



## The first words

Although it's holiday time I still found some news items to present to you on these pages. The most important news during the past month was the fact that Michael Kimberley announced that medical circumstances forced him to step back.

He has done a great job since taking over the helm again. I hope Lotus will find someone who has the same passion for the marque and the same amount of vision and management capabilities.

Mr Kimberley, good health and all the best in retirement!

I hope you will find the following news items useful, please enjoy!

Ronald Ringma



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All previous issues of this newsletter are available as free downloads from my website.

## News from Group Lotus

Read all about the news items in the press releases section of the website, please follow this link:  
<http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/index.php>

Recently we did see:

- Hire your dream – Lotus cars now available for rental with Hertz Italy

## New on the website

Of course new items have been added to several sections of the website. A complete overview of what is new can be found at the 'news' page on the website: <http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/new.php>.

## Mike Kimberley – a brief resume

Michael J. Kimberley ("Mike") C.Eng., F.I. Mech. E., F.R.S.A., F.I.E.D, F.I.M.I has had a remarkable career in the motor industry over the last 56 years, working with some of the great engineers, innovators and leaders of the worlds motor companies.

Mike started as an apprentice with Jaguar in 1953 before rapidly progressing to becoming in Section Leader, Special Projects at Jaguar in 1965 where he lead the team developing the Jaguar XJ13 Le Mans car, under such famous names as Jaguar founder Sir William Lyons and Jaguar race director Frank (Lofty) England.

In 1969, he joined Lotus as Manager of Continuous Engineering, with the Lotus Europa Twin Cam being one of his most notable projects. Mike rose steadily but rapidly through the Lotus ranks, joining the Board of Lotus aged 37, and becoming Managing Director of Lotus Cars in 1976 and Managing Director of Lotus Engineering by 1980, being responsible for such Lotus icons as the Esprit, Eclat and Elite.

During the 1970s and 80s, Mike had the unique experience of having worked closely with the company's founder Colin Chapman, with whom Mike set up the world class Lotus Engineering consultancy to enable Lotus to work for many other cars companies around the world. Lotus Engineering is now a globally recognised high technology engineering consultancy and serves many of the world's car companies.

After Colin Chapman's tragic and untimely death in 1982, Mike became C.E.O of Group Lotus plc, as well as holding board positions with a number of Lotus associated companies such as Chairman of Millbrook Proving Ground and President of Moog Systems Inc. With Lotus under General Motors ownership, Mike became Chairman of Group Lotus plc before leaving Lotus in 1992 to become Executive Vice President (General Motors Overseas Corporation) based in South East Asia.

Two years later, Mike became director of the Vector Aeromotive Corporation, and in 1994, he became President & Managing Director of Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A, being responsible for the rebuilding of Lamborghini after Chrysler's ownership and prior to its sale to Audi AG, as part of the VW Group.

In the mid 1990s, Mike left Lamborghini and worked directly for Tommy Suharto as a board member of Timor Putra Nasional (owners of Lamborghini) until retiring with an undiagnosed tropical fever. Returning to the automotive industry a few months later, Mike worked in a consultancy role for a number of organisations including Tata Motors Ltd.

In August 2005 Mike was appointed to the Lotus Group International Limited and Group Lotus plc Boards as well as other Boards of Proton. He was appointed acting Chief Executive Officer of Group Lotus plc in May 2006, confirmed as Chief Executive Officer of Group Lotus plc in September 2006.

During his second tenure at Lotus, Mike has been responsible for the creation and execution of a new 5 year strategic business plan, and the new, already award-winning Lotus Evora is the first of the range of new Lotus cars to be designed, developed, manufactured and sold by Britain's most iconic and innovative sportscar company. Lotus Engineering has expanded to become a world-class consultancy employing over 500 highly qualified engineers in five technical centres around the globe. It is revered for innovation, outstanding driving dynamics, exciting niche vehicles and efficient performance engineering.

Mike (born august 1938) is married with 3 children and 3 grand children and lives in Norwich.

(Source: Lotus press release)

## Model Cars

One of the latest 1/64 releases from **Kyosho** is a series of 24 Lotus **Formula One** cars from the past.

Kyosho has avoided all tobacco company logos on all of the F1 cars that they have produced. The Lotus F1 cars are missing the Camel and John Player Special logos. The logos on JPS cars say "Team Lotus Special" instead of "John Player Special". However, there are sources in Japan for 1/64 decals to customize the F1 cars.

Kyosho claims that these models will not be re-issued, the moulds will not be used again.



**Tomica** has announced a model of the **Lotus Europa**, scale 1/64 (or is it 1/59 ???). This will be a limited run made for a Tomica event and will be released in August 2009. The color will be blue.





New **Type 79** model, 1/8 scale.

**Amalgam** has recently launched their limited edition of 199 hand-made models showing the car exactly as it raced in the Dutch GP at Zandvoort on August the 27th 1978. It is available in both Mario Andretti and Ronnie Peterson versions. Classic Team Lotus gave Amalgam access to the original Type 79 car and the original design drawings and this made it possible to construct a very accurate miniature.

