

The first words

One again I have a lot of model car news for you in the newsletter. Also news about Lotus Renault GP and a very rare book in this issue.

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

Ronald Ringma



In this issue:

- News from Group Lotus
- New on the website
- I heard it through the grapevine...
- The new brochures
- Chapman Family supports Lotus Renault GP
- Lotus Renault GP
- New Caterham SP/300R
- The secret of the Esprit 2010 modelcar
- Fairuz Fauzy joins Lotus Renault GP
- Proton under fire due to big amount being spent on Lotus Renault GP
- Model cars
- Books and videos
- Events
- Downloads

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>

New on the website

You will find all recent changes and news headlines on the 'news' page of the website. On the opening page of the website you will also see the most recent items.

I heard it through the grapevine...

The word is that Lotus Cars has plans for changes to existing models, before the new Esprit becomes available. There may even be a new Exige model introduced during the Geneva show in March this year. At least this is what CEO Dany Bahar hinted.

And there may be plans for a heavily revised Evora as well. Insiders did admit that the Evora will get a refresh in 2012 including a redesigned cabin. The aim of Lotus is to get to a better quality level and also better functionality. Expect also more variants to the Evora theme.

Lotus is going to outsource the engineering of future cabins to CSI, a German based company that also did engineering work for the cabins of cars like the Porsche Panamera, Audi R8 and Mercedes SLS.

The new brochures

In the new era that Lotus has entered, we also see new brochures, upgraded and in my opinion these may even be called books. In fact, the new brochures are hard cover books with 32 printed pages and high quality images. I did adopt these in my Lotus book collection.

I did find the following titles:

- The dawn of a new era
- The Lotus range
- Lotus accessories
- Elise
- Exige
- Evora



Chapman Family supports Lotus Renault GP

Recently Clive Chapman issued a statement which distances the Chapman family from the Tony Fernandes vision for Lotus. This must be painful as the support of the Chapman family was very important for Lotus Racing when they started.

Because Clive and Hazel Chapman were present at the launch of Lotus Racing it was clear that they supported the project. Tony Fernandes did even get one of Colin's famous corduroy caps as a present. But now the argument with Group Lotus has changed their mind.

Clive made it very clear that the recent development of Tony Fernandes rebranding his Formula One outfit as "Team Lotus" is not amusing him. "During 2010, the Chapman Family, as and when appropriate, made it clear to those involved that it would prefer that the Team Lotus name should not be used in Formula One. Indeed, assurances to this effect were received."

"The Chapman Family is looking forward to continuing to give its support to Group Lotus, which is the ongoing Lotus entity created by Colin and Hazel Chapman. After all, the Lotus marque is the responsibility of Group Lotus, and Hethel is the home of Lotus."

Lotus Renault GP

The Lotus Renault GP R31 will be officially presented on the 31st January in Valencia! That is the day before the first test session. This will be the big moment when the drivers pull the covers off to reveal the new car. It will take place in the circuit pit lane at 12:00 and there will be a photo shoot and interview session with the world's media.



R30 (2010) in 2011 colors

Behind the doors to the wind tunnel in Enstone, Lotus Renault GP has been busy testing the package that will go on the car for the first race in Bahrain. The geometries that will be used for the launch car have been defined earlier, but the wind tunnel work for race one will continue, especially for the parts that can be made at the last minute. The car is built in this time, early January.

And once the car is built, there will be the first start of the engine, an emotional moment for everybody involved and is the time when we can say that the new car is officially born.

New Caterham SP/300R

Caterham Cars has presented a new car, a sports prototype racing car, at the Autosport International Show (Birmingham, UK).

This new trackday car, the Caterham-Lola SP/300.R is created in partnership with another iconic British engineering brand, Lola Cars. This car will also feature the debut of Caterham Motorsport's new supercharged version of the Ford Duratec power plant, expected to produce around 300bhp.

Caterham is in the final stages of development of the powertrain and handling characteristics of the car, in readiness for a one-make championship to start in 2012, while the feasibility of a road-legal version of the

car is also being considered. Only 25 SP/300.Rs will be manufactured each year, allowing Caterham to focus on enhancing the build quality of every vehicle and maximising its renowned one-to-one customer service.



Caterham SP/300.R, 0-100 km/h in 2,5 seconds

With Lola, as technical design consultant, leading the aerodynamic styling and downforce development in collaboration with Caterham's design direction, the Seven's engineers have been responsible for developing the power plant, braking system and making sure the two-seater's renowned ride and handling characteristics are firmly transferred into the SP/300.R.

While the global expansion of the Seven's motor racing activity will continue unabated, the SP/300.R will allow Caterham's loyal clientele to move further up the performance racing 'ladder' without having to leave the proven expertise and 'value for money' of the Company's motorsport infrastructure.

