

West London Area Robert Pain

Issue 48 – June 2008



Hi folks

So, did you make it to the Spring Rally? If so, you were in good company as almost 600 cars turned up on the Sunday. I know I chatted to quite a few of the 'regulars' on the day, but if I didn't catch up with you then I hope you enjoyed yourself and avoided over-spending on the trade stands! Given the miserable bank holiday weekend we've just had, I think we were extremely lucky to have had such a sunny day.

Don't forget to provide your feedback on the weekend's activities - good or bad - to the club committee or to me, so that we can learn from this for future events. I'm sure that Sunday's catering is one issue some of you may want to raise – I understand that a 'burger van' was due to be on the Rally field, but the owner was taken ill at the last minute, so we were left with just the museum restaurant.

There is a full write-up of the Rally weekend in the accompanying STHT magazine.

The eagle-eyed among you will have seen our new area banner prominently displayed.



I'll be bringing this along to the major events that we're attending. This will give us a focal point and may even help us to recruit some new members ☺.

As you will see on the following pages (a bumper 4 page issue!), there are plenty of events in the calendar for the summer months, so no excuses for sitting around at home wondering what to do! Thanks to those who are organising or helping to organise events in the coming months – your contribution to the club is much appreciated.

Robert (aka Bob)

Past Events

6 April – Goodwood Breakfast Club

What an adventure this turned out to be! An early start from Ockham (06:30am) meant that we headed off just as it was starting to snow, but had a clear journey there. Being on theme ('Modern Sports Car Legends – great drivers' cars, from 1980 to the present day') we were able to park in the paddock. Safe under the cover of the Goodwood 'garages', or so we thought, we cleaned the cars, left the tops down and headed off to get breakfast. Then it started to snow.....



With a strong wind, the snow was travelling almost horizontally and our cars were the first objects it hit! A layer of snow settled very quickly and a look inside my car revealed that the interior had already got rather wet before I raised the roof – that'll teach me ☹.



Anyway, as the blizzard continued and the snow depth increased, some of the more exotic cars (Ferraris and TVRs) headed off. Our group stuck it out for a while and then gradually headed off. Having seen the weather forecast, I knew a thaw would soon be on its way and indeed, by 11:30 the sun was out and soon most of the snow had melted away. After a clear drive back in sunshine I arrived home and wondered whether I had dreamt the whole thing!

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20 April – Spring Drive

We started with 4 cars from the West London group at Heston and then were joined by another 4 from surrounding areas along the route at the French Horn pub in Sonning.



From here we headed across the Berkshire countryside through twisty A and B roads to our lunch stop at the Four Points Inn on the B4009 near Aldworth.



After lunch we took in more of the local countryside, stopping at the White Horse monument near Lambourn along the way.



After a brisk walk up the hill to see the White Horse and hill fort we returned to the cars for a well deserved ice cream!



Then we just completed the route, past all the horse racing stables and back to the M4.

As always, great company, good food and a lot of laughs – thanks everyone for making it a top day.



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Future Events

22 June – Midsummer Drive in the Cotswolds

A chance to make the most of the second longest day of the year!

We'll meet at Heston Services on the M4 heading out of London, from 07:00 for a 07:30 departure.

From here we'll be heading out along the M4 to rendezvous with more of our group at Chieveley Services at 08:30 before taking the A34 and A40 to the Cotswolds, ready for a well deserved late breakfast.

Once in the Cotswolds area we'll have most of the day to drive around at leisure and take in the sights. It's a beautiful, quaint, traditionally English part of the world, with stone built houses full of character and pretty gardens.

Let me know if you are coming along so that I have an idea of numbers. If there is a big turnout then I recommend splitting up into smaller groups after breakfast and arranging a reunion for later in the day.

06 July – Goodwood Breakfast Club

This month's theme is 'Soft-top Sunday – a taste of the British summer' - Attracting: any open-top car, however roofless'.

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

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). As our cars are in theme this month we can form part of the display – but in order to do so we'll have an **exceedingly early** start!

Meet from 06:00 and depart prompt at 06:30. NOTE: the café and toilets at Ockham will not be open this early.

From here we'll be driving down to Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit for a spot of brekkie and to look at the cars.

We'll be meeting up with the Southern Coasters and South East area at Goodwood (they'll be coming down a bit later than us!) and joining them afterwards for a picnic on the South Downs (so bring one along with you). For those who are interested, there is then the option of a drive to the South Downs Light Railway at a garden centre near Pulborough. For latest updates check out the club forum and website.

12 July – Ascot Motor Show & Horse Races

This is Ascot's inaugural Motor Show event that takes place 11-12 July. We'll be going along on the Saturday. There is reduced entry for car club members – check out the club forum for further details including arrangements for a short convoy to Ascot.

20 July – Sussex Classic Motor Show at Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum

A joint event with South East and South Central areas. We meet from 09:00 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. Depart at 10:00.

In the car park is 'Ockham Bites' a snack bar that can turn out a mean bacon or sausage buttie - a good way to start the day. Clean toilets are also available.

We will then drive about 60 miles (2 hours) through the Surrey and Sussex lanes to Bentley (near Lewes in East Sussex), where we will meet up with the South East area. Last year we had reserved parking.

Bring a picnic! There is a restaurant at Bentley, but this may be busy due to the car show event.

I'll be on holiday for this event, so Ian ('Risingsun') has volunteered once again to organise the day. Thanks Ian – you did a great job last year! Please let him know if you are coming along (email i.mcdowall2@btinternet.com or post a reply on the club forum).

03 August – Goodwood Breakfast Club

See above for details, but note we will meet from 08:00 for a 08.30 departure.

This month's theme is 'Thoroughbred Sunday – the quintessential pre-1980 sports car' - Attracting: All pre-1980 classic sporting cars and motorcycles'.

24 August – Wings & Wheels at Dunsfold Airfield

Half air show, half car show – what a great combination! This was a phenomenally successful event last year – and we'll have an even larger display area this year ☺. Thanks to Maria for organising this event once again.

More details can be found on the club forum, or just ask me at the monthly pub meeting. The deadline for booking a slot on the display area has now passed, but you will still be able to park in the public car park on the day.

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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 – (Helen)
- Watership Down Drive & Picnic – Summer (Lazza)
- Watching MX5 Racing at local circuits (e.g. Brands Hatch in November)
- Local classic car shows (e.g. Bentley)
- 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

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

Thanks to Wout for stepping in as our short term webmaster before he heads off to mainland Europe in the summer – sorry you're having to say goodbye to your MX5 and to the club too ☹.

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'.

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:

- 2 June (you'll have to cope without me)
- 7 July
- 4 August

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.

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!