

The first words

This time information about the birth of a new entity: Lotus Sport USA. Also the opening of the new Hethel test track and again a lot of images showing new model cars.

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

Ronald Ringma



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

Facebook

Next to the website, there is also a page on Facebook now. Just search for Lotus Drivers Guide when you are logged in to your Facebook account.

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.

New Hethel test track officially opened

On the 22nd of June 2011 Nigel Mansell officially opened Group Lotus's revised and restored Hethel test track with a roar from the 1981 Essex-Lotus 81B in which he started his glorious Formula One career more than 30-years-ago.

Mansell led a convoy of seven stunning racing cars from the Lotus stable, including the innovative 1980 Type 88 twin-chassis car – which the rule makers never allowed to race; the Lotus Type 125 Exos Experience car driven by fellow F1 legend Jean Alesi; and a brace of Lotus Renault GP cars piloted by current F1 stars Vitaly Petrov and Bruno Senna.

This was the first time that modern-era F1 cars had blasted around the historic Hethel tarmac since the early 1990s. The layout of the 2.2 mile circuit had changed very little, with one extra corner added, but the new asphalt and larger run off areas are better suited to modern racing and performance car testing. Its mixture of corners, straight and braking zones makes it ideal for testing and optimizing every performance aspect of the new era of Lotus products, and evaluating car control at the Lotus Driving Academy. In addition to a spacious new workshop, the test track will soon be accompanied by a new pit building and hospitality suite.



Left to Right: Jean Alesi (Group Lotus Ambassador); Greg Mansell (Lotus Evora GT4 race car driver), Leo Mansell (Lotus Evora GT4 race car driver); James Rossiter (Group Lotus Factory Driver); Nigel Mansell; Johnny Mowlem (Group Lotus Factory Driver); Bruno Senna (Lotus Renault GP 3rd Driver); Vitaly Petrov (Lotus Renault GP Driver)

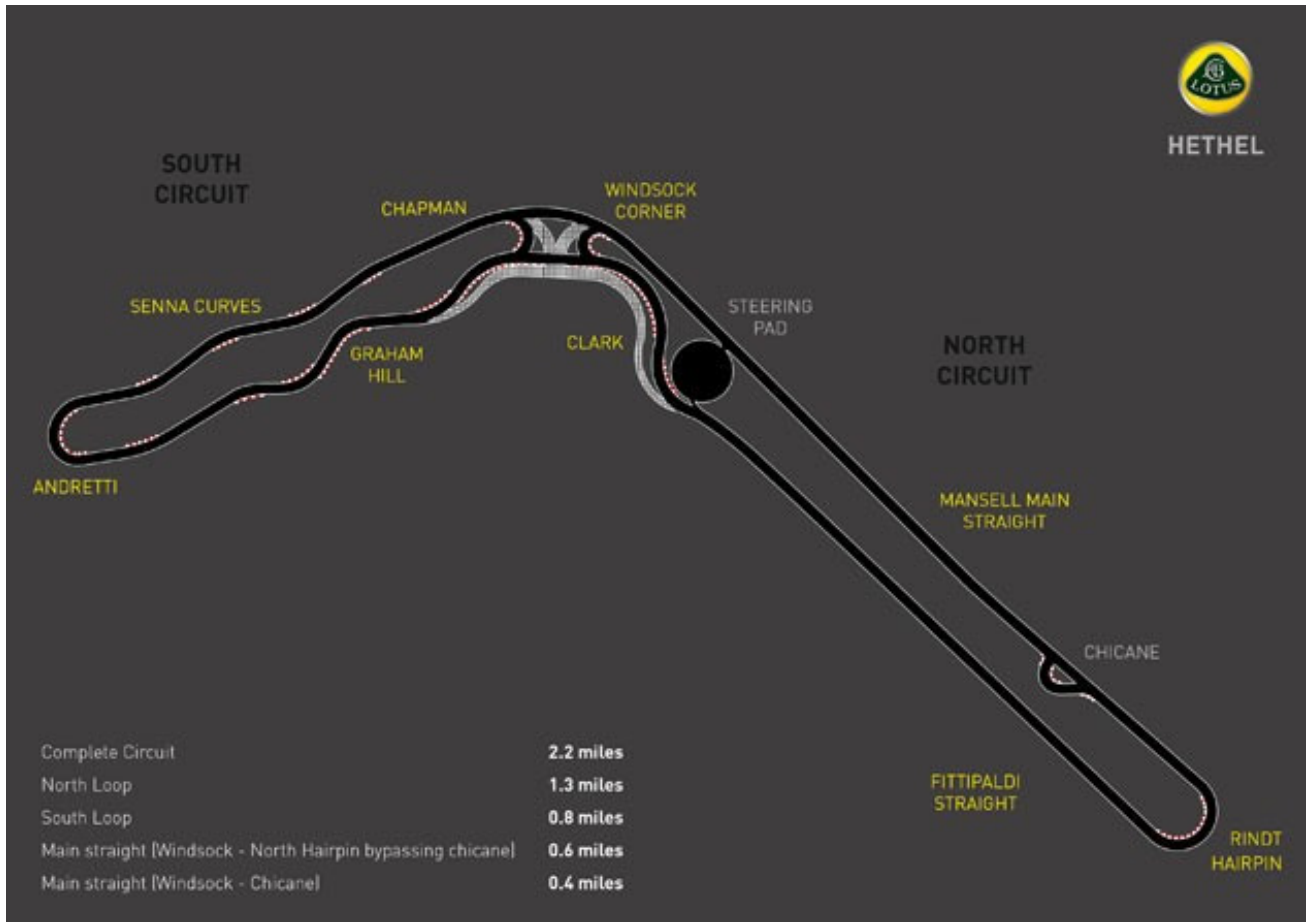
Dany Bahar, Group Lotus CEO said: "A year ago we set out our plans to introduce a new model line up, ambitious motorsport plans and a revitalization of the iconic Lotus brand. A year in, we are meeting all the targets and milestones we set ourselves. One of the milestones was the opening of our test track. You might say this is just a refurbishment of a track and not a major achievement in itself, and I agree. However, mentally and psychologically seeing this project accomplished demonstrates that step-by-step our vision is becoming a reality. It shows our entire workforce and our partners that we are delivering on our promises."

