

June 2020

From the drivers seat...

I hope that this newsletter finds you safe and well, Soft Top Hard Top will be arriving on your door mat anytime now, unfortunately staff shortages at the printers have prevented our Peaks and Pennines newsletter from being printed and inserted.

I think it will be a while before our monthly evening meetings at The Rockingham Arms can be reinstated, as soon as we are allowed to I would like to organize monthly evening runs and get together's (with strict social distancing) starting and finishing at a location with takeaway refreshments and toilets, possibly the Woolley Edge Services or Meadowhall, suggestions please.

Everything is still up in the air at the moment but hopefully within the next month or so we will get the all clear to start our monthly runs again.

I have plotted our first run after corona on the laptop, I think social distancing will still be in place so our normal starting points may be still closed. Now that Towsure has re opened I am going to call in and see if we can start our run from their location, if it is a problem we can meet and use the washroom facilities at Roddison Motorsport on Shepcote Lane. The route will be via Grenoside, Deepcar, Bolsterstone and Strines to the Fairholmes Visitor Centre for our late morning break, from there it's on to Peak Rail's Rowsley Picnic area, via Bamford, Hope, the Vale of Edale, Winatts Pass, Castleton, Brough, Bradwell, Great Hucklow, Bretton, Eyam, Stoney Middleton, Calver Sough, Baslow, Chatsworth, Beeley Moor, and Two Dales. Things could change, please keep an eye on the Peaks and Pennines web site for updates.

Other future events

If the re scheduled Sports Cars in the Park event takes place on August 2nd as planned, a run up to Newby Hall near Ripon will be organized. Please do not purchase any tickets at the moment

The Cotswold Weekend has been cancelled, now pencilled in for March 26th 2021

The MX5 Owners Club National Committee are organizing an event on September 20th, the details will be updated at <https://www.nationalrally.co.uk/>

Runs are ready to slot into October and November, they will be announced as and when the proposed venues re open.

The Race of Remembrance at the Anglesey Circuit is currently scheduled to go ahead in November

Regrettably the Clubs two indoor Christmas Do's are cancelled, perhaps we could make the December Run more festive?

It is a constantly changing situation, please watch the Peaks and Pennines website for updates.

Our thanks to everyone who sent photos or articles to Mike for publication in this newsletter - he needs more for the August edition please

Safe driving.

Burton and Lesley

Good things come in three's

Hello, my name is Robert Scott and I am a three times blessed and lucky man.

Firstly I am a born and bred Yorkshireman; living within the boundaries of the birthplace of Rugby League.

Secondly I married a beautiful Kiwi girl (many years ago).

Thirdly I am the proud owner of a MK 3 MX5.

I have 3 daughters one of whom now lives in New Zealand though all are UK born. She has, in turn, 3 children all proud Kiwis This year my 15 year old Grandson came to UK for December (travelling alone for the first time I thought was very brave)

The 2 of us ventured out a few times with top down and the heater on looking for a little snow! And it was he that persuaded me that I should buy a kiwi MX5 when we returned together back to NZ just after Christmas. He is 16 in July 2020 (the legal driving age in NZ) so as a special favour to me he promised to look after any MX5 I bought and to ensure the wheels kept turning in my absence.

Due to the nature of my business I have been fortunate enough to visit my wife's homeland each January for the last 12 years. My eldest daughter lives in the superb small town of Cambridge NZ and runs the southern hemisphere side of our business. This gives me 2 summers each year, a kiwi one and a UK one.

I had seen a couple of MX5s around the area of Waipa where I stay but they are not to be seen on every street

corner. New Zealand being relatively close to Japan (only 5600 miles) and both countries driving on the left means there is a ready market for oriental imports and Mazda is probably the most popular brand. A lot of models I have never seen elsewhere and a few familiar ones with odd names.

So it was that, that this year, I had a thought to make contact with some like-minded MX5 devotees.

I contacted Murray Lee the national co-ordinator who passed me on to Gary Major the Waikato co-ordinator . The reply was immediate and very welcoming. I was invited on their January run to Whangamata. But sod's law applies even in the antipodes and it coincide with my trip elsewhere.

Not to be deterred we fixed up a meeting at the Hamilton gardens café in late January. Sitting out drinking coffee in 26 degrees in January is everything it sounds to be. A great group of 5 owners were there and as nice bunch as you would expect from MX5 enthusiasts. We parted, after handshakes all round and a resolve to meet again for a day out during my 14th visit in the Kiwi summer of 2021.

Let's hope the virus issue is resolved for my January day out with the Waikato MX5 club.

We thank Alan for a brilliant drive. He certainly knows his way around Derbyshire like the back of his hand.

Robert



The road-trip that never was!

In May this year we were planning to drive the North 500 in our MX5, along with our friends from Warwickshire with their identical Mk 4 soft top. It was something we had talked about doing for some time, and our friends Trevor and Mary (also members of the MX5 Owners Club) were excited to join us, as they had recently swapped their Mk2 for a brand new Mk 4 – which just happens to be the same colour as ours!

Anyway, discussions were had, and last November we got together with maps and a guide book to the North 500, and we planned a leisurely route with less than 100 miles a day, so we had plenty of time to stop and take in the spectacular scenery. We researched hotels and then set about booking them, one after the other, well in advance, as we were conscious of their not been too many places to stay, particularly in the more remote parts of the route, on the West coast. It was quite a project, but we eventually got all the accommodation sorted out, and everything confirmed. We also booked a stop on the way up to the start point in Inverness, at Moffat just off the M74, in the Famous Star Hotel, which advertises itself as the narrowest hotel in Scotland! It is too – just 20 feet wide, but it does go back a long way! We also booked an overnight stop in the Borders on the way home.

