



President's Prologue

By Geoff Noble,
President, LCCQ.

Welcome to 2009!

As I alluded to in my last column, we have added to the membership list during the break, with 4 more members confirmed! So a big Lotus welcome to, Naresh Dayananda, Dean Oelkers, Cleve Skidmore and Steve Whittam! Naresh has an Exige S finished in the very subdued 'Isotope Green' (ex Lotus Australia press car) and the others have Elises, with Dean's being a series 1 that he has owned from new - where have you been, Dean?

With these new additions, this takes us into the high eighties, in terms of current, paid up, members. If everyone renews (and you should be considering this right now), and we manage to gather some more 'newbies', who knows? This year, we may just crack 'the ton' and have 100 plus current members!

Before we launch further into 2009 activities, I should review the last few events of 08 - it all seems so long ago now!

We had an excellent canefields run on the last Sunday in November, featuring breakfast at Ikea (where the coffee costs more than the meal!), a quick pit stop at Calypso Bay and Lunch at Raby Bay. I made a quick detour at Mt Cotton on the way back to see how two of our members were going at the Hillclimb. Giles Cooper and Ron Prefontaine were entered and having a ball! It was Ron's debut in his ex Mopro Elise and he was of the opinion that he could have picked a better/safer place to commence his sojourn into motorsport! Giles is an old hand at Mt Cotton, and finished 2nd in class, with Ron a respectable 4th.

Then on to our Christmas lunch at Tandoori King on December 7th. I was a bit disappointed with the numbers, but we did decide to 'jazz it up' a bit with decorations and crackers so a good time was had by all who attended. A cameo from Santa who gave out plenty of presents to all the kids, both big and little, was the highlight of the day and I think the owners of the restaurant were glad to see the back of our small but noisy group!

The highlight of the year for me was the December club meeting at Derek's yard. I knew we'd get plenty of cars there, but to have 30 turn up was something else! There were plenty more that couldn't make it, so

the potential for this to be even bigger next time is there. Craig Wilson tells me that this is a record for a club meeting, so give yourselves a pat on the back!

The meeting itself started a little late, but we were able to get through it quickly and get on with the trophies. Alan Conway had organised some novel certificates for the hosts of our shed tour which was a bit of fun. The trophies went to Jason Patullo, John Lungren and Mal Kelson.

Mal collected the 'Achievement Award' as recognition for getting his Seven replica back on the road, John picked up the 'Clubman Trophy' for his unseen and unheralded efforts for the club, and Jason collected the 'Competition Trophy' as a standout performer in the sprint series at Morgan Park. That concluded proceedings for the year and I think the stragglers left just before 10pm! Thanks to Derek and Anita for hosting us!

While we on the subject of end of year functions, the committee has discussed the possibility of condensing the Christmas lunch and the December club meeting into the one function. I think this is worthy of consideration as it will mean one less commitment to what is already a hectic time of year for some people. We'll flesh this idea out at our next few club meetings, so your input would be appreciated.

My appeal for magazine articles was successful and in this issue we have a story written by Greg Bray on the acquisition of his Lotus 61 Formula Ford. Also on debut as an author is Elise owner Cameron Campbell-Brown, who has written a very entertaining piece on the trials and tribulations of purchasing a car interstate and driving it home. Thanks to Greg and Cameron for taking the time to put pen to paper or should that be keystrokes on screen?

Of the other things coming up this year, there is the small matter of Lotus 2009! Who's going?

This is going to be huge! I can't wait! If you're not already booked then visit www.Lotus2009.com for all the details!

This is likely to be the last magazine before the club AGM on March 3rd. Mark this in your diaries and make every effort to be there. At this stage most of us will stand for re-election, but one spot which will definitely change is that of Secretary as Maggie will be standing down. Maggie has done a stellar job during her time in the role and they won't be easy shoes to fill. We will also be looking for a Magazine Co-ordinator. If you can find some time to give back to the club, it would certainly be appreciated, so please give it consideration.

See you at a club event soon...

