

SDG group report for the TR Action 202

For the February meeting we were given a lively talk by Jeff Letts (supported by Roy Hunnisett's son Derek) of Letts Racing on the Mini Seven Championships in which he and his brother each run cars. He took us through how he got started in motor sport and Minis in particular and interspersed his talk with some very good in-car video of him racing at Spa-Francorchamps and Rockingham. What close and exciting sport it is from that perspective.

One particularly amusing anecdote was that whilst being sponsored by Bolloms, the dry cleaning company, they were shown in the race programme as supported by Bottom Cleaners! All in all an evening that seemed to spark a lot of enthusiasm judging by the number of questions asked. Maybe a few more SDG members will be taking to the track in future as a result following the track record of our own John Weedon who were are pleased to say won third place in last years TR sprint and hill climb competition in his TR4.

A couple of weeks later despite the forecasts of snow and freezing conditions, the 20th of Feb dawned with a clear blue sky but was cold enough to cause that winter dilemma "Hood up or hood down?". By 10 o'clock 16 TRs and Ian May's luxurious, warm-looking Jaguar had assembled at the Five Bells for our first run of the year which was aptly named mid winter blast. The morning saw cars setting off at intervals following Tulip diagrams for navigation with the aim of reuniting at lunchtime at a watering hole. Thankfully most cars followed the official route, meandering through the wintry winding Sussex lanes taking in parts of the Weald and crossing Ashdown Forest.



At lunchtime we re-assembled at The Cat Inn at West Hoathly to exchange stories of missed turns, shortcuts and Battle (that was never in the plan!). The prize for persistence and ingenuity must go to Ralph Haffenden (shadowed by myself) who was given a set of instructions on which the Tulip diagrams had failed to print. This really did make it difficult?

After suitable warm refreshment some chose to make their way homeward, the rest set out in convoy for a short run to Sheffield Park Station on the Bluebell Railway. We all bought platform tickets and watched as one steam train arrived and another departed. My son Brandon forced me into taking him on the trains whilst the rest of the crowd were drawn to the café and a welcome cup of tea. Thanks must go to George and his wife for organising such an enjoyable day.

March sees our annual Mastermind competition followed by an April Auction before we head off into the show calendar starting with Eastbourne Magnificent Motors in May. Further details of all our club nights and events can be found on our web site or by reading our bumper packed newsletter. Hope to see you at a meeting soon.

Jane Worsfold