

Eastern Region has more sun!

■ ENGLAND crashed out of the World Cup, there's no one English left at Wimbledon but are we downhearted?

No, not a bit, because we're having a heatwave and hopefully by the time you read this it won't all be over.

It's been really good to see so many Owners Club members taking part in Eastern Region events this year – and I look forward to seeing even more new faces over the coming months.

Having surged through our pretty ambitious 2006 events calendar, thank you to everyone who has made it all happen. Cheers everyone, enjoy the sunshine and safe driving – see you all soon. MARTIN

Club to MaX out at 'Brands' new track

■ THE 2006 MaX5 season is now well under way and is coming to our Region at Snetterton.

As we are at Helmingham on Sunday, August 6, we plan to support MaX5 on Saturday, 5 for race seven of the series.

The following meeting for race nine, is at Brands Hatch on August 19. This will be our first visit to the famous Kent track.

This meeting should attract a big following from other Owners Club areas.

MONTHLY MEET

■ The Manger, Bradfield Combust, 8pm, first Wednesday of every month.

Convoy run from The Beagle pub in Ipswich, leaving at 7.30pm.

NEW MID-MONTHLY NORFOLK MEETING

■ On June 14 the Eastern Region met in Norfolk for the first time, at the Dun Cow Inn, Swainsthorpe.

We plan to continue with the Norfolk Mid Month Meet, on the third Wednesday of the month during the summer, hopefully at the same venue which is on the A140 just south of Norwich. Watch out for details.

ER members camp it up on Lakeland adventure

ER WEEKENDER

LAKE DISTRICT

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JUNE 24/25, 2006

■ OUR destination was Windermere, with the chance to drive exciting and challenging roads past some of the most spectacular scenery in the country.

So on the morning of July 23, the Eastern Region headed north up the A1.

After spending most of the day on the A1, followed by a nice drive west across the top of the Yorkshire Dales, we finally arrived at the campsite after 8pm. With Kendra and Robyn having arrived earlier in the ER support Mondeo, we set about making camp and erecting the ER gazebos. Daz then got down to the vital task of barbecuing.

The next day we all set off for a circular tour of Lake Windermere and Coniston, before stopping almost in the clouds at the Kirkstone Pass Inn for lunch.



■ Some of the happy campers who made it to the Lakes (left) a typical Cumbrian road.



The afternoon run took us along the banks of Ullswater, then to Keswick, through Borrowdale and on to the Honister Pass. The roads were all surprisingly empty, which made it all the more fun for our 12-car convoy.



■ ER member 'Roadster' Robbie Marsh takes to the Curborough Sprint track.

Thrills – and one spill – on sprint track

ER MOTORSPORT

CURBOROUGH SPRINT

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006

THE Curborough Sprint course is described as "the Premier Speed Event venue in the UK."

We're not talking wide track, flowing bends here, but a short, tight, go kart-style track where a lap takes about 30 seconds!

Robbie, Jon, and Ken, from the ER, drove in the MX-5 Owners Club annual event. A couple of different track configurations were used during the day, to test not just driving but in some cases

navigation skills.

Cars took to the track one at a time, and by the end of the day everyone seemed to have got the hang of it, with plenty of rubber left behind on the tarmac. High (or low) light of the day was an over correction on a tight bend, which saw Jon's car launch off the top of a bank, to land on two wheels, almost unscathed.

Owning a sports car is about driving, and this was a chance to unleash your car and go play.

I went as a spectator, so will I be going again? Oh yes. And will I be actually driving next year? Oh yes, bring it on....

Looking ahead

■ FOR further info on all of the following events, check out the websites, owners club forum, e-mail bulletins, or phone Martin.

GO KARTING

SUNDAY, JULY 30

■ CALLING all aspiring Alonsos and budding Buttons for a much anticipated return to Red Lodge, near Newmarket, on the awesome outdoor tarmac circuit.

HELMINGHAM CLASSICS FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

■ THE Eastern Region club stand for the 2006 Helmingham Festival of Classic and Sports Cars was full at the time of writing, but check with Martin for a cancellation if you want to come along.

Even if you can't get on the stand then it's still a good day out so come along to the festival anyway and visit the ER stand to say hi.

SUMMER RUN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

■ THIS will be a run through Norfolk, followed by a BBQ. The day is entitled "40 for 40" to help Steve Hider celebrate his 40th this year.

National events

NATIONAL RALLY

LINCOLNSHIRE - 16-17 SEPTEMBER

■ THIS years National Rally is being hosted by the Lincolnshire Area, and the main rally day on the Sunday will be held at the Lincolnshire Showground. Lincolnshire Area are our neighbours, so a record turnout from the Eastern Region is on the cards. Watch out for info on ER camping, and convoy runs to the rally.

Your MX-5 stuff brought to book

■ THE Eastern Region "For Sale" book is now available to view at the monthly meetings. If you've got any MX-5 related item to sell, bring along the details on an A4 sheet of paper.

Robbie's regiment follows orders to military museum

ER EVENT

NORFOLK NAVIGATION DRIVE

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2006

■ AT last we had a sunny run, and rumours that former regional coordinator Geoff had in fact taken all the sunshine with him to Australia proved unfounded.

The start point was West Stow Country Park, and the destination was the Muckleburgh Collection Military Museum on the north Norfolk Coast. However between those two points lay 80 miles of road, to be navigated not via the usual directions, but by Robbie's speciality; Tulip diagrams of each and every critical junction.

18 cars left at intervals, to give everybody the chance to use their own navigational skills.

We headed through forests on the Suffolk/Norfolk border to West Norfolk, an area with plenty of twisty and very quiet roads. We eventually arrived at the coast and then headed west through Blakeney and Wells-next-the-Sea. When



■ Mazdas on parade at Muckleburgh.



everyone arrived at the museum we enjoyed privileged parking on the meadow outside the entrance, under the shadow of military hardware.

The final challenge of the day was a high speed, off road ride

in the museum's six-wheel drive articulated Gamma Goat, across treacherous terrain. One or two people looked just a little bit green to me, when they got off!

A cracking day out was had by all, with thanks to Robbie for the terrific route and accurate directions.

Rally day made nice weather for the ducks at wild venue

ER EVENT

SPRING RALLY - COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK, OXFORDSHIRE

MAY 20 - 21, 2006

■ WE were promised a day out at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford where we could view the "full range of animals".

Despite the threat of rain, a convoy of 13 roadsters left the Eastern Region with roofs down and took the pretty route to the Cotswolds.

Most of us met up at the campsite for a BBQ in the evening, and after a few showers in the night we were

grateful to see some sunshine in the morning. However this was very short-lived and so wet was it, that the promised "full range of animals" were far more sensible than most of us, with many staying hidden in the dry!

As with all National Owners Club events, this brought a chance to meet up with old friends, make a few new ones and check out a few more 5s. In total 401 5s checked in - which I understand is a record for a spring rally.

Several of the planned activities got rained off, but the Best Kept 5 competition was won by Eastern Region member



■ Some of the 401 MX-5s that braved the rain at this year's Spring Rally

Steve Hider who now has another trophy for his cabinet.

It was certainly not a wash out, because we did enjoy it - but let's hope for better weather for the National in September.

We're here to help

■ The new Eastern Region Technical helpline in association with Priory Fives for all your MX-5 and Roadster technical queries. E-mail: prioryfives@mx5easternregion.co.uk