

The first words

For me, January has been a month filled with news. New developments at work, but also I did finally find a 1/43rd model of the road version of the Sunbeam Lotus. Made in China! And February did bring the Nürnberg Toy Fair with some new Lotus model cars.

A celebrity of days gone has passed away, I did find some interesting books, a very nice new Lotus related website, etc. More than enough items to write about this month so the newsletter is a bit larger as normal. My intention is to create just a few pages, so please do not be disappointed if the next newsletters are smaller....

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

Ronald Ringma

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New Lotus related website

Lotus Central is a non profit-making website set up to promote Lotus related news and events to the whole Lotus community; wherever they may live or whatever Lotus they are interested in. It was launched on 5 January 2009 but was already 'on the air' a few weeks earlier.

You will find a lot of interesting areas on this website, like Lotus News, Features, Motorsport, Events, Classifieds and general information on our favourite car brand.

Link: <http://www.lotus-central.com/>

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:

- 2-Eleven takes on Dubai 24 hour
- Group Lotus Response to the UK Government Support Announcement for the Motor Industry

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>.

Electric Elise

Power supplier Essent (The Netherlands) is now promoting electric cars, on the website on this subject we can see a video including the ECE Elise.



ECE Elise, © Essent

Here is the hyperlink: <http://www.essentelektrischrijden.nl/home>

Elan 5 speed

This is news for the owners of the original Lotus Elan. Did you ever think about a 5-speed conversion, or having your gearbox rebuilt? John Esposito (Quantum Mechanics, Trumbull CT, USA) is currently having 5 speed gear sets machined by BGH in the UK (<http://www.bghgearchtech.co.uk>) with the correct gear ratio. So if you ever wanted to have this, now is the time to act.

John can be contacted at john@quantummechanics.com

Lotus related video's

Did you, like me, search for Lotus video's on You Tube? Nice isn't it? But it gets better... there is a new website dedicated to Lotus related video's now, have a look at: <http://www.lotustube.com/> and enjoy what you see!

The problem with websites like these is that, before you notice it, you are looking at video's for hours and hours. You will find private films, professional footage but also official Lotus commercials. There are links to Lotus cars for sale and there is a newly formed free Lotus Owners Club.

Model cars

Many collectors enjoy putting some extra's between the miniatures that are on display. Lyns Models can help you there, as this company produces a range of **drivers in 1/43rd scale**. Here are some examples:



Jim Clark getting into a Type 49



Jim Clark standing



Jim Clark and Graham Hill

Images © Lyns Models. Remember, all these miniatures are in 1/43rd scale! If you like to know more, have a look at the website: <http://www.lynsmodels.co.uk>

Shell launched the James Bond 007 collectable cars towards the end of 2008, including the Sunbeam Alpine 5 featured in the movie "Dr. No", **Lotus Esprit** from "The Spy who Loved Me", BMW Z3 Roadster from "GoldenEye" and the Aston Martin DB5 from "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball". The collectible cars were sold at Shell petrol stations, as long as stocks lasted. I do not know if these models were available in all countries where Shell is represented. The 007 die cast models are produced by Tic Tac, a die cast company from London. All are 1/64th scale and come with a display case and a mini poster for that James Bond movie.



The James Bond Collectable Cars



Esprit, 1/64th scale

In China they have discovered that there is a gap in the 1/43rd world: the road version of the **Sunbeam Lotus**. And here it is, the manufacturer is not known to me, it may be Ixo, who can help me here?



Sunbeam Lotus 1/43rd made in China

From Corgi (ex-Vanguards) we did recently see two new 1/43rd versions of the **Cortina**, the Lotus Cortina as used in the 1966 RAC Rally by Jim Clark and Brian Melia and the Cortina Lotus as used in the 1968 London to Sydney Marathon by Roger Clark and Ove Anderson:



Corgi Lotus Cortina 1966 RAC Rally



Corgi Cortina Lotus 1968 London to Sydney Marathon

Nürnberg Toy Fair 2009 – Lotus news

Spark did show the new Type 25 in 1/43rd scale. There will also be two new versions of the 2eleven (New Entry and Supersport) and.... A Mini Moke in Gold Leaf colors with hanger with Lotus Europa! More news from Spark: The Team Lotus JPS helicopter and Cessna airplane! And you can also expect the Type 102B and 102D as driven by Herbert and Hakkinen.



Type 25 by Spark, 1/43rd

Minichamps showed the Type 79 in Andretti and Reuteman version.



A very small Type 49 as driven by Jo Siffert was presented by **Schuco Picolo**, scale 1/90th

Brumm announced a Jim Clark promotional model of the 25 winning the 1964 British Grand Prix. 1964 wasn't to be a championship winning year though, his main rivals in the BRM (Hill) and Ferrari (Surtees) got the better of him. Clark finished the season in third, seven points behind Hill who was in turn only one point behind Surtees.



Autoart did put their new Europa in 1/43rd scale on show, it will be available in this year.



Autoart Europa 1/43rd

New from **Kyosho** are the Caterham models with cycle fenders in 1/18th and 1/43rd scale.



Caterham by Kyosho, 1/18th



Caterham by Kyosho, 1/43rd

Soldo presented their plans for a Seven in 1/18th and 1/43rd scale:



Seven 1/18th study by Soldo

Scalextric now offers the 1/32nd Lotus 49 as a single model, before it was available in a set.

And finally **Ixo** are bringing out their 1/43rd Elite in Le mans 1963 livery.



Elite Le mans 1963 by Ixo

Special thanks to Carel for the images!!