Nigel Mansell, Group Lotus ambassador and 1992 Formula One World Champion said: "What a joy it was to be reunited with my old 81B after 30 years. This is a very special place, Hethel, and it was wonderful to open the circuit today by driving alongside my sons Leo and Greg."

Clive Chapman, Managing Director of Classic Team Lotus said: "I remember my father testing the Lotus 49 on this circuit. He didn't wear a helmet and you could see him grinning from ear to ear because he knew he had another winner. The circuit's longest straight doubled as a runway, and we would land here in my father's plane after adventurous and race tracks around the world. The revised circuit has managed to keep

a lot of the character of the original, and seeing those seven cars lapping today is something I shall never forget. Lotus is enjoying exciting times once again, and it fills me with pride when I see brand new Lotus's around the world still bearing my father's initials."

Jean Alesi, Group Lotus ambassador and F1 legend said: "It's extremely fast. The first time I went out I was surprised about the length of the straights, but then of course it's not only for motor sport but for testing road cars. The layout is perfect for that. It's a proper test track. Today I drove Lotus' customer F1-experience car, the T125. The development of this car is ongoing, and very very promising. James Rossiter is doing a great job helping to develop the car, and will make this new track his home. I shall be validating these tests."



Bruno Senna, Lotus Renault GP third driver said: "Vitaly [Petrov] and I got to chase each other around in our F1 cars today, which was awesome. It's a really fun, technical track designed to test the car's handling and braking. I guess this is the first time in many years that a contemporary F1 car has been driven around here. The relationship I have with Group Lotus is very special, to be given the opportunity by these guys who trust my abilities and what I can bring to the team. And we have family history, of course. Ayrton [Senna] made his name with Colin Chapman, and so there is a lot to be grateful to Lotus for. For me, to drive this circuit where my uncle used to test his cars, is a special feeling."

James Rossiter, Lotus Motorsport factory driver said: "The circuit has been completely resurfaced and extended. Now there's a lot more track and you can push harder thanks to that. The thing that makes it so perfect for Lotus is that it has every aspect of corner you can imagine; high speed, medium speed; slow speed; changes of direction at a steady-state, decelerating, and accelerating; you've got a massive braking area at the end of a long straight, with a tight chicane; there are two 190 degree corners, which are long, open and steady-state. So it has a little bit of everything, which is ideal for developing every aspect of a performance car."

