

The first words

Again I did find many interesting items. Thanks to browsing the World Wide Web and thanks to enthusiasts who are sending me information. When I started this newsletter it was my goal to have one or two pages every month. And please do not blame me if it will be one day, but for now I have found enough news to share with you to fill some more pages.

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

Ronald Ringma

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All previous issues are available for download 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:

- Lotus Cars Limited announced the appointment of Al Ghassan Motors for the retail of Lotus cars in Saudi Arabia.
- Lotus reveals flex-fuel engine concept to maximise fuel efficiency when running on renewable fuels or gasoline.
- The New Lotus Exige S - 2010 Model Year
- 2010 Model Year Lotus Evora
- The 2010 Model Year Lotus Evora Range Specification and Pricing

New on the website

I have added a new gimmick to the website. With 200 tot 250 unique visitors every day, I believe it is nice to see how many visitors are on a particular page at the same time. So I have put a small counter on the top of most pages. Having about 350 pages, it will be 1 or 2 visitors at the same time normally but I did see 9 visitors at one page one time.

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>.

The New Lotus Exige S - 2010 Model Year

The 79th International Geneva Motor Show sees the introduction of the exciting new 2010 Model Year Lotus Exige S with a newly designed front end, a new rear wing and impressive emissions of just 199 g/km CO2.



(See also the press releases section of the website)

2010 Model Year Lotus Evora

First deliveries of the eagerly anticipated Lotus Evora will be made to customers in Europe in May 2009 following an extensive and rapid development programme, enabling the whole project to be completed in an extraordinary 27 months, almost unprecedented in the motor industry. With class leading driving dynamics, fuel economy and emissions of just 205 g/km of CO2, the new Lotus Evora raises the bar for world class high performing sportscars.



(See also the press releases section of the website)

The Lotus Evora Launch Edition

The first 450 cars will be built to a high level standard specification which includes the following equipment:

- 2+2 seating configuration
- Tech Pack
- Premium Pack
- Sport Pack
- Hi-power silver cast alloy wheels
- Bi-Xenon Headlamps
- Alpine Imprint Audio System
- Reversing