

West London Area Robert Pain

Issue 49 – August 2008



Hi folks

Hope the summer has been good to you so far, despite the far from ideal weather conditions. Of course, the beauty of our cars is the speed with which the roof can be raised in the event of a sudden sharp shower!

Not too long to go to the big annual event – the National Rally at Belvoir Castle. It would be great to see you there. More details can be found in the Future Events section on the following pages.

As you will see, there are plenty of other events in the calendar, in addition to the National Rally, so put the dates in your diaries, then come along and join in the fun! Thanks again to those who are organising or helping to organise events in the coming months – your contribution to the club is much appreciated.

Also, a reminder that the club AGM takes place on 11 October; no doubt more details will be inside the accompanying issue of STHT. There are several club committee posts up for election and this is your chance to vote for the candidates. Following on from the AGM, on 12 October is the Area Co-ordinator's meeting. If there are any issues you would like me to raise on your behalf, then please let me know by the end of August, so that I can try to get them on the agenda.

Oh, and I know the last thing you want to think about in August is Christmas (and I'm writing this in July ☺), but if you have any thoughts on what we could do for our Christmas Meal this year, then please let me know. I've set a provisional date of 7th December.

Have a good summer everyone.

Robert (aka Bob)

Past Events

22 June – Midsummer Drive in the Cotswolds

By setting off from London at 07:30, we were in the Cotswolds by 09:30 and settling into our late breakfast at Ma Larkins by 10:30, where we met up with Suzy who had been out with the S2000 club since 04:30!

We were very lucky to have Carole & Jim (Cotswold Melody on the forum) as our guides for the day. Or at least that's what they became as we chatted over breakfast about places to visit!



We were treated to some great roads that took in many of the sights of the area. Appropriately, we stopped off at a stone circle to take in the 'druid vibe' and hear tales of a witch who had turned a king's army to stone....



After the excitement of a drive up Fish Hill, we headed to Bourton on the Water for a spot of lunch and to enjoy all that the town had to offer. Some went to the model village, others to the motor museum and some just did a spot of window shopping.



A huge vote of thanks is due to Carole & Jim for taking on the leader role and showing us the best of the area.

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06 July – Goodwood Breakfast Club

Another frighteningly early start for this event, but at least this time there was no threat of snow! 10 hardy souls joined me at Ockham, ready for our 06:30 departure and drive down the country way to Goodwood.



This month's theme was soft tops, so we formed part of the main display in the old paddock area. Arriving just after 07:30 we had a good spot in the second paddock. With the club banner prominently displayed, it was time for breakfast!



We were soon joined by club members from other areas, providing one of the largest displays of a single model at the event.



12 July – Ascot Motor Show & Horse Races

This was Ascot's inaugural Motor Show event and we took advantage of the discounted entry for car club members and our own reserved parking area ☺.



The motor show involved stands from dealerships for marques such as Aston Martin, Porsche, BMW, Suzuki, Honda, Ferrari, Maserati, Jaguar and classic Mercedes.



The new Grandstand at Ascot is amazing, and apart from a short sharp shower, we enjoyed an afternoon in the sunshine looking at the cars and watching the racing – we even picked a few winners!



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Future Events

03 August – Goodwood Breakfast Club

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

More details can be found on the Goodwood website:

<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). The café and toilets at Ockham will be open, so a chance to grab a bacon sandwich and cup of tea (or whatever you fancy) before we head off and a lot cheaper than at Goodwood!

Meet from 08:00 and depart prompt at 08:30.

From here we'll be driving down to Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit to look at the cars.

After Goodwood we will continue on a country drive to a pub for lunch. Please let me know if you are coming along and if you're having lunch, so that I can book a table at the pub. For latest updates check out the club forum and website.

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.

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).

Meet from 07:30 and depart prompt at 07:45.

Be warned, the café and toilets at Ockham may not be open, but it's only a relatively short drive to Dunsfold, where there will be a chance to grab breakfast and use the facilities.

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.

06 & 07 September – National Rally @ Belvoir Castle

I'm not organising a convoy to the National Rally this year, as I will be making a weekend of it by travelling up on Saturday and camping overnight. Why not join me? It would be great to have a group of the West London crowd pitching up together! And if you're staying in a hotel or B&B instead, then I hope to see you at the Hog Roast on the Saturday evening.

On the Sunday, look out for our area banner – we'll be parked up in the Forum Parking area. Dependent upon the timetable for the Rally, I'm hoping that we can all meet up around the banner for a 'meet & greet' session at some stage during the day. Look out for arrangements on a notice by the banner, or on my car. Do come along and say 'hello', especially if we've not met you before at one of our area events ☺.

14 September – End of the Summer Drive

We will meet at South Mimms Services which is at Junction 23 on the M25, where it meets the A1.

Meet from 10:00 for a 10:30 departure.

This will be a full day's country drive, with a pub lunch stop along the way. As usual, route instructions will be provided on the day and we'll be using our area walkie-talkies to help keep the convoy in touch.

Please let me know if you're coming along so that I can make arrangements for lunch.

19 October – Autumn Drive

Details to follow in the next newsletter.

02 November – Goodwood Breakfast Club

After a two month gap, the GBC returns for the last time in 2008; this month's theme is 'Sushi Sunday – a celebration of Japanese motoring culture' - Attracting: Any classic and performance Japanese vehicle, from S800 to S2000; 240Z to new Skyline GT-R.

There will be another early start for this one, seeing as we're on theme and want to get into the main display area. However, as it will be dark in the mornings by then, we may not go quite as early as we did in July! More details to follow in the next newsletter.

09 November – Ma5da Racing @ Brands Hatch

Details to follow in the next newsletter.

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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)
- 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 – Provisional date 07 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. Sometimes we get to sit outside!



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 August
- 1 September
- 6 October

Following the refurbishment of The Dysart late last year, 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! You've all been very quiet on this so far, so that's why we haven't organised a drive...