



Edition

Date:
MAY
2010

Issue No:
51

Official Publication of
Club Lotus NZ Inc.

Subject: Newsletter



EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 51st Edition! It's great that we are now back to normal and able to share club events to members again. As per previous editions we will report on past and upcoming events also a small update what has been happening with Lotus globally now they are finally back in F1. We have got most of the info you will need to know for future events planned before the end of the year.

In this Edition, we bring you a small write-up about Club Lotus's first outing on the new Hampton Downs circuit, Presidents report, Up and coming events, Pistonheads/TVR/CLNZ mystery fun run, AGM and a small write-up on a club member's car. Enjoy and happy motoring !

Kylie Smith.

This EDITION's cover photo is of the Lotus Cosworth T127

The comments, opinions and articles featured in this publication are that of the various contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Committee or Club Lotus NZ.

From the President

Welcome to another year at Club Lotus with a new committee and officers, including myself. I am not sure whether I am new or just come out of retirement. However, I would like to thank the previous officers especially Roger as past president and Tony as Treasurer, and I would like to welcome every one on the 2010/11 committee both new and old.

As I said earlier, it is a new Club year and it hits the committee quite hard, with getting subscriptions out and organising cards, trying get a program of events and functions together for the forthcoming year. All that aside we have got a few functions organised to keep every one going over the winter period with a couple of fun runs in July and August, along with a social and grassed gymkhana programmed for September/October.

Also planned are some track days, I appreciate Roger, Ken and Geoff help in organising these as they are becoming increasingly more difficult to organise.

It is rumoured that Lotus Cars are setting up a new premises in Penrose, which his due to open in June July with an evening planned for Club Lotus Members about this time.

Kylie has volunteered to take over the website, so we should see it updated fairly soon, so between the Website and regular news letters we hope to keep you up to date with events etc.

With respect to events if any one has good idea for a Club Lotus event, social or knows of something that is happening please let us know.

Subscription last year were free, this year the fees have been set at \$25.00 as the committee believe we may have a few more expenses this coming year, but fees are still very reasonable.

Robin Stevenson
Club Lotus President

Committee

President	Robin N. Stevenson	(09) 473 8202
Secretary	John McGregor	
Treasurer	Kylie Smith	

Roger Philips
Rex Oddy
Geoff Sparkes
Edward Wild
Tony Bowman
Simon Craddock
www.Clublotus.org.nz

Hampton Downs - Sprints 28th November 2009.

A day at the new race track.

This event was eagerly awaited by everyone because of the popularity of this newly opened track; and because of this it was only fair to allow Lotus's first opportunity over other club cars to enter. The track proved to be a big success judging by the large amount of feedback we have had, all of it extremely positive. Cont.....

The comments, opinions and articles featured in this publication are that of the various contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Committee or Club Lotus NZ.

The new track was still fairly green with little rubber laid down and everyone just getting a feel and easing into it. Most participants were fairly well behaved with not too many issues. Brakes and tires got well worked over on this technical track. Large sweepers, blind turn with undulations made it a very exciting track. Pit lane and surrounding facilities are yet to be completed which will suit some of the lower flying missiles. We all can't wait to see it completed.

The layout is simple, without undue 'frills', but because of the contour of the land it is challenging and rewarding track to drive. Unlike other tracks in New Zealand, this circuit has plenty of rise and fall. Added to this are two long straights and at least four good passing opportunities around the full circuit. The 3.8 km large circuit has 10 corners, six right hand and four left hand. The main straight is 1000 metres long, with a kink in the middle and a 11 metre rise and fall. The back straight is flat with a length of 800 metres. Circuit direction is clockwise.

Running in two groups everyone had plenty of track time for the whole day and with no takers for more, we finished up by 4:30pm. We had a fantastic mix of cars including 4 Esprit's, 3 Europa's, Lotus 2-11, VX220, 5 Elise's which was a great sight to see. Special thanks to Geoff, Ken, Roger and committee to have made this a great day for all.



Cars forming a dummy grid in pit lane.

Pistonheads/TVR/CLNZ Meet 11th April 2010 – mystery tour

This event was run in conjunction with TVR club and Pistonheads.com. We were presented with a warm sunny day with over 20 shiny cars showing up at Greenlane. We had Elise's, an Europa, Esprit's, a Mantra, DB9, TVR's, Ariel Atoms, V8 Supercar (actual pace car), Corvette just to name a few. Drivers were presented with instructions to follow their way to Kawakawa Bay then to stop off at Kaiua for a re-group and short rest to take the sights in. Lead out cars had fun on walky-talkies keeping everyone together and regular regrouping throughout the trip. From there we went to towards Waihi and had a nice relaxing lunch and photo opportunity at Waitete Café. This was a successful event and will be doing another like this end of July so keep an eye out on the Club Lotus website.



Cars lined up in Puriri Drive – Greenlane.

The comments, opinions and articles featured in this publication are that of the various contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Committee or Club Lotus NZ.

