



The first words

This month I have for you the official press introduction of the Evora. First conclusion: In terms of performance, handling and comfort, reviews confirm that the Evora is a worthy challenger to the Porsche 911. And now look at the price....

And once again a lot of model car news.

Also speculations about the 2012 Esprit.

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

Ronald Ringma



Visiting Ketteringham Hall

In this issue:

- News from Group Lotus
- New on the website
- Evora tyre issue
- Evora press launch
- Model cars
- Esprit 2012
- Books and videos
- Events
- Downloads

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:

- Group Lotus Business Release - Group Lotus business is buoyant with the introduction of the all-new car, the Evora, and increased contract engineering

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>.

Evora tyre issue

While the whole world including Lotus staff thought the Evora would have Yokohama treads I have learned that the new Evora will have Pirelli as standard tyres. I am not sure what caused this last moment change.



Evora Press Launch

The Lotus Evora has had its official press introduction on Monday 4th May at the Cameron House Hotel on the banks of Loch Lomond, Scotland. This was the beginning of a two-week long press launch of the long-awaited new Lotus Evora at Loch Lomond in Scotland, a launch which has now been hailed as a huge success for the company.

Several Evoras have already been spotted in the area well before this date, scouting roads for the suggested press routes and doing some pre-arranged photos for the press packs.

For Lotus it is the first all-new car in 14 years and all staff are

extremely proud of achieving this exceptional product in just 27 months from a blank sheet of paper to start of production. That it is a car designed to meet the legislative requirements of, and be sold in 41 countries worldwide, including the USA, further underlines this achievement.

In the first two weeks of May the Lotus Evora was test driven by 70 car journalists throughout the glorious Scottish countryside. Soon after the introduction, articles appeared on the World Wide Web. the first official critiques of the Evora couldn't have been more favourable, here are a few links for you to have a look at:

The Sunday Times;

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/driving/jeremy_clarkson/article6205379.ece

Car;

<http://www.carmagazine.co.uk/Drives/Search-Results/First-drives/Lotus-Evora-Live-Drive--real-time-CAR-review/>

Motortrend;

http://www.motortrend.com/roadtests/coupes/112_0905_2011_lotus_evora/index.html

Car & Driver;

http://www.caranddriver.com/reviews/hot_lists/high_performance/sports_car_central/2010_lotus_evora_first_drive_review

Autocar;

<http://www.autocar.co.uk/CarReviews/FirstDrives/Lotus-Evora-3.5-V6/239887/>

Pistonheads;

<http://www.pistonheads.com/doc.asp?c=52&i=19871>

Fifth Gear;

<http://fifthgear.five.tv/jsp/5gmain.jsp?mnk=221&description=Page%201&featureid=1375&pageid=3321>

Automobile Magazine;

http://www.automobilemag.com/reviews/driven/0905_2010_lotus_evora/index.html

Car Enthusiast;

<http://www.carenthusiast.com/reviews/article/3526/-/2009-Lotus-Evora/First+drive+-+2%2B2+with+all+the+options.html>

I hope these links are still active by the time that you are reading this. I do have copies of the articles for my personal use, in pdf format.

Model Cars

Spark presented their new **Exige** in 1/87th scale in April, here is an image for you:



Exige 1/87th by Spark



Seven S2 by Spark, 1/87th

And I believe I did not yet show you their 1960 **Seven S2**, also 1/87th

In issue 17 of this newsletter I did write about a **Vitesse** 1/43rd 'Emma Peel **Elan**'. As far as I know now, this is a code 3 model, a standard model that was altered by a third party after it had left the factory. And here is another one, not as nice as the first Emma Peel model that I did show you and also a code 3 model. I haven't got a clue how many of this version are made. There have not been as many changes to the standard model as there are on the other model (issue 17) but it does have the correct number plates.



Elan Emma Peel, Vitesse code 3



Exige 1/32nd Remote Control

Here is an interesting new toy: a remote controlled Lotus **Exige** in 1/32nd scale! It is a plastic model car that can move forward, left, right and reverse. Only 103 millimetres long! Made in Hong Kong as far as I know, the name of the manufacturer is not yet clear.

Here you can see how the mini RC Exige works:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGxr0fbIOyE&feature=player_embedded

Thanks to one of our readers I was able to add some images to the website of the rare **Kogure** 1/20th **Elite** and **Elan** models. Here is one of these images, on the instructions it reads Lotus Elite SPECIAL...