Patrick McGoohan, "The Prisoner", has passed away

Patrick McGoohan, the Emmy-winning actor who created and starred in the cult classic television show "The Prisoner," has passed away. He was 80 years old. McGoohan died Tuesday 13-01-2009 in Los Angeles after a short illness.

The Prisoner is a British 1960s television series starring and co-created by Patrick McGoohan which combines spy fiction with elements of science fiction, allegory and psychological drama. The fact that he did drive a Lotus Seven made him famous in Lotus circles. Everybody knew what car was meant when people were referring to the registration KAR120C....

The car was on loan from Lotus, and was otherwise employed as the factory demonstrator.



KAR 120C on the filmset



and as a 1/43rd model made by Altaya/Ixo

The show was created by McGoohan and George Markstein, with exteriors filmed primarily on location "in the grounds of the Hotel Portmeirion, Penrhynedraeth, North Wales", according to the location credit in the final episode. Seventeen episodes were produced.

Lotus Cup Europe

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The Lotus Cup Europe series will visit seven circuits in five countries in the period from May until October 2009. this is the race calendar:

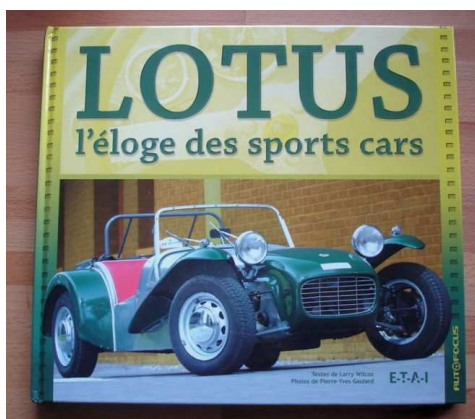
Brands Hatch Grand Prix	1-3 May
Zandvoort	23-24 May
Hockenheim	20-21 June
Donington Park Grand Prix	15-16 August
Dijon Prenois	4-6 September
Spa Francorchamps	2-4 Oct
Le Mans	24-25 October

The Lotus Cup Europe Series, now in its 6th year, started in 2004 as a direct response to customer and Lotus Dealer interest in a 'fun' but professionally - run motorsport series in Europe. The series is designed to offer Lotus owners the opportunity to experience some fantastic European circuits with like-minded enthusiasts. There are two different types of competition offered: Race and Regularity.

If you like to find out more, please follow this hyperlink: <http://www.lotuscupeurope.com/>

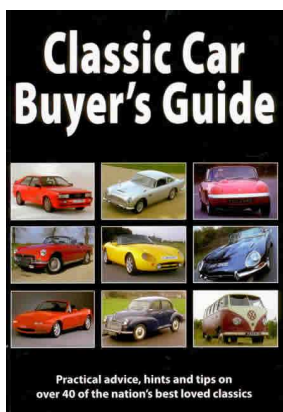
Books and videos

Her is a new discovery for your bookshelves: **Lotus : l'Eloge des sports Cars**, text by Larry Wilcox, pictures made by PY Gaulard. French, easy to read (...), summarizes all Lotus Road Cars. Very nice pictures.



ISBN 13 : 978-2-7268-8750-9

An other nice find is the **Classic Car Buyers Guide**, containing practical advise and tips on 40 of Britain's most popular classic cars. Including the Elan and Elite. The buying guides in every issue of Classic Car Weekly have proven to be popular: offering a wealth of specialist knowledge, including what are the common problems, what's the model's history, technical specification, and what's the market and availability like. All of this is crucial information to gen up on before choosing your classic, hence why this book has brought together just some of these guides in one handy reference book. 148 Pages, soft cover, colour throughout, published in 2008.



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>.

April 18-19 2009, Lotus Show and festival 2009 by Club Lotus (England)

Location: International exhibition centre Donnington Park, Castle Donnington Nr Derby, England. More information: Club Lotus, events@clublotus.co.uk

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

CANCELLED: Lotus Club Holland International Meeting may 2009 (The Netherlands)

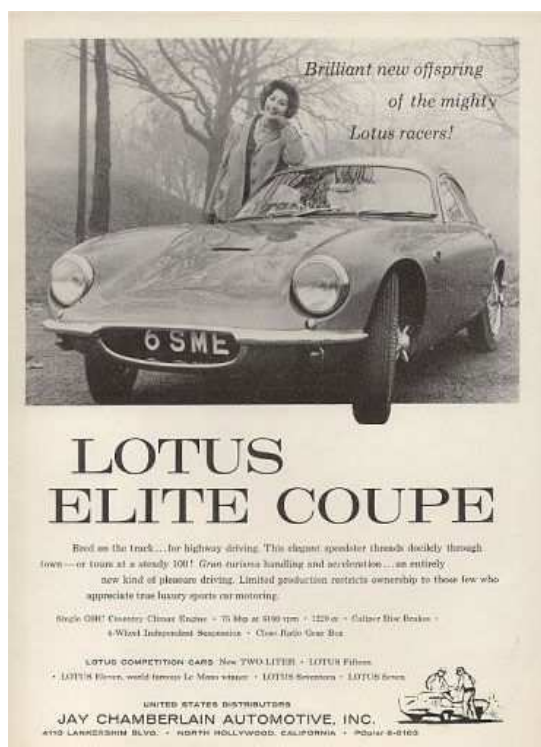
Unfortunately they had to cancel the International Event from May 21 to May 24. The number of participants remained behind expectations. In relation with the necessary reservations for the Hotel, circuit of Zandvoort, the boat, etc, it was no longer possible to wait.

CANCELLED: September 4, 5 and 6, Elan M100 20th Anniversary meeting (Belgium)

Another event that had to be cancelled. As soon as I know if there will be a new date, I will let you know! More information: h.vangelder@inter.nl.net

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.



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