Karl Heinz Kalbfell, Group Lotus Operations spokesperson and former CEO of Rolls Royce Motor Cars and Maserati said: "Every time I come back here to see the changes, both in infrastructure and the product, and to see people here driven by Lotus's inspirational goals, it gives me a lot of confidence that we are all

on the right track. This is exactly what Colin Chapman would have wanted. He was a man always looking forward, not backwards."

Tony Schulp Appointed as Group Commercial Director of Group Lotus plc



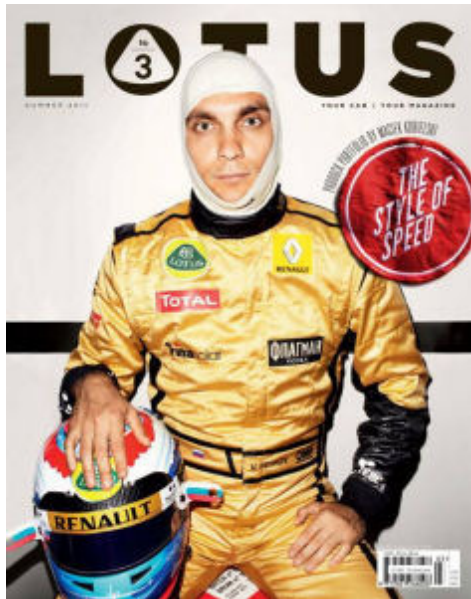
Former Haymarket Worldwide Chief Executive Officer set to join Group Lotus in August

Group Lotus recently announced the appointment of motorsport industry expert Tony Schulp. Tony will join Group Lotus on August 1st and will be responsible for leading the growth of the promotion and commercialisation of all Lotus' current and future motorsports activities.

Tony Schulp is no stranger to the motorsport world having held many senior roles with both Haymarket and more recently Prodrive Limited. With a unique motorsport pedigree spanning many years, his field of expertise focuses on globalising brands and developing relationships, two of the many skills that lead to his new appointment as Group Commercial Director.

Dany Bahar Chief Executive Officer of Group Lotus said: "We're very much looking forward to welcoming Tony on board. I've been aware of his work for many years and I think he's going to complement our existing motorsport team perfectly. Lotus was born on the race track and motorsport plays an essential role in our business plan, Tony will play a crucial part in maximising on our investment and uniting us with suitable partners going forward."

Lotus Magazine



Issue three of the Lotus Magazine is available now. In this rather expensive magazine you can read about:

A celebration of 50 years of Lotus Design – photo feature spread over 40 glorious pages presenting a selection of the most iconic models ever made.

A 20 page paddock portfolio by Maciek Kobielski covering the comeback of Group Lotus to Formula One racing.

Hollywood writer Fred Schruers shares his memories about "Basic Instinct" and gives a unique insight into the film production.

And more.

Lotus Sport USA

On the 14th of July Group Lotus Motorsport announced the formation of Lotus Sport USA, led by Team Principals Ian Dawson and John Pritzlaff.

Director of Motorsport Claudio Berro said: "We are very happy to confirm the formal plans for Lotus Sport USA. This part of the world represents a very important market to Group Lotus now and for the future. With Ian Dawson and John Pritzlaff on board, I'm sure Lotus Sport USA will go from strength to strength."

The factory endorsed team will focus primarily on the GT2 and LMP2 classes in IMSA (International Motor Sport Association). Following the recent announcement of the World Endurance Championship by the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile) and ACO (Automobile Club de l'Ouest), the driver and

constructor championships are being considered.

The new team will initially race with the Lotus Evora GTE through a full North American and International schedule in 2012. The program will begin testing in quarter four of 2011.

The team will be announcing some innovative and exciting new partners to the program, including key personnel to support this long-term partnership.

The move marks the welcome return of Ian Dawson to the Lotus brand. Early in his career, he was a member of the prestigious Team Lotus in the 1970's. Afterwards Ian continued working with the brand in a key role for the only private Lotus Team, Rebaque F1.

With his background in banking as a financial executive John Pritzlaff will bring structure and oversight to the racing program. John has a great understanding of this legendary marquee and is dedicated to the preservation of the Lotus heritage and legacy through motorsport.