Trevor invested in some MX5 luggage to maximise the space in the boot – we planned to make do with some squashy bags. What to pack was the subject of many discussions – we would be gone for nearly two weeks in total. Walking boots and various layers to account for Scottish weather, not to mention something to wear in the evenings when dining out or going to the pub. We were really looking forward to the adventure.....

Of course our plans have all come to nothing thanks to the corona-virus, and all the restrictions that have followed. We anxiously hoped that the crisis would have passed by mid May, when we were to set off, but with the imposition of the lockdown, it soon became obvious that we would be unable to travel. So the disappointing job has been to contact all the hotels and regrettably cancel our bookings. We felt sad not only for our lost adventure, but for all the hotels who will have no customers at all for the foreseeable future.

We have resolved to postpone our trip and take our little cars North next year – hopefully the hotels will not have gone out of business, and we will be able to enjoy the driving, the scenery, and of course the famed Scottish hospitality. Meantime, we hope everyone keeps safe, and that we can beat this awful virus which is taking so many lives.

Simon and his wife Helen joined the MX5 Owners Club last year, having been meaning to do so for some time. We owned a 06 plate Mk 3 for 10 years, but with impending retirement, Simon traded it in for a new Mk 4 Sportnav. Unfortunately, last year saw Simon very busy with commitments at the local golf club, and we found it difficult to join in the activities with the Peak and Pennine. We did attend our first club night, where we were made very welcome, and we went to Elvington and Gaydon. We were looking forward to joining some of the Sunday runs this year, but of course the corona-virus has put paid to that for the time being. Hopefully we will be able to meet everyone soon.

Simon



Getting to know you, Roger & Ingrid

Our introduction to the world of the MX5 started with a pretty much non-negotiable statement 7 years ago from Ingrid, my wife of now 43 years, along the lines of "I don't care - you're not having one!" The 'one' being referred to was a Honda Gold Wing motorcycle which I'd always dreamt of owning since parting company with my last motorcycle in 1979 when Trevor, our son was born. Having considered her emphatic opinion, which I have to admit was somewhat coloured by an accident in Bermuda 12 years ago now when our daughter, who was riding her motor scooter and ourselves on a hired motor scooter were 'taken-out' by an idiot (other adjectives removed!) driving a small 4 x 4 that did not belong to him and clearly not under his control due to him being on drugs - and we're not talking Aspirin or the like!

So having very quickly decided that a divorce was likely to be infinitely more expensive than an alternative and more sensible means of spending my proposed fun transport plans in retirement and seeing as our daughter and her husband now had an MX5 back in Blighty I was hooked on acquiring one following a trip to Sainsburys in Ashford from their home in a sleepy Kentish village with her at the wheel. (I wasn't hitherto aware that cars could actually go round roundabouts like motorcycles do!) So having revised my plans and obtained the necessary approval along came the 2007 NC 1.8 in Copper Red to our household.

When Ingrid and I met in 1973 I was studying for an HND in Applied Physics at Middlesex Polytechnic and she was at Pitman's College in Russell Square, London on a secretarial course typing 40 words a minute on a 'proper' typewriter - you remember 'Ding' Carriage Return, Line Feed, no Spellchecker or delete key, and 100 words a minute shorthand. We both subsequently went on to work at the Fire Research Station, Borehamwood and Desouter Industrial Tools respectively and were married in 1976. At the time we lived in Edgware and remained so until after our son was born in 1979 and daughter in 1982 after which we moved to Peterborough. In 1981 I started a business with a colleague of mine which carried on until the last recession at which time we decided to call it a day after 32 years of reasonably successful trading. After the children had grown up Ingrid worked for an educational charity for many years until a work related injury in 2000 gave us cause to rethink our situation and in 2002 we moved to our current home in Thurcroft. Having worked for Age Concern for several years after moving followed by a post as Teaching Assistant at Rother Valley College and not wanting to rest Ingrid then took a degree course in Teaching and graduated in 2015.

Our son got married on 1st August 2009 and our daughter got married 10 days later - which was very thoughtful of them especially as the latter was whilst she was still living in Bermuda! So we now have a 6 year old grandson with our son and daughter-in-law in Lancashire and a 5 year old grandson and a 2 year old granddaughter with our daughter and son-in-law in Kent. As Ingrid's father lives in North West London you may imagine that prior to the Corona Virus lockdown we were responsible for consuming a fair amount of fuel in one vehicle or another.

Our hobbies, apart from the MX5 are, for Ingrid - gardening, reading, singing in a choir and for me - badminton, cycling and photography. We have shared interests in the National Trust, English Heritage and caravanning both at home and abroad although you'll not find us holding up the traffic!

Having joined the MX5 Club shortly after acquiring the car we have thoroughly enjoyed the socials and runs although we wish that the geographical locations of our family allowed for more Sunday's out with Burton, Lesley and all the lovely friends we have in the Peaks & Pennines Section of this amazing club.



IMPORTANT - Monthly meeting

Given the current situation with the Corona virus, please keep checking the website for the latest meeting dates as they are subject to change.



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Newsletter

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