

More fun planned for the year ahead

■ I KNOW it's a bit late but as the club doesn't publish a January newsletter, I'd like to wish a Happy New Year to you all.

I see 2006 as an important year for the Eastern Area of the MX-5 Owners Club. Having been reborn a few years ago as the Eastern Region we got fully into our stride last year and we need to keep the momentum up this year. With that in mind we have already got a 2006 event calendar drafted which was discussed at the January meeting and various people are already feverishly working away at getting things off the ground (or at least so they tell me!) So take a look at the calendar, printed overleaf, and put a few dates in your diary, and I hope to see you all soon.

MARTIN

www.mx5oc.co.uk finally goes live



■ After a very long time, and much blood sweat and probably tears, the new Owners Club national website went live on December 1, 2005. The site is a showcase to the world for the club as well as a resource for all of its members.

Every member has their own account on the site where you can add details of your own car, upload photographs and keep a track of all club news and future events etc.

Coming in the near future will be a fully interactive shop where the latest range of club merchandise will be available for purchase online.

To activate your own account go to <http://www.mx5oc.co.uk/activate> and follow the on screen instructions.

And while you're on the site have a look for the Featured Area page, it's well worth a read!

A capital day out

ER EX 06.1

CENTRAL LONDON DRIVE II JANUARY 2, 2006

DRIVE around central London for fun, your kidding right? Well no and what's more this is the second time we've done it.

In 2004 Bob Paine, the West London Area Coordinator, spotted an almost unique opportunity to drive around the capital seeing the sites on the New Year's Bank Holiday. With New Year's day falling over the weekend it meant the Bank Holiday would be on the following Monday with no congestion charge and probably very little traffic.

The first Central London Drive took place last year on January 3. And as it happened the calendar afforded a similar opportunity this year to do the same on Monday, January 2.

On a chilly but dry day ten cars from the Eastern Region, (all but one with the rather important navigator) headed off down the A12 to the meeting point in the middle of Hyde Park.

The route had been altered slightly from last year and after a very comprehensive and vital briefing 30 cars headed off with route instructions in hand.

The route this year started around the West End taking in the sights of Knightsbridge, heading east we saw Parliament Square, Buckingham Palace, The Embankment and St Paul's.



■ Eastern members Adrian (Ady) Neill (left) and Gary Kearley heading down The Mall

Entering the East End other landmarks included Tower Bridge, Canary Wharf and a particularly enjoyable blast through the Blackwall Tunnel.

We finished up in Greenwich Park with its stunning views of the city's skyline. The majority then headed off into Greenwich for lunch where by a stroke of luck the local Wetherspoons turned out to be the ideal venue.

We all completed the run

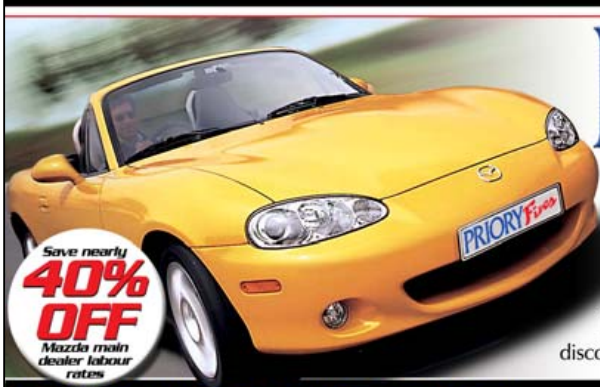
although not everyone by the intended route – but then that's all part of the fun.

A thoroughly entertaining day out, for which we have Bob to thank. How he compiles such comprehensive directions I have no idea. Will we be doing it again? Well the Bank Holiday actually falls on New Year's day itself until 2011 so Bob thinks he has got a few years off now, we'll see about that...



■ A selection of the 30 roadsters and their respective owners gather in Hyde Park before the start of this year's central London drive.

PRIORY Fives



Save nearly
40% OFF
Mazda main dealer labour rates

Priory Mazda in Cambridge now operates a Saturday MX-5/Roadster workshop exclusive to Owners Club members*. You get a main dealer stamp, main dealer facilities and the knowledge that your car is being worked on by a highly-trained Mazda engineer who's also both a genuine MX-5 enthusiast and Owners Club member. Not only do you get this peace of mind but our labour rate has been slashed by nearly 40%. On top of this you also receive up to 15% discount off all genuine Mazda parts, oils and fluids.

01223 242222 for enquires, quotes and bookings - ask for Mark Goddard or Robert Marsh or e-mail: prioryfives@priorymotorgroup.co.uk

Priory Fives is affiliated to Priory Mazda, Cambridge Autopark, 315 - 349 Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 3DF

EXCLUSIVE
TO MEMBERS OF THE
MX-5 OWNERS CLUB
*valid membership card required

Come and join us

WHY not come along and find out exactly how "the Eastern Region has more fun!"