If there is one company fast with their new releases, it is this one... Here is another new **Spark** model, the **Type 25** in the Trevor Talyer British GP 1963 version



Not a 'real' Lotus, but **Norev** has recently produced a 1/43 die cast model of the 1988 **Isuzu Piazza Nero XE**, Handling By Lotus. The car is designed by Giugiaro.

The car was also known as the Isuzu Impulse in the United States and the Holden Piazza in Australia.

All Piazzas received a Lotus-tuned suspension beginning in the 1988 model year, which consisted of redesigned sway bars, stiffer dampers, and a change in previous spring rates.

I thought it may be interesting for the collector who likes to have everything connected with Lotus in his cabinet.



**Corgi** did it again... After trying in 2008, this year Corgi was able to obtain a worldwide license again to produce Bond models.

Here are the new versions of both the Bond die cast **Esprit** models in 1/36 scale....

Feels like more of the same, but I did not want to withhold this information from you.



## For Your Eyes Only Esprit sold

The Esprit that was used in the movie 'For Your Eyes Only' was sold during an auction by Coys at Blenheim Palace on 18 July 2009 for £105,000. The new owner comes from the middle east.



This car is one of two identical cars that were used, the other one was blown up during a stunt. This particular Esprit was a development model and was used by Colin Chapman before it went off for filming.

## Lotus offers supercharger kits for the Elise and the Exige

Lotus owners in the USA and Canada who are looking for more power for their Elise or Exige can now shop at Lotus; a supercharger kit with a factory warranty is now available.

The kits boost power in the naturally aspirated versions from about 189 hp to 218 hp and improve torque from 133 lb-ft to 155 lb-ft. And this extra power is available with a peak torque at 5,000 rpm instead of the standard 6,800 rpm.

The kits use the same supercharger and integrated intake manifold found on the Elise SC. They work with new high-flow fuel injectors and a reprogrammed engine-management control unit to boost output. They can be fitted to any Elise or Exige with the Toyota 2ZZ-GE engine.



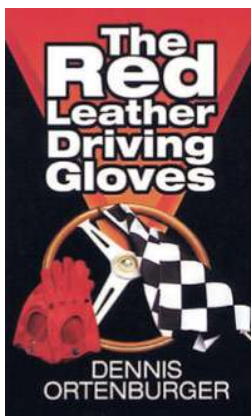
"Lotus Elise and Exige owners are genuine driving enthusiasts, and that's what attracted them to Lotus cars in the first place," Lotus Cars USA operations director Arnie Johnson said in a statement. "They will fully appreciate the dramatically enhanced driving character these Lotus supercharger kits bring their vehicles."

## Books and videos

Still waiting for the new **Evora** book...

**The Red Leather Driving Gloves.** Ever wonder what it was like racing a Lotus Elite in the early days? Author Ortenburger answers that question in his new novel, *The Red Leather Driving Gloves*.

Set in Southern California in 1965 the story is about two young men who go sports car racing in new Lotus Elites. Against the backdrop of sex, drugs, rock and roll, Vietnam and Castrol R the two men set off on a never to be forgotten adventure that leads to danger, lies, intrigue and tragedy.



ISBN: 1-4363-6969-X (Paperback), ISBN13: 978-1-4363-6969-5 (Paperback), ISBN: 1-4363-6970-3 (Hardback), ISBN13: 978-1-4363-6970-1 (Hardback), 190 pp, size 228 x 152 mm

**Special offer:** order an **autographed hardback copy of *The Red Leather Driving Gloves*** for USD 29.99 plus USD 12,50 shipping (total USD 42.99) direct form the author. If you use PayPal and pay this amount to [lotuselitejournal@charter.net](mailto:lotuselitejournal@charter.net), please mention *Lotusdriversguide offer*.

## Events

If you like to have your (Club)event listed on our calendar, please let me know! There is no charge. You can find the calendar here: <http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Events/index.php>.

**September 18 – 20, The Lotus Club Luxembourg** will host an International Meeting for its members and members of other Lotus Clubs in Europe. The meeting will take place in and around Bourscheid Plage in northern Luxembourg and a simple "non-competitive" road book will be used to drive from place to place. More information: email: [jean-pierre.schock@internet.lu](mailto:jean-pierre.schock@internet.lu)

### September 25 – 27, Spa Six Hours 2009

- 600 Historic racing cars including Formula 1, sport-prototype, touring and GT from 1920 to 1970
- 15 Sprint & endurance races on one of the most exciting race circuits
- More than 1000 drivers from Europe and the USA
- Auto jumble
- Automobilia, old books & spare parts
- Classic Car Market, buy or sell your classic car

More information: [www.roadbook.be/spasixhours/en/index.html](http://www.roadbook.be/spasixhours/en/index.html)

## Downloads

If you have anything that you like to share with other Lotus enthusiasts and that will not get me into copyright problems, please let me know. I am happy to make it available from the website.

This newsletter is send to you because I understood that you like to receive it. If you no longer like to receive this newsletter, please send me an email and I will take you of the list.