



# East Sussex Saab

A Branch of the SAAB Owners Club of GB Ltd.

Branch Newsletter

March 2004

Issue 06

Dear Member,

Welcome to the March Newsletter.

Having had a look through the latest copy of the SAAB Owners Club magazine, SAAB Driver, I was pleased to see that our branch had been mentioned twice. Firstly by Dave Garnett, Club Chairman and secondly by Richard Unsworth, Branches Co-ordinator.



At the time of writing this, I can confirm that we already have 18 people confirmed for attending the Abbott Racing day on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Our branch has been asked if we would like to participate in the Lydden Festival in July by having a display of our Members' cars. More details can be found on Page 2.

I am unable to make the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April, so Richard Dickins, Branch Treasurer, will be in charge of proceedings for the evening.

**Toby Field**  
Branch Secretary

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### BRANCH CONTACTS:

**Chairman:**

Mike Hope

Tel: 01273 479168

[chairman@eastsussexsaab.co.uk](mailto:chairman@eastsussexsaab.co.uk)

**Secretary:**

Toby Field

Tel: 01323 460363

[secretary@eastsussexsaab.co.uk](mailto:secretary@eastsussexsaab.co.uk)

**Treasurer:**

Richard Dickins

Tel: 01825 766566

[treasurer@eastsussexsaab.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@eastsussexsaab.co.uk)

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The branch newsletter is designed to cater for members at a local level. If you would like to contribute any content to the newsletter, then you are more than welcome. Deadlines are set in advance so you know how long you have to get content ready for a particular issue. Upcoming deadlines are listed below.

April Issue - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2004

May Issue - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2004

June Issue - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2004

We prefer content, including images, to be in electronic format, but a hard copy can be sent to our postal address below. Scanned images should have a resolution of 300dpi for acceptable clarity.

Branch Address: 78 Foxglove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN23 8BX - Email: [info@eastsussexsaab.co.uk](mailto:info@eastsussexsaab.co.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Saab cars are imported into Ireland by a company called Scanveco Ltd. and have been since 1976.

## Dealer Listing

### MAIN DEALERS

*Ballamys Shoreham Ltd*  
120 High Street  
Shoreham-by-Sea  
West Sussex  
BN43 5DB  
Tel: 01273 452456  
[www.ballamyssaab.co.uk](http://www.ballamyssaab.co.uk)

*Turners Hill Garage Ltd*  
Turners Hill  
Crawley  
West Sussex  
RH10 4NP  
Tel: 01342 716322  
[www.saab.uk.com](http://www.saab.uk.com)

### INDEPENDENTS

*Bourne Motors*  
1-2 Cornfield Lane  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 4NE  
Tel: 01323 727011  
[www.bournemotorssussex.co.uk](http://www.bournemotorssussex.co.uk)

*Mann Woodland*  
2 St. Johns Road  
Hove  
East Sussex  
BN3 2FB  
Tel: 01273 771807  
[www.mannwoodland.com](http://www.mannwoodland.com)

*SAAB FLIGHT*  
Mill Lane Garage  
Mill Lane  
Hellingly  
Hailsham  
East Sussex  
BN27 4HD  
Tel: 01323 449908  
[www.saabflight.co.uk](http://www.saabflight.co.uk)

*SAABTECH*  
11 Harold Mews  
St. Leonards on Sea  
East Sussex  
TN38 0EA  
Tel: 01424 439391  
[www.saabtech.co.uk](http://www.saabtech.co.uk)

## MARCH MEETING REPORT

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> March 2004 (Tuesday)  
**Venue:** Crowborough Social Club, Crowborough  
**Time:** 1pm-3.30pm

Our March meeting was held at the Crowborough and District Social Club. It was the second time we have used the venue. Last time, in November, a thick fog had descended on Crowborough. This time, we were fortunate enough to be treated again by the weather there. Snow started falling when we got there and by the time we left, everything was white and the snow was still falling steadily.

Our meeting saw a selection of our regular attendees along with some new faces.

There were two items on the agenda, the most popular being the trip to Abbott Racing on 27<sup>th</sup> March. We have decided to meet in the village of Wix for around 10:30, where Chairman Mike Hope will lead the way to Abbott's.

The other item on the agenda was that of the Lydden Classic Car Festival. Dave Garnett, Chairman of the SAAB Owners Club, has asked if our branch wants to participate in this event to represent SAAB. The event is to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2004 and those that display their cars get free tickets. More details can be found below.