We would love to see you and any other new members at one of our monthly meetings.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 8pm, at The Manger, Bradfield Combust, near Bury St Edmunds. A spirited country drive which starts at The Beagle, Ipswich, (departs 7.30pm prompt) is all part of the experience if you fancy it.

Detailed instructions on how to get to both pubs, are on our website or contact Martin for directions.

Coming soon...

We are trying to arrange an evening at Donald's, (the main Mazda dealer in Ipswich) for the near future. This will be a chance for you to look over the cars, meet the staff, have a bite to eat with maybe a quiz and test drives thrown in. Details and a date have yet to be agreed but it will be e-mailed and advertised on the Eastern website once confirmed.

Donald's offer club members discounts ranging from 5 - 10% an on all parts and servicing.

Contact details: West End Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP1 2DZ Tel: 01473 28778

www.thedonaldsgroup.com

Roadster Robbie's tech day top tip

SPONSORED by Priory Fives.

"A high concentration of screen wash additive in your washer tank helps to stop the nozzles freezing up on those icy mornings."

A few dates for your diaries

HOPEFULLY there is something for everyone on this year's Eastern Region calendar.

But, if the table below doesn't whet your appetite, there are a few other events still to add but their dates are still subject to confirmation.

For example, we definitely want to support the MaX5 race series again this year and at hopefully more than one venue. Trips to other motor-sport events including Le Mans, the Goodwood Revival and BTCC meetings are also possibilities.

Other suggested events include an off-road 4x4 driving day, MX-5 Owners Club organised track days plus visits to the London Motorshow and Enfield Pageant of Motoring.

If anyone wants information on any event, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

EASTERN REGION EVENTS 2006	
FEBRUARY	
Wednesday 1	MONTHLY MEETING (The Manger)
MARCH	
Wednesday 1	MONTHLY MEETING (The Manger)
Sunday 5	TECH DAY - Priory Fives, Cambridge
Sunday 19	GAYDON MOTOR MUSEUM VISIT
APRIL	
Wednesday 5	MONTHLY MEETING (The Manger)
Sunday 9	SUFFOLK DRIVE
Sunday 23	GO KARTING (Outdoor Off-Road Circuit)
MAY	
Wednesday 3	MONTHLY MEETING & DRIVE
Sunday 7	ESSEX DRIVE
Sat 20/Sun 21	SPRING RALLY (Cotswold Wildlife Park)
JUNE	
Saturday 3	CURBOROUGH SPRINT
Wednesday 7	MONTHLY MEETING & DRIVE
Sunday 11	NORFOLK NAVIGATION DRIVE
Sat 24/Sun 25	LAKE DISTRICT WEEKENDER
JULY	
Wednesday 5	MONTHLY MEETING & DRIVE
Friday 7	GOODWOOD FESTIVAL OF SPEED VISIT
Sunday 16	SUFFOLK PUB HUNT NAVIGATION DRIVE
Sat 22/Sun 23	JAE (Japanese Auto Extravaganza)
Sunday 30	GO KARTING (Outdoor Tarmac Circuit)
AUGUST	
Wednesday 2	MONTHLY MEETING & DRIVE
Sunday 6	HELMINGHAM CLASSIC/SPORTSCAR SHOW
Sunday 20	NORFOLK/SUFFOLK DRIVE & BBQ
SEPTEMBER	
Sunday 3	TRAX 2006 (Silverstone)
Wednesday 6	MONTHLY MEETING & DRIVE
Sat 16/Sun 17	NATIONAL RALLY (Lincolnshire)
OCTOBER	
Sunday 1	TECH DAY 2 - location to be agreed
Wednesday 4	MONTHLY MEETING (The Manger)
Sat 14/ Sun 15	ALTON TOWERS/PEAK DISTRICT WEEKEND
Sunday 29	CAMBRIDGESHIRE DRIVE
NOVEMBER	
Wednesday 1	MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER	
Saturday 2	EASTERN REGION CHRISTMAS DO
Wednesday 6	MONTHLY MEETING

Wishing it could be Christmas every day

E.R. CHRISTMAS 'DO' III
DECEMBER 3, 2005

THE third annual Eastern Region Christmas 'Do' took place at the Three Tuns Inn, Pettistree, near Woodbridge.

Highlights of the 'Do' apart from the obligatory Christmas meal included; the return of Robbie's popular MX-5 quiz, the Eastern region prize draw, a guess the mystery object

competition (the object having arrived hot foot from a rival MX-5 Owners Club Christmas meal earlier in the day) and our 'exclusive' Eastern Region Christmas crackers.

We were all taken by surprise this year, when Jon Elsey won the anorak quiz, but he was similarly surprised as having anticipated this we had a special booby prize already prepared for him!

The festivities carried on in to

the early hours of the morning for quite a few of us, but unlike last year everyone managed to make it for breakfast (I was particular pleased about that!).

A very pleasant evening and thanks to everyone who helped out with the donation of prizes, cracker construction, printing menus etc.

And a very big thanks to Steve at the Three Tuns for keeping the bar open so late or should that be early!