Elite 1/20th kit by Kogura



The new **Autoart** Lotus **Europa S** in 1/43rd scale is now for sale. Available in silver, black or white colour.



Lotus Europa S by Autoart, 1/43rd

New **Scalextric** 1/32nd **Talbot Sunbeam Lotus** slot race car, 1980 Lombard RAC Rally. Fitted with Magnatraction, Xenon front lights and rear lights, self centring easy change sprung guide.



Talbot Sunbeam Lotus (1980) driven by Zannini & Sabater during the 1983 Rally Portugal.

This 1/32nd slot race car is made by Tecnitoy (Scalextric) for Ediciones Altaya - Coleccion Campeones De Rally (Rally Champions Collection).

Only available in Spain through weekly collectable magazines (4 issues to complete a car), not sold anywhere else as far as I know at this moment.



Again a new model made by **Spark**, this time it is the 1/43rd Lotus **Type 25**, #8 winner GP Italy 1963, Jim Clark (World Champion)



Lotus Type 25 by Spark, 1/43rd

Esprit 2012



Let's call Lotus' new supercar 'Esprit' for argument sake, as it can have an other name... Is this the new Esprit? This Lotus design sketch offers a clue as to how the new Esprit can look.

The new Lotus Esprit, that is due to hit the road in 2012, may get the 500bhp V10 engine from the (coming) Lexus LF-A. We all know about the relationship that Lotus has with Toyota. This gives Lotus access to the Toyota range of components. This engine will make the top model a true competitor for other supercars. There can also be a version with the 5-litre, 417bhp V8 engine from the Lexus IS-F and an entry-level model with a 300bhp Lotus-tuned direct-injection Toyota V6.

And how about a hybrid version developed with electric car maker Tesla?

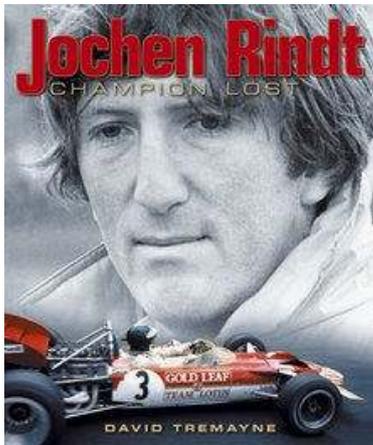
Speculations of course, but it could be like this....

The Evora chassis, with the rear section having been designed to take both transversely and longitudinally installed power plants, gives Lotus the basis of the new Esprit. But right now we will have to wait how sales of the Evora will develop before the work on the new Esprit will go into a higher gear.

Books and videos

Colin Pitt has produced a new paperback; **Lotus and Formula Ford**. I do not yet have an image of this book, as I have not yet seen it. It will probably be a collection of earlier magazine articles and road tests. Please let me (and the other readers) know if you have more information.

Released in March 2009, 130 pp, ISBN 1841557404.



Jochen Rindt, champion lost

Even today, when motorsport fans speak of car control they mention Jochen Rindt. Bernie Ecclestone believed he was the top talent of his era, Jackie Stewart said he was one of the cleanest drivers he had ever raced against, and he remains the sport's only posthumous World Champion. This investigation of Rindt's mercurial career paints the portrait of a man taken long before he reached his true potential and puts an underwritten character into his real perspective, as one of the greatest Grand Prix drivers of all time.

256pp, hardcover, approx. 280 x 230 mm, ISBN 9781844256839

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>.

July 3 - 5, Spa Summer Classic 2009

This will be a generous race meeting for various categories of historic and classic cars in endurance and sprint races, with amongst other things Grand Prix cars of the 50's and 60's, Sport racing cars, Touring and Grand Touring from the Fifties until the end of Seventies

More information: www.roadbook.be/spasummerclassic/en/spasummerclassic.html

July 12, The Jim Clark Film Festival

At the Volunteer Hall in Duns (Langtongate, Duns TD11 3AF, Tel: 01361 884 935) on Sunday July 12th 2009.

The event will start at 2pm and conclude at 5.30pm, with Film Session 1 running from 2pm to 3.30pm, followed by a half hour break for tea/coffee and cakes, with Film Session 2 running from 4pm to 5.30pm.

More information: <http://www.jimclarkfilmfestival.com/>

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

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

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.