### SEMSEC LYDDEN FESTIVAL

The Lydden Rallycross & Classic Car Day will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2004 as part of the SEMSEC Lydden Festival.

The event is held at the Lydden International Motor Racing Circuit in Wootton, near Canterbury in Kent.

The event is designed to appeal to the general public, motoring enthusiasts and motor sport enthusiasts.

A Championship Rallycross event is planned on track as well as a parade of classic and custom cars. Off track there will be a display of Classic, Custom and American Cars as well as a number of non-motoring attractions.

The SAAB Owners club has been invited to provide a display of cars for this years' festival. Each car displayed will receive 2 free adult admission tickets. Children under 14 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

The event will be advertised on regional radio and in local newspapers coupled with a poster campaign.

If you are interested in displaying your car for this event, please contact Toby Field, Branch Secretary, with details of your vehicle. There are limited places, and there is no guarantee that your vehicle will be included in the display. SEMSEC make a charge for club stands and we will try to obtain funding from the SAAB Owners club for this. If funding is unsuccessful, we may have to consider not participating in this event.

[www.semsec.org.uk](http://www.semsec.org.uk)

### HOW SAFE IS YOUR CAR?

We all take for granted that Saabs are safe cars. Euro NCAP crash tests are performed on all new cars, but as they only carry out certain tests, they can't cover every eventuality.

Every year, Swedish insurance company Folksam compiles a list of how safe different models are, by looking at real life accidents. In 2003, the results showed that the Saab 9-5 was the only car among 103 ranked models which has a safety level that is at least 40% better than the average model.

The results for how different Saabs ranked are displayed below. One of the worst performers was the Volvo 440/460. It was ranked as worse than "15% less safe" than the average car. Quite surprising as Volvos also have a reputation for being safe!

Saab 900 79-93 is At least 15% safer than the average car  
Saab 9000 85-97 is At least 30% safer than the average car  
Saab 900 94-97 is At least 30% safer than the average car  
Saab 9-3 98-02 is At least 30% safer than the average car  
Saab 9-5 98- is at least 40% safer than the average car (The safest car!)

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

**Date:** 13th April 2004 (Tuesday)  
**Venue:** Horseshoe Inn, Windmill Hill  
**Time:** 7.30pm-10pm (8pm start)

**Details:** Our April meeting of East Sussex Saab will be held at the Horseshoe Inn, Windmill Hill Nr Herstmonceux.

The meeting will give us a good opportunity to discuss our trip to Abbott Racing in March.

We have been given use of their function room with bar, and parking is available on site. The Horseshoe Inn is situated on the A271 between Hailsham and Bexhill.

**Address:** Horseshoe Inn  
Windmill Hill  
Hailsham  
BN27 4RU

**Telephone:** 01323 833265

### April Meeting Map



## DID YOU KNOW?

Saab Automobile AB employs over 8,000 people worldwide. 150 of these are based in the USA.

### LATEST POLL

Every month we have a short poll on the East Sussex Saab website.

The poll for February was:  
**Where do you normally take your car to be serviced?**

- Main Dealer
- Independent
- Local Garage
- Do it Yourself

Because the last newsletter was late in being published, the poll will run for another month.

If you would like participate in this poll, please visit our website.

**Date:** 18th May 2004 (Tuesday)  
**Venue:** Horseshoe Inn, Windmill Hill  
**Time:** 7.30pm-10pm (8pm start)

**Details:** Our May meeting of East Sussex Saab will be held at the Horseshoe Inn, Windmill Hill Nr Herstmonceux.

We have been given use of their function room with bar, and parking is available on site. The Horseshoe Inn is situated on the A271 between Hailsham and Bexhill.

**Address:** Horseshoe Inn  
Windmill Hill  
Hailsham  
BN27 4RU

**Telephone:** 01323 833265

### May Meeting Map



### LATEST NEWS

#### Saab Plant Might Build Cadillac

Extract from Financial Times, 12 March 2004.

General Motors is considering building a small Cadillac car at its persistently loss-making Saab factory in Sweden in an attempt by the world's biggest vehicle manufacturer to fill the plant.

The company has developed a design concept for a small Cadillac, which would share underlying technology with the Saab 9-3 saloon. It is now examining the business case, with a decision expected in the next few months, according to insiders.

