

West London Area Robert Pain

Issue 46 – February 2008

Hi folks

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2008. Hope your New Year has got off to a good start and you have managed to get out in your MX-5 with the top down on one of those crisp, clear, sunny winter days we've had.

You'll see in this newsletter that we already have some events planned for 2008, but there's plenty of room for more – so send me your ideas!

Robert (aka Bob)

Past Events

30 December – Festive Drive

A small, but select crowd made it to the start point at Fleet Services on the M3, despite the closure of the M3 between junctions 3 and 4 due to flooding!

We then headed on a circular route through the countryside with a lunch time stop at a pub just outside Alton.



13 January – Brighton Run



Thanks to everyone who came along to this event – in total there were 36 cars from across the south east of England! You made the day a great success ☺.

Look out for a write up on the day in the April issue of Softtop Hard Top magazine, courtesy of our very own Ian McDowall – cheers Ian!

Monthly Pub Meetings

We meet at Café Dysart on the first Monday of the month. The Dysart is located on the A307 Petersham Road, between Richmond and Ham. It's a restaurant/bar and offers good, but pricey food and has a large car park.

People arrive any time from 7.30pm. Come along and have a chat and a bite to eat. You can always give me a call for a chat a few days before you turn up and I'll look out for you on the night. We have a regular table in the window seat to the left of the bar.

We get anywhere between 6 and 20 people turning up, so the chances are you'll find someone with a similar mindset to talk to, whether you're interested in tuning and modifying your car, keeping it clean, need advice on servicing or just want to chat about other stuff!

The next monthly meetings are scheduled for:

- 4 February
- 3 March
- 7 April

Following the refurbishment of The Dysart, it looks as though either the prices have gone up on the menu, or else it's just that they have removed any main meals under a tenner! I appreciate that this can make for an expensive night out, so we're therefore reviewing our venue for the monthly pub meeting, to see if we can find somewhere else suitable nearby (we tried the Rose of York for a couple of months, but that just had no atmosphere).

Suggested venues are more than welcome and if we get a few we could spend a Sunday checking them all out (steering clear of the alcohol) and having a drive too!

If we find a suitable replacement, then I'll publicise this in my next newsletter.

West London Area

Future Events

17 February – Valentines Drive

Meet in Chartwell National Trust Car Park (Mapleton Road, Westerham Kent) from 10:30 for a 11:00 departure.

This will be a 90 mile round trip country drive with a pub lunch along the way. Let me know if you will be coming along so that I can book the pub for lunch.

02 March – Goodwood Breakfast Club

Assuming and rather hoping(!) that this event is continuing in 2008 (their website hadn't been updated at time of writing), then we will meet at Ockham Common Visitors Centre, Boldermere Car Park, Old Lane, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1ND. This is on the A3 just south of Junction 10 of the M25 (you have to approach it from the slip road off the roundabout of the A3/M25 junction). Get there from 08:00 with the aim of leaving **promptly** at 08:30.

From here we'll be driving down to Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit for a spot of brekkie and to look at the cars. There will then be a drive to a pub for lunch. Let me know if you will be coming along so that I can book the pub for lunch.

<http://www.goodwood.co.uk/breakfastclub/>

30 March – Driver Training Day

This is a joint Planet MX5/ West London Area event organised by Winston (EN4CER on the forum). The Car Limits driver training day will take place at North Weald Air Field near Epping in Essex.

Those taking part will need to be at North Weald Air Field no later than 08.30 for registration. The day is due to end at 16.00.

Details of Car Limits and the venue can be found at:-
<http://www.carlimits.com/script/circuitguides.php>

The morning will consist of the famous high speed bend and the afternoon will be circuit driving. At the time of writing, we have 14 cars confirmed, so it may be possible to run 2 circuits simultaneously, with one of us taking it in turns acting as a 2nd Marshall!! Cost is currently £71.50 per person, but this may change.

Please contact Winston (exhibit.one@zen.co.uk or 07770 776606) if you are interested in taking part, or reply to the forum topic in the West London area of the forum. He needs payment by 15 February at the latest.

06 April – Goodwood Breakfast Club

See above for details.

Other events in the pipeline!

Here are just some of the other events we have planned, a broad indication of when they might take place and whether an organiser has volunteered:

- Wheel alignment tech day – Wheels in Motion
- Yorkshire weekend away – June/July (Helen)
- Wings & Wheels - August
- Watership Down Drive & Picnic – Summer (Lazza)
- Watching MAX5 Racing at local circuits
- Local classic car shows
- Weekend trip to Holland (Wout?)
- Tech Day – if we can find a venue
- Christmas Meal – December (Bob)

If anyone has an event or activity they would like to suggest or, even better, to organise, then please let me know.

Don't forget, you're welcome to join in with any other area and regional events as well as the National ones.

West London Area - Additional Information

Website (webmaster required!!)

<http://wl.mx5oc.co.uk/>

WLA e-group

Keep up with all the latest WLA news using the WLA e-mail group (see the WL website contacts page).

Also, look out for events and updates on the National website and **Forum** (<http://www.mx5ocforum.co.uk>)

Look out for our own West London section on the Owners Club Forum. Don't be shy – say 'hello'.