"Motorsport is not only part of the history of Caterham, it's been the lifeblood running through the character of our vehicles - race cars for the road," explains Ansar Ali, managing director of Caterham Cars. "Today, racing is not only the heartbeat of the business, it's an intrinsic part of our fabric both here and abroad and the SP/300.R represents the next logical step in the development of our product offering."

For more information, please see the **downloads section of the website** where you can find a brochure of this new Caterham.

The secret of the Esprit 2010 modelcar



I did write before about the very special Lotus Esprit model that was presented to vips at the Paris and Los Angeles presentations in 2010. Nobody seemed to be able to tell me who the manufacturer of these models is. And it was not visible on the model itself, as it is mounted to a leather covered base. I did contact some staff members of Group Lotus to get an answer, but nobody could help me. The Dutch collector Carel van Kuijk has been very brave and dismantled his model. The answer is: B.B.R. !!



About B.B.R.

The name B.B.R. is taken from the names of the company founders who started this adventure more than 20 years ago; Balestrini, Barberis and Reali. Of the three founders only two remain today, as Barberis returned to his original profession as a dentist. B.B.R. began in a small room in Saronno, northern Italy, where inspiration, imagination and a passion for the automobile came together to create miniature masterpieces.

Alberto Balestrini soon gained a reputation as a highly skilled modeller, using sheet metal and plaster to create, in miniature, the English cars which dominated F1 in the early 1970s.

Nando Reali has the business brain and represents the commercial side of the company.

Fairuz Fauzy joins Lotus Renault GP

Lotus Renault GP has announced that 28-year-old Malaysian driver Fairuz Fauzy will be a reserve driver for the team in 2011. He was however not announced as the official 'third driver'. Fauzy used to be the third driver for Lotus Racing (Now: Team Lotus) in 2010. It is probably his Malaysian background (Proton) that helped him to get a role in the team.

Lotus Renault GP will also soon announce names for its new "LRGP Academy" young-driver development program. Fauzy will also return to the GP2 Series with the Super Nova team, for which he drove in the past, with Proton support. With F1 testing severely limited by regulations, Fauzy will accrue additional F1 mileage in a two-year-old Renault R29.

Proton under fire due to big amount being spent on Lotus Renault GP

The Proton-Lotus entry into F1 seems to be a move in the opposite direction, compared to other car manufacturers who have been leaving the sport in recent years. Giants like Honda and Toyota used to be spending huge amounts of money and did leave the scene recently. Reports in The Star Online tell us that financial analysts are skeptical. Maybank Investment Bank: "We do not share Proton's direction of spending for the F1 whilst most major automakers have already exited the circuit in recent years."

The report added, "The high capex will dent Proton's war chest and affect cash flows, impacting its business and financial turnaround plans. Whilst we do not think it will face new funding difficulty, Lotus' huge capex needs will significantly drain its cashflow over the next five years and deplete its war chest." "We are also not particularly excited over Lotus' involvement in F1 Renault. It will incur high marketing expenses (for branding exercise) but reap minimal returns. On sales volume, Lotus has no new product to offer until 2012," concluded the report by the bank.

Proton has plans to change Group Lotus into a profitable company and is seeking for \$750-million to secure this project. They are hoping to get the same marketing and branding success as Ferrari and Mercedes are experiencing because of their investment in Formula One. Proton Holdings group managing director Datuk Syed Zainal said, "Group Lotus by itself cannot raise that kind of money and that is why Proton has to come in as the entire five-year turnaround exercise has to benefit the whole group." He also said: "We are

confident we can turn around Group Lotus as we have five new Lotus models that will start production by 2012. Everyone here is very committed, excited and dedicated to see Group Lotus achieves its turnaround plan. It is a do able plan. We have thought through this plan a hundred times and it is a challenge but realistic.”

Group Lotus CEO Dany Bahar recently said that Lotus involvement in F1 is the company’s strategy to build the Lotus brand, “F1 is a more economical way and it is highly visible. There’s constant action for eight months throughout the year and is viewed by some 500 million people around the world.”

Model Cars



Extremely rare **Spark** model of the Lotus Judd **Type 101** from the 1989 Australian Grand Prix as driven by Satoru Nakajima.

This 1/43 model was only available in Japan from 18 December 2010 until 31 December 2010. As far as I know at this moment 1.000 models have been made and have all been sold.

Expected in March/April, the **Lotus-Cosworth T127 F1**. Available in GP Monaco 2010 set up, both the Jarno Trulli and Heiki Kovalainen versions.

Made by **Spark**, 1/43.

Super detailed resin-cast model cars. These two models come in a special Lotus packaging celebrating Lotus’ 500th F1 Grand Prix. Both are announced as limited editions of 500 pieces.

There is also supposed to be a Valencia version of the models, let us wait and see...



Trulli



Kovalainen



This is the **Lotus Elite**, a 1/43 model that will be produced by **Spark** in the near future. For many collectors this will be filling a gap in their collection.