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**Date:** 13th June 2004 (Sunday)  
**Venue:** Bentley Wildfowl & Motor Museum, Halland  
**Time:** 11am-4pm (to be confirmed)

Our next Sunday meeting is to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June at Bentley Wildfowl. It has been suggested that we could take this opportunity to show our cars off in all their splendour to other members and the general public. Because the facilities at Bentley are not free there will be a reduced admission charge of £4 for adults and £3 for Children over 3 years. We may also take this opportunity to have a joint branch meeting with neighbouring Saab branches.

If you would like to attend either of the meetings above, could you please confirm your attendance by telephone, email or in writing. Contact details are on Page 1.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the five-year period from 1997-2002, Saab increased its sales in the USA by 33%.

## LATEST NEWS

### Continued from Page 3

If the project gets the go-ahead it would be the first time Cadillac, the US luxury brand, has built a vehicle in Europe. It would also be the first Cadillac to be sold only in Europe, and would help the brand with its relaunch in the continent, begun last year.

Saab is also in discussions with Opel, the German subsidiary of GM, about producing a large car for the Swedish brand using shared technology. This car, known internally as the 9-6, would aim to sell about 30,000 a year and use the same underlying platform as the Insignia, a top-of-the-range model being considered for Opel.

However, the discussions are at an early stage and there is no certainty that the Insignia - with sales hopes also at 30,000 - will be approved. Both cars would use a platform developed by Holden, GM's Australian subsidiary.

The willingness to consider the new vehicles demonstrates the pressure within GM to get Saab back on track. During the past 15 years GM has lost more than SKr20bn (\$2.7bn) on its Swedish involvement, and Saab has been profitable only twice.

## YOU RECOMMEND – STERLING EXHAUSTS

Just to advise that I had a stainless steel 'Carlsson' tail pipe (twin pipe) made up for my 900 classic by Sterling Exhausts in Llanbedr Wales. They did a fantastic job for only £85.00 + carriage and VAT. Total approx £112. I don't know anyone who can beat that price. Other quotes I've had are £200+.

*Recommended by PM*

**Address:** Sterling Exhausts Ltd  
Llanbedr, Gwynedd  
LL45 2LL

**Tel:** 01341 241281

**Email:** [sterling@stainlessstelexhausts.net](mailto:sterling@stainlessstelexhausts.net)

**Web:** [www.stainlessstelexhausts.net](http://www.stainlessstelexhausts.net)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Neither East Sussex Saab or the SAAB Owners Club of GB Ltd is affiliated with the recommended company. If you would like to make a recommendation of a product/company/website/parts supplier, visit the website or write to us.



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## FOR SALE / WANTED

### FOR SALE

**Description:** 1997 (P) Saab 900 SE 2.5 V6, Convertible, Auto, 78,000 miles, deep Metallic Purple, excellent condition, Wind Deflector, Cream Leather Interior, 17" Chrome Alloys, FSH, ABS, alarmed, all electrics, 6 Stack CD, MOT June 2004, must be seen!! £9000 ono. Tel: 01323 768207 or 07979 981640. Ask for Marion.



### GARAGE FOR RENT IN UCKFIELD

Single garage in quiet residential situation. Purely for car storage, as no electricity or water supply.

5.40m x 2.33m x 1.80m approx  
£40 pcm - Tel: 07733 233160

### FOR SALE

#### Parts for SAAB 900T 16v 3dr 84-86

Rocker Gasket 16v NEW ..... £20  
Fuel Pump NEW ..... £30  
O/S Door Sill - 2/3dr ..... £20  
N/S Door Lock - 2/3dr NEW ..... £50  
Oil Transmitter NEW ..... £20  
APC Box 16v 1985 ..... £20  
Centre Console NEW ..... £10  
N/S Elec Regulator - 2/3dr NEW ..... £70  
Aero Wheels (x2) GOOD ..... £70  
Front/Rear Silencers NEW ..... £100  
S/Steel Tailpipe GOOD ..... £80

#### Parts for SAAB 9-3

9-3 (x4) Five Spoke Wheels 15" ..... £150  
Tyres 195/60/15 (x3) NEW ..... £30ea  
Elec Antenna (convertible) ..... £50

For details and availability please Contact Clive using the details below:

Tel: 01243 828527 Home

Tel: 01243 861600 Work

Fax: 01243 820284

If you would like to submit a for sale / wanted advert in this newsletter, please email, write or telephone us. Contact details are on Page 1.