



East Sussex Saab

A Branch of the SAAB Owners Club of GB Ltd.

Branch Newsletter

July/August 2006

Issue 15

Dear Member,

Welcome to the July/August Newsletter

There have already been quite a few things happening this summer, and we're only just into August.

We had a three-car stand at the huge Bromley Pageant (generating a lot of interest) as well as a four-car stand at the Biggin Hill Festival Fair. Thanks to the members who took time out to prepare their cars for show, and staff the stand on the days. Also, I know some members will have made the trip up to Stafford for the SOC National, and I look forward to a report of the event, as I couldn't make it myself.

The major forthcoming events are the Summer SaabQ in August and a Day out in September to Beaulieu. Beaulieu have kindly allowed us space to park up our cars in the grounds of the National Motor Museum for the day, while we can have access to the whole of the Beaulieu site at a reduced rate. Places will need to be booked in advance so that we can send out the discounted tickets by post. Hopefully it will be a successful day with a number of Saabs on display and a good day out. Please see the events section and attached booking form for further details.

If you feel you would like any particular events organised locally, please get in touch, or please come along to one of our monthly meetings at the Cross In Hand Inn.

I should also mention, you may have noticed and advert for Saabflight below. Saabflight have kindly agreed to sponsor the production and mailing costs of this newsletter, so a big thanks to them for that. I would however like to point out that East Sussex Saab remains independent, a full dealer listing can be found on page two.

Kind Regards,

Chris Trick, Branch Chairman

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treasurer@eastsusseksaab.co.uk

SAABFLIGHT



- Maintenance
- Servicing • Repairs
- New and Re-con Parts
- Free Courtesy Car
- Supplying & Fitting
- Breakdown Recovery
- Crash & Body Repairs
- Air Conditioning

EXPERT ADVICE - COMPETITIVE PRICES

Tel/Fax: 01323 449908 - Mobile: 07949 085590

Mill Lane Garage, Mill Lane, Hellingly, Hailsham, BN27 4HD - Email: sales@saabflight.co.uk
www.saabflight.co.uk

Branch address: 78 Foxglove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN23 8BX - **Email:** info@eastsusseksaab.co.uk



Dealer Listing

MAIN DEALERS

Frosts Saab
69-75 Brighton Road
Shoreham-by-Sea
West Sussex. BN43 6RT
Tel: 01273 461411
www.frostssaab.com

Turners Hill Garage Ltd
Turners Hill
Crawley
West Sussex. RH10 4NP
Tel: 01342 716322
www.saab.uk.com

INDEPENDENTS

Ballamys Shoreham Ltd
120 High Street
Shoreham-by-Sea
West Sussex. BN43 5DB
Tel: 01273 452456
www.ballamys.skoda.co.uk

Bourne Motors
1-2 Cornfield Lane
Eastbourne
East Sussex. BN21 4NE
Tel: 01323 727011
www.bournemotorssussex.co.uk

Mann Woodland
2 St. Johns Road
Hove
East Sussex. BN3 2FB
Tel: 01273 771807
www.mannwoodland.com

SAABFLIGHT
Mill Lane Garage
Mill Lane
Hellingly
Hailsham
East Sussex. BN27 4HD
Tel: 01323 449908
www.saabflight.co.uk

SAABTECH
11 Harold Mews
St. Leonards on Sea
East Sussex. TN38 0EA
Tel: 01424 439391
www.saabtech.co.uk

GM SAABS WITH TORQUE STEER AND OTHER MALADIES

In the last Newsletter you wrote of torque steering in Saab 9000's, and discussed remedies. Here, I want to look at the same problem in GM 900's and 9-3's, and what can be done. I also want to look at the big problem that afflicts 9-5's and possible solutions.

First, torque steer. Unlike 9000's, GM 900's and 9-3's do not handle well, even when young, compared to 'classic' Saabs. This is due to a compromised suspension set up originally derived from Vauxhall Cavaliers and not too much modified. Additionally, the steering rack is not tightly secured to the bulkhead. There is flexion, particularly under hard acceleration and this is what causes torque steer.

As with 9000's, fitting polyurethane shock bushes helps. However, what really improves matters is securing the steering rack more tightly to the bulkhead. Abbott Racing produce a rack clamp which can be supplied and fitted for a few hundred pounds. With this, handling is massively improved and 900's/9-3's become what Saab originally promised – entertaining and sporty to drive.

It has been suggested that fitting a rack clamp can crack that bulkhead, but no Saab specialist I have spoken to has ever encountered this.

Now, the 9-5 problem. Saab 9-5's are attractive (if, in my opinion, slightly bland looking, at least in saloon form) comfy big cars, which eat? up the motorway miles with minimum driver stress. If only the same could be said of their engines. You may or not be aware that substantial number of 9-5's have started to appear at Saab garages on the back of breakdown trucks. Some have suffered turbo failure; some have experienced the big bang! Many of them have less than 100,000 miles on the clock. Either way, they have started to put a bid bend in Saab's hitherto bullet-proof mechanical reputation. So what is the cause for this inappropriate and thoroughly unsaabish behaviour?