Do not run to your local specialist shop as this model is not yet in production.

This **Type 56**, Hill Indy 1968, will soon be in the shops. Made by **Spark**, resin, 1/43



This **Type 56**, Leonard Indy 1968, will soon be in the shops. Made by **Spark**, resin, 1/43

Some more models to look out for in the near future:

Expected from Spark, Lotus 30 Clark Goodwood 1964, Lotus 30 Muir Zeltweg 1965, Lotus 40 Clark Brands Hatch 1965, Lotus 56 Fittipaldi Brands Hatch 1971, Lotus Elan S4 Sprint DHC 1971, Lotus Elan S4 Sprint FHC 1971

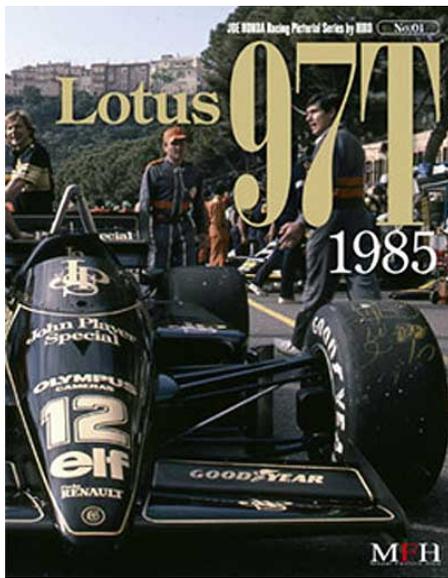
In the planning from Minichamps are: Lotus 72 Fittipaldi Monza 1972, Lotus 78 Jarrier Mosport 1978, Lotus 79 Andretti Monza 1979, Lotus 79 Mansell Paul Ricard 1979, Lotus 79 Reutemann Monza 1979, Lotus 81 Andretti 1980, Lotus 81 De Angelis 1980, Lotus 81 Mansell Silverstone 1981, Lotus 88 De Angelis Long Beach 1981

Ixo is planning a Lotus Elite #44 Le Mans 1962 and the Talbot Sunbeam Lotus Nicolas Corsica 1979

I will keep you informed on these pages and on my website!

Books and videos

Johnny Tipler is going to work on a new book, covering the black-and-gold **JPS era** between 1972 and 1986 when John Player Special sponsored Team Lotus in F1. Don't run to the bookstores now, as it will take some time before you can actually buy this book. Johnny is going to start, so he will probably be collecting information before he can even start producing something.



Here is a very rare book for the collector who wants to have it all, **Lotus Metamorphosis**.

This soft cover limited edition (400 pieces) book by journalist Caroline Gaudriault and photographer Gérard Rancinan was presented to guests of Lotus on the 12th of November, 2010.

Lotus unveiled Metamorphosis – a unique collaboration between Lotus and the award winning French artist Gérard Rancinan – during an exclusive VIP event in Los Angeles. Metamorphosis is a selection of seven stunning images alongside a book created by French writer, Caroline Gaudriault. Both elements aim to capture the essence of Lotus' evolution.

The book is a piece of art with lots of glossy pictures and some text covering important moments in Lotus' history.



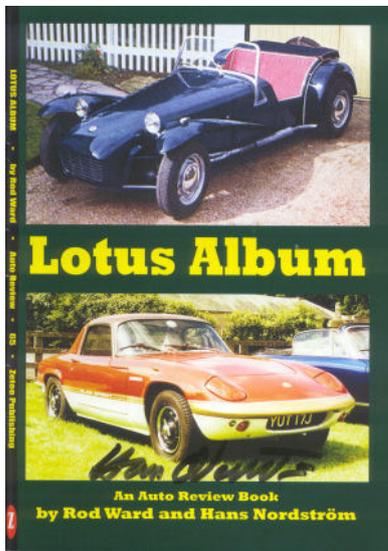
You can read more about this project in the press section of the website, see November 2010.

A new book for modelcar builders, this detailed reference guide of the **Lotus 97T** published by Model Factory Hiro. Japanese text and brilliant photographs. I have no more details at this moment.

About Hiro

State of the art large scale kits using resin, white metal, photo-etch and CNC machined aluminium. Many kits are built onto a solid aluminium monocoque. For the more experienced builder. End result stunning. Also a selected range of excellent accessory parts for use with resin and plastic kits. Made in Japan.





Here is another new book, **Lotus Album** by Rod Ward and Hans Nordström. This is a small, soft cover book with 31 printed pages, giving the reader a good impression about Lotus and its history.

For readers who are interested in Lotus, this is a very good start to get general information about the history of the marque and about the models that Lotus has produced.

ISBN 978-1-900482-64-4

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>.

Downloads

New in the downloads section of the website: several pricelists and the Lotus Exos (Type 125) brochure. Free for you to download!

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 sent 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 off the list.