AGM – Fun run to Salty Dog Tavern, Snell’s Beach - 18th April 2010

A great start to the day as the sun came out and a handful of cars assembled at Smales Farm Office Park for a run up to Snell’s Beach. Not two cars were the same which saw a nice line up of club cars, all types and ages. We were presented some wonderful driving roads to enjoy the scenery and small convoy of cars for a meet up and lunch. The AGM went well with good feedback from members for this years upcoming events and improvements. The new committee has since been elected and we wish them all the best!

A man can never have too many Esprit’s

Like a fair number of people reading this, I’m a Lotus nut. In particular, a Lotus Esprit nut. After looking at them and loving them for years and years I finally bought one just about a year ago. Like most Esprit lovers, I really wanted a Sport 350, but these cars rarely come on the market so I bought a 2000 V8GT. The first owner of this car must have also wanted a Sport 350, because this car was fitted with 350 equipment such as suspension, brakes, and running a Sport 350 ECU producing more torque at the bottom end.

As fate would have it, as soon as I paid for the V8GT, a 350 came up for sale. Car #3. It was in mint condition, a fantastic price, and it came with a ridiculous amount of spares, such as OZ Novas with brand new Toyo Proxes tires, two turbos, callipers, AP Racing clutch, V8 water pump, a complete set a backup instrumentation, sensors, lights, the list goes on and on. I thought of explaining to my wife why this was an absolute must purchase, but then thought a better strategy was not to mention anything and just to go ahead and buy it and hope she wouldn’t notice two Esprit’s in the garage. I went with that plan. I am currently on financial and other probation until 2060, or roughly about the time I expect to die.

The 350 was imported under an SIV permit which exempts me frontal impact and emission standards. It took weeks to navigate through the NZTA maze of what forms I had to fill out, but I got there in the end with the help of some great guys at VINZ. The car arrived in January, and all the spares that were packed in boxes and placed throughout the car were there as well, despite the fact that I was told that the chance that they would be stolen, having been shipped from Liverpool, was close to 100%. The spare OZ Novas with new tires were there as well. And the car was unmarked. To the shipping company in Liverpool I owe a big thanks!

The car then went through further compliance at VINZ. It was then that I was told that part of the compliance procedure here in NZ was a complete stripping of the car. I wasn’t exactly sure what they meant until they showed me a car far newer than my Lotus stripped to the bones....seats out, carpets out, dash out. I tried to explain to them that being a fibreglass body, the only thing not visible from the outside or underneath that could rust was the stereo speakers. That didn’t work. I tried to explain to them that this was a collector’s car with only 44 being made and the value of it would be ruined by a complete strip. That didn’t work. In the end, I found the most effective strategy was to throw myself on the ground and roll and scream and cry, sort of like a mature version of a 2-year-old’s tantrum. That’s when they told me about applying for a trim exemption with NZTA. The VINZ guys applied for one (they didn’t want to tear into that car anymore than I wanted them to), and NZTA came out and endoscoped the car through the seat belt aperture, and granted the trim exemption. So overall compliance went well. It took about 8 days and I was on the road.

The cars are magnificent machines, and to drive them is pure excitement and pleasure, a feeling that will not be unfamiliar to any Lotus owner!
Cont.....

The comments, opinions and articles featured in this publication are that of the various contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Committee or Club Lotus NZ.



General up and coming events

The winter months are understandably a little quieter with the weather not being so conducive to the sort of motoring we all enjoy! Nevertheless, Club Lotus will be offering a few events through winter and into the spring to keep those of us who wish to brave the cold interested.

30 May 2010	Outsource IT Hillclimb	Auckland Domain
4-6 June 2010	Targa Rotorua	
26-27 June 2010	Infamous SnowBall overnight car run	www.aucklandmotorsport.co.nz
25 th July 2010	CLNZ fun run and lunch	Meet at 10:30am Puriri Drive - Greenlane
22 nd August 2010	CLNZ fun run and lunch	Meet at 10:30am Smales Farm, Takapuna
29 August 2010	Hampton Downs Hillclimb	Hampton Downs
29 August 2010	Bruce McLaren Trust - Coast to Coast run.	Call Jan McLaren 09 522 8224 for details
25/26 September 2010	Ice Breaker Meeting	Hampton Downs
?? October 2010	TACCOC Spring Classic Hampton Downs	
9/10 October 2010	Bathurst	
8-25 October	Drive NZ Classic car Tour	Contact Roger Phillips
25-30 October 2010	Targa NZ	
13/14 November 2010	MG Classic Race Weekend	Manfeild
27 November 2010	40 Years of Formula Ford	Pukekohe
15/16 January 2011	Tasman Revival	Taupo
21/30 January 2011	NZ Festival of Motor Racing Celebrating Chris Amon	Hampton Downs
?? 6 Feb 2011 (TBC)	Galaxy of Cars, MOTAT	
?? 12/13 Feb (TBC)	Concours d'Elegance, Ellerslie	
19/20 February 2011	Tasman Revival	Pukekohe
19/20 March 2011	Legends of Speed Meeting	?
23-27 March 2011	Whangamata Beach Hop	http://www.beachhop.co.nz/
?? 10 April 2011 (TBC)	Te Awamutu European & british Classic Car Show	

1st Sun every month Hampton Downs market day

The comments, opinions and articles featured in this publication are that of the various contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Committee or Club Lotus NZ.