I will leave you, dear reader, handing on this question until the next newsletter when hopefully someone far more qualified than I will grapple with the technical's and tell you what can be done...

Mike Hope -11919

For Sale/Wanted

Saab 900 T16 Convertible 1987 First Reg 8/4/87 D Reg making it one of the first in the UK. Original and immaculate, only two owners from new. Mileage: **28,200** (really) Insurance valuation £12500 Serious OFFERS only (no tyre kickers or time wasters!) Contact John L on 07973 193674. (SOC Member)

Branch Merchandise

At East Sussex Saab, we now have a range of merchandise. As you can see from the pictures to the right, it includes items such as T-shirts, Mugs and Hats.

	1-14	15+
White T-Shirt (2XL-4XL add £1.75)	£7.75	£5.00
Mug	£6.00	£3.90
Large Mug	£6.50	£4.25
Women's T-Shirt (2XL add £1.75)	£7.75	£5.00
Baseball Cap	£7.75	£5.00
Infant/Toddler T-Shirt (6 mths-4yrs)	£4.75	£3.00
Wall Clock	£6.00	£4.00
Sweatshirt.....	£12.00	£7.50

As you can see from the prices above, if a single item is ordered in multiples of 15+ then we up to 35% discount on the prices above.

All prices exclude P&P which is charged at £4.00 for the first item, and £2.50 for every additional item. The postage costs are the same on bulk orders.

If you would like to order any of these items, please see the branch secretary at any of our meetings, or visit our website.

PLEASE NOTE: All orders must be paid for in advance. You can pay by credit card or VISA Delta debit card via our website, but this does not include bulk orders. If you wish to purchase as part of a bulk order, this cannot be done online. If you purchase as part of a bulk order, you cannot have the items delivered to an address of your choice and must be collected from a branch meeting or branch secretary. Orders take approximately 3 weeks. All orders are charged at cost and no commission is made by the branch.



FUTURE MEETING DATES

Date: 13th September 2006 (Wednesday)
Venue: Cross in Hand inn, Nr Heathfield
Time: 8pm-10pm

Details: Our September meeting of East Sussex Saab will be held at the Cross in Hand Inn, Cross in Hand, Nr Heathfield.

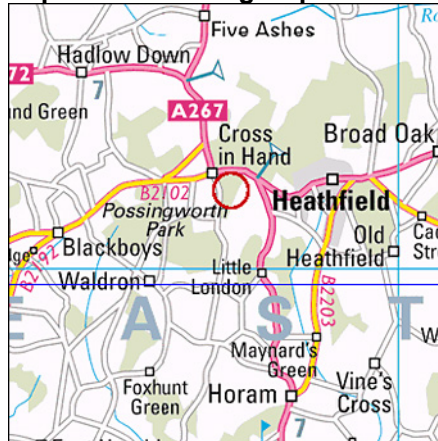
The Cross in Hand is a part timbered, part boarded public house and restaurant set in the village that gives the pub its curious name.

Directions: The Cross in Hand Inn is situated on the A267 near Heathfield.

Address: Cross in Hand Inn, Cross in Hand, Nr. Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 0SN

Telephone: 01435 862053

September Meeting Map



LATEST NEWS

Website could save motorists £billions

UK motorists may have overpaid for their fuel by up to £5.8 billion pounds last year according to figures released by fuel comparison website, www.petrolprices.com

Motorists, excluding those driving heavy goods vehicles, purchased a total of 35.5 billion litres of fuel during 2005. The maximum potential daily saving between the cheapest and most expensive stations was identified to be 16.4 pence per litre.

Kay Joyce, Media and Trade Relations Manager for the website commented, "With petrol prices up 10p from a year ago, motorists could counter this rise by shopping around for their fuel rather than buying from their local petrol station or the first station they come across whilst enroute".

There are 32 million motorists in the UK with the average motorist consuming around 21 litres of fuel each week. This could equate to a potential saving of up to £175 per year.

For more details and how to register for email price updates, visit www.petrolprices.com

FUTURE MEETING DATES AT A GLANCE

August

9th - Cross in Hand Inn, Nr Heathfield
8pm-10pm

23rd - SaaBQ – Treasurer's House

September

13th - Cross in Hand Inn, Nr Heathfield

16th - Day out to Beaulieu

October

11th - Cross in Hand Inn, Nr Heathfield

November

8th - Cross in Hand Inn, Nr Heathfield
8pm-10pm

December

13th - Cross in Hand Inn, Nr Heathfield
8pm-10pm

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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2006

Summer SaaBQ 23rd August

Following the success of last year's summer BBQ in spite of adverse weather, we will be holding this event again. Richard & Bryony have agreed to host the event at their house in Uckfield. Food and soft drinks will be provided (cost £5). Please let us know if you would like to attend, so that we can let you know directions, and so that we know how many to cater for. Contact treasurer@eastsussexsaab.co.uk, or phone 07733 233160.

Austec Rolling Road Day (Date to be confirmed)

After a good turn out at the rolling road day last year, we will be holding this event again, (on Austec's all new rolling road). Judging by last year it will get booked up quickly, so please book up early to avoid disappointment. It should cost around £30, payable on the day. To book a place, please e-mail chairman@eastsussexsaab.co.uk or phone 01435 862268



LATEST NEWS

2.3t Biopower 9-5



Saab Great Britain is delighted to announce the world premiere of the 210 bhp 2.3t BioPower engine in the new-look Saab 9-5 Saloon and Estate range. This car will be unveiled at the British International Motor Show which will be held in London in July. The addition of another BioPower variant, delivering 14 per cent more power and 11 per cent more torque whilst substantially cutting fossil carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions when running on bioethanol E85 fuel, will extend Saab's leadership of the premium 'flex-fuel' segment.

Bioethanol fuel is produced commercially from agricultural crops, such as corn, grain, sugar beet and sugar cane. Unlike petrol, its consumption does not significantly raise atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which some scientific research suggests is a major contributor to global warming. This is because emissions during driving are balanced by the amount of CO₂ that is removed from the atmosphere when crops for conversion are grown.

For the full story and other latest news visit our website at www.eastsusseksaab.co.uk.

DAY OUT TO BEAULIEU SATURDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER 2006

East Sussex Saab has booked Bank Field at Beaulieu (right next to the National Motor Museum) to park up/display Saabs for the day, whilst getting discounted entry to all Beaulieu attractions for the day (including the National Motor Museum, Palace house and gardens, Beaulieu Abbey, as well as many other attractions).

We will be opening this event up to all Saab enthusiasts, or even just people with Saabs who want a day out at Beaulieu and we hope to get an interesting turn out of cars and likeminded people.

Discounted ticket Price Adults - £11
SOC Members ticket price Adults - £10
Child Ticket Price - £5
(Normal summer adult ticket price is £15.50)

Saab Parking in Bank Field Free

Beaulieu National Motor Museum, is at Brokenhurst, New Forest, Hampshire.
More information about Beaulieu can be found at www.beaulieu.co.uk

Places do need to be booked in advance as we need to send the tickets out to you. To find out about booking places, please e-mail chairman@eastsusseksaab.co.uk or call 01435 862268

FOUR WHEELS TO TWO WHEELS, SOME SAY I AM MAD!

Having always wanted a motorbike I suddenly found myself at the point of taking my compulsory basic training (CBT) and progressing on to direct access training (DAS).

The CBT provides you with all the relevant information and some basic bike skills giving the rider access to riding a 125cc machine under Learner plates for two years and enabling the progression to DAS, which allows practise on a bike of at least 46.6bhp.

The DAS scheme is designed to get riders familiar on machines with more power as DAS enables bikers to ride any power machine after taking the test.

The current test is complied of two parts, a theory and hazard perception and a practical assessment, the theory and hazard perception must be completed before the practical test.

I undertook DAS training, which involved riding with an instructor on a suitable bike and we spent an hour each week building on skills for the CBT and training for test grade riding. This mainly covered bike control and road positioning in and around town.

I had previously ridden bikes off road so had a fair understanding of bike controls as well as knowing how a bike works this provided me with an advantage as some people can struggle with controls.

After twelve lessons I took my test, and was successful at riding to the standard set by the test, I was pleased obviously as the test can be quite daunting.

I returned home from my test but the weather was poor being very windy with rain added, so I waited for better conditions.

Finally a day came where all conditions were good, first stop was to be the petrol station, this can be a time consuming operation as bikes need to be filled up with fuel with the bike upright and my bike unfortunately only has a side stand which means the bike leans to the left when the stand is in operation! So my bike has to be filled when I am sat on it to keep it upright, once full it is then a case of removing my helmet and gloves, finding a well stowed wallet and walking in to pay, what seems a comfortable temperature in a filling station in normal clothes can become akin to an oven when trussed up in leathers which learns itself to be one of motorcycling pleasures, getting back out on the road with the wind to keep things nice and cool.

Riding out on the road can be a trying experience at times and observations must be excellent at all times as people often don't see bikers, I ride out with my head light on and also wear a reflective belt to help drivers notice my presence.

Motorcycling for me has opened up a whole new way of travelling and I have already met new friends, the bike community, much like the Saab community, is very welcoming and people are more than happy to chat about bike experiences good and bad.

Does this mean the Saab has no place in my life? Hell no! As winter comes I will be glad of my heated seats and watertight cabin and the bike will be tucked up in the garage ready for the next summer!

Gareth Jones
Saab 9000 CSE 2.3T
Yamaha YZF 1000R