North American Headquarters for Lotus Sport USA are located at the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research complex and testing facility. The European Headquarters is near the Group Lotus Headquarters in Norfolk England.



Model Cars

If you have a look at all the following future releases you may wonder if this is still collecting what we are doing, or just running to the shops and empty our wallets on a weekly basis... Are you still able to buy your groceries? Well, I am as I decided to basically collect one 1:43 model of every Lotus production number. Basically... I wonder where these 20+ 1:18 models came from....

I do not have a row of Elevens, 25's or other models that have become available in many liveries. In this way, it will be affordable to collect these fine miniatures and every once in a while I will be tempted to sell one if I find a version that suits me better. And it keeps my wife happy as I am still able to keep all miniatures in my study.

Have fun, happy collecting!

Something to look forward to is this **Type 25** by **Spark**, as driven by Jim Clark winning the Belgium Grand prix in 1964

This model is expected in October 2011



This **Type 77** was driven by Mario Andretti during the 1976 Brazilian GP. He started as 16th on the grid but had to give up after an accident in Lap 6. **Spark** has announced this 1:43 resin model for release in November 2011.

This **Type 102** (Lamborghini V12) was driven by Martin Donnelly during the 1990 season. I did meet Martin recently at Lotus, where he is giving driving instructions. **Spark** has announced this model for release in September 2011, scale 1:43, made from resin.



In October 2011 you may look out for this **Evora Hybrid 414E**, announced by **Spark**. Made from resin, scale 1:43

And this **Evora Type 124 Cup 2010** model will be released in November 2011. Again a 1:43 scale model made from resin by **Spark**.



Here is the new **Eclat S1** that **Spark** plans to produce starting October 2011. As far as I know the first 1:43 Eclat model ever!



For this Europa Special by Spark the release date has to be announced. Made from resin, scale 1:43



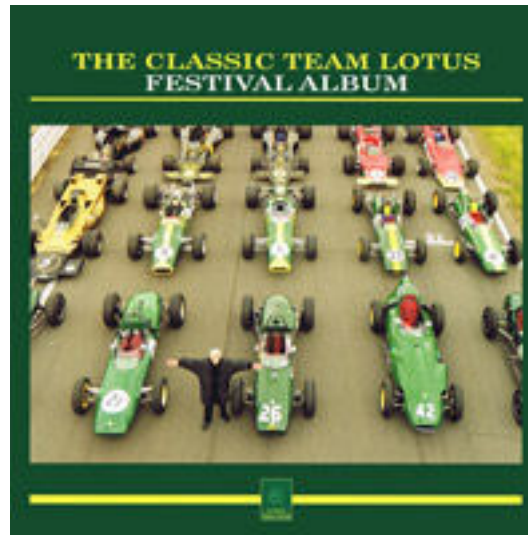
More new announcements by **Spark**:

November 2011; 1/43 Lotus **Evora** No.64 Lotus Jetalliance LM 2011 Singerland/Rich/Hartshorne, S2208
2012; 1/43 Lotus **Evora** No.65 Lotus Jetalliance LM 2011 Hirschi/Rossiter/Mowlem, S2209

Books and videos

Classic Team Lotus has published a book covering the **Classic Team Lotus Festival** held at Snetterton in

the year 2010. A photo book covering all the best bits. You will find 72 pages of photos of the greatest ever gathering of Team Lotus Formula One cars, the 20th June 2010, brought together with the support of enthusiastic owners from around the World.



And there is also a DVD. A perfect moment for the fans that were there and the next best thing for the fans that could not make it. This DVD including interviews with Hazel Chapman, Clive Chapman and past Team Lotus employees. Captures what was achieved on that special day. Includes bonus chapters: Clive Chapman reveals how all 35 cars were brought together in an extraordinary race against time plus: Black Beauties Black on Track, featuring exclusive footage of a unique reunion of three JPS type 79s.

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>.

Club Lotus Donington Show, 13-14 August 2011

International Exhibition Centre at Donington Park, 13th and Sunday 14th August 2011.

There will be hundreds of Lotus cars and thousands of parts & accessories for sale, Lotus dealers & specialists, new and used cars for sale, auto jumble, books, memorabilia and Lotus clubs.

More information: www.clublotus.co.uk

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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