

## It's all go in the Eastern Region!

■ WOW, I'm writing the October newsletter already, that's really hard to believe, considering it's still August!

And has it been a good August? Well the weather turned from the heat wave in July to what seemed like the monsoon season but we have been lucky with our events for the most part although check out what happened at JAE in the report overleaf.

We have been extra busy since the last newsletter, with seven events, and our two regular monthly meetings in Suffolk and Norfolk. And there is still more to come, with the National rally a couple of weeks away as I write, and much more to follow!

MARTIN

# MaXimum excitement for roadsters at race circuits

## ER MOTORSPORT

### SNETTERTON/BRANDS HATCH SATURDAY AUG 5 & SATURDAY AUG 19

■ THIS year the Eastern Region headed off to support the MX-5 racing "MaX5" championship at Snetterton on Saturday, August 5 and then again for an even "bigger do" on Saturday, August 19 at Brands Hatch.

At Snetterton a good turn out of members 5s parked up in the paddock with the MaX5 teams.

Close and exciting racing was promised and that's exactly what we got - I'd like to have the supply contract for body panels.

Our visit to Brands Hatch was destined to be something a little bit more exciting.

As well as top racing from the MaX5 cars (both races red flagged), the main event for us was an exclusive opportunity to drive the world famous circuit ourselves.

We also invited other MX-5 clubs local to the Kent circuit to take part and in the lunch time break 40 plus Mazdas took to the track for two laps.

It was quite an experience and while driving at sensible speeds in convoy behind a pace car it



still gave us a great feel for the track which appeared neither flat nor straight at any point. A huge thanks to John from MaX5 for arranging the laps and thanks to everyone who took part. We were able to donate the £200 raised by members to the Marshall's fund. A parade lap for next year is already agreed, I can highly recommend it.



■ Owners Club members take to the track at Brands Hatch (top) and the 'professionals' show how it's done at Snetterton.

## COME AND JOIN US

### MONTHLY MEETING

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

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

### MID-MONTHLY NORFOLK MEETING CHANGE OF VENUE

■ The Countryman, Tasburgh on the A140 south of Norwich, third Wednesday of every month, 8pm



■ Martin Curtis and Steve Hider park up to search for the clue outside one of the 16 pubs on the Great Eastern Region Pub Hunt '06 - just another 15 to go guys!

## Last orders in the car

### ER EVENT

#### SUFFOLK PUB HUNT SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2006

■ WE met on a sunny Sunday morning at the Stonham Barns Leisure Complex in Suffolk for the second ER pub hunt.

The object of the day was to find 16 pubs scattered throughout the Mid Suffolk area, then answer a simple question about each and do it all in the least number of miles.

18 cars set off and all eventually found their way to the finish point in the tiny village of Kettleburgh.

Most people managed to locate all the pubs and everyone had the chance to spend a pleasant morning on some of the nicest and quietest roads Suffolk has to offer.

Four teams managed to find the shortest route of 82 miles and all received "very exciting" prizes.

Definitely an event to repeat next year.

## Club goes down a storm at premier Japanese car show

### ER EVENT

#### JAE WEEKEND

JULY 22 AND JULY 23, 2006

THE Japanese Auto Extravaganza on the East of England Showground in Peterborough saw a fine turn out from the ER who filled nearly half of the Owners Club's stand again this year.

This time however many of us took the opportunity to make a weekend of it and camped on the Saturday night.

JAE is a chance to meet up with members from most of the UK Japanese car clubs and the Saturday night is pretty much one big party, which we all rather enjoyed.

What we had not planned for however was the severe storm that hit the showground on the Saturday afternoon. Torrential rain with thunder and lightning raged for over an hour with most of us sheltering in the OC marquee which we struggled to hang onto in the high winds.

Quite an experience but it certainly did not dampen our spirits for the rest of the dry and sunny weekend.

# Helmingham show proves stately spectacle in the sun



■ A rainbow of roadsters on parade at the Helmingham Festival of Classic and Sports Cars

### ER EVENT

#### HELMINGHAM FESTIVAL OF CLASSIC AND SPORTS CARS SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2006

HELMINGHAM Hall's Festival of Classic and Sports cars is an annual event now in its 10th year featuring over 500 classic and sports cars. The show set in the grounds of a stately home attracts thousands

of visitors and this year featured the Eastern Region club stand.

18 shiny, colour coordinated 5s, Roadsters and a Miata, from Mk1 to Mk3 showed the visitors the MX-5 in all its guises.

We were supported at the show by Colchester Mazda main dealer Underwoods with their Mazda hospitality unit which came complete with useful kettle and fridge! Thanks to everyone who attended on the day, we certainly made an impression.



■ ER member Katie Pyle finds this little bubble car matches her outfit perfectly.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### ER CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2006

THIS year the Eastern Region Christmas meal and party will be held at the Ufford Park Hotel, near Woodbridge, Suffolk.

We will have our own private function room (and bar!) for the evening and accommodation should also be available for those wishing to stay the night.

We already have a few plans for the evening, including the ever popular ER quiz!

We are already taking bookings so please contact Martin ASAP if you would like to come along.

### ALTON TOWERS/PEAK DISTRICT WEEKEND

This is scheduled for the weekend of 14 -15 October, 2006.

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE DRIVE

Planned for Sunday, October 29.

Keep an eye on your e-mail, ER website or OC forum for more details on all these events.

## Garden party and drive a great success

### ER EVENT

#### SUMMER RUN & BARBEQUE SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2006

THE annual Summer run for 2006 took place in South Norfolk.

We left the starting point in Thetford following a heavy shower and while the roads were wet for the whole route to the coffee stop at South Elmham Hall we seemed to miss the rain.

The second part of the run was not quite so dry and while some of us braved it a few roofs were seen to go up.

Our destination was the home of Mandy and Steve Hider in Long Stratton where



■ Club members enjoy champagne and caviar (well beer and burgers) at the ER Summer Garden Party.

We were all set for a BBQ in their attractive garden. Nothing stops the ER so a little bit of rain did not hamper the afternoons fun and in fact dodging between the three gazebos proved quite entertaining in itself.

All those who attended had a great afternoon and a huge thanks to Mandy, Steve and all the other various helpers for putting on such a good spread.

## Ken's all set to take over from Schumi

### ER MOTORSPORT

#### GO-KARTING, RED LODGE SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2006

RED LODGE kart circuit was the venue for the latest ER karting grand prix.

The competition involved four heats with the top scorers getting the best grid positions for the grand final.

The weather was hot and fortunately, unlike our last visit, no rain! After some fiercely competitive races the podium positions were; 1st Ken Ward, 2nd Robbie Marsh, 3rd Jon Elsey. So the Eastern Region now have a new karting champion. Congratulations to Ken but watch out next time!