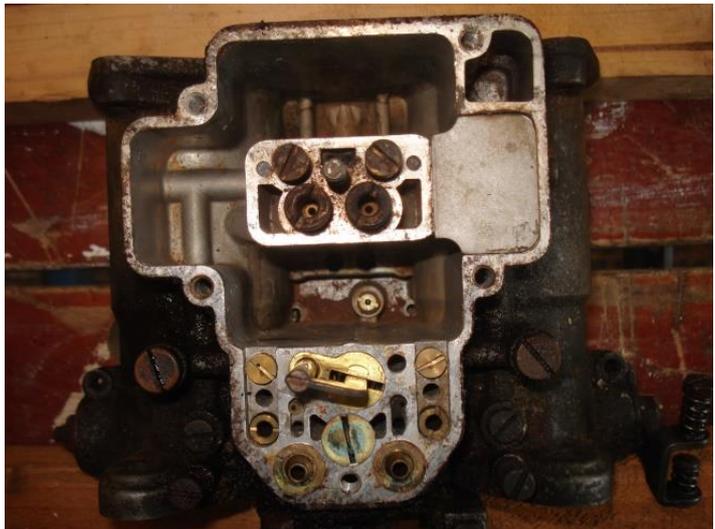
To keep the story relatively short, I have focussed on the more interesting points of the "recipe":

1. Dis-assembly:

Learning from various websites, I identified and bagged separately the parts of the 2 carbs.

I took plenty of photos and having downloaded a parts diagram and parts listing I marked up a checklist as I stripped the Carbs to their bare bones for vapour blasting. In the main, it was relatively easy to dismantle them.

The most difficult aspects were the removal of spindle bearings in one of the carbs and the removal of the roll pin holding the accelerator pump cam to the spindle for the other carb, which eventually had to be drilled out.



2. Parts Inventory:

The rebuild Youtube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dxO1TPWhIE>) starts with the clean or replacement components all laid out on a bench. Originally, I thought it would be best to re-assemble the units “hygienically” on the dining table. However, I soon realised I would need a vice and other tools and more importantly, the dining table could be out of action for a very long time. I therefore had to “up sticks” and move back into



the workshop having vacuumed the bench area thoroughly.



Note how well the components came up after vapour blasting. I sourced replacement parts from Eurocarbs which has an excellently detailed website in terms of drawings, photos and parts identification.

3. Rebuild:

Difficulties then started to emerge. Testing the closure of the butterfly valves on one of the carbs indicated that its spindle was just fractionally bent. I ordered a new one which was fine except the hole for the cam roll pin needed to be drilled (in situ).

Using a Dremel drill stand, Vaughn and I were able to line up and vertically drill through the cam in the correct position whilst holding it together with the spindle and the main body of the Carb itself. We could have done with a 3rd pair of hands although I am not sure there was room for any extra! Finally, I was then able to tap the new roll pin through the cam and spindle. None of these difficulties are shown in the video – just as in some TV cook shows, the cam and spindle had been “prepared beforehand” into the body of the Carb.

Most of the rest of the rebuild went smoothly. I was able to set up a laptop in the workshop. Then stopping and starting the video as I assembled each component back into the main body of the Carb. I found it much easier after I mounted the Carb onto a board that could be clamped down onto the workbench or into the vice.

Then came “pride before a fall”.

As I had almost completed the rebuild, I noticed two small “O” rings that didn’t appear to have a home. After careful checking the parts list and the drawings, I realised I had missed inserting the rings onto the spindle between the Carb body and the spindle bearings. My old “O” rings must have disintegrated as I took the Carbs apart which I had missed on dismantling and then inserting them must have been part of the “pre-cooked” element in the rebuild video.

Therefore, I had to remove the roll pins, cam spindle and bearings again. Without going into a lot of detail, one of the roll pins did not come out and Vaughn and I had to re-drill another new cam and spindle one more time.



Finally, when installing the bottom cover plate, one of the set screws did not tighten up properly and the screw sheared on removal. Thankfully it was only part way in and I was able to drill it out and re-tap the top part of the thread.

I hope you enjoyed the meal..... installation (not indigestion) issues to follow in the next thrilling instalment!

Richard L

Competition Time.

The savings that have been made by changing our website provider has provided the Group with a cash surplus, and the decision has been made to invest in one or two new NKLG flags.

The form of the flag will be as illustrated here, but the design is yet to be established, which is where you come in.

Get your creative juices flowing and start designing. There's no specific deadline, but the AGM would be a good opportunity for a mini art exhibition, and we could perhaps get some feedback on the night.

Roger D



Contacts

Regalia & Clothing: www.arktrading.com

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday each month, The Moody Mare, Seven Mile Lane, ME18 5QY

Web Site: www.NorthkentLotusgroup.org

North Kent Lotus Group

NKLG & significant motoring events 2020

Note: Events in black text will have some formal NKLG arrangement.

February		
March		
11 th	NKLG AGM	
April		
11 th - 12 th	BTCC Brands Hatch.	
12 th - 13 th	Chatham Dockyard Car Show	
May		
9 th - 10 th	Motors by the Moat, Leeds Castle.	
23 rd - 24 th	Masters, Brands Hatch.	
24 th - 25 th	Motorsport at the Palace.	
TBC	Valance Hillclimb.	
June		
13 th - 14 th	Le Mans 24 hr.	
July		
3 rd - 5 th	Le Mans Classic.	
9 th - 12 th	Goodwood Festival of Speed.	
17 th - 19 th	British Grand Prix.	
August		
1 st - 2 nd	Silverstone Classic.	
22 nd - 23 rd	DTM Brands Hatch.	
TBC	Bexhill Car Show	
September		
11 th - 13 th	Goodwood Revival.	
13 th	Edenbridge Car Show.	
October		
10 th - 11 th	BTCC Brands Hatch.	
November		
December		
TBC	NKLG Christmas meal	

In the pipeline:

Run to the Shuttleworth Collection.

Charing Gliding Club day.

Run to Morgan Museum, Rolvenden.

Evening fish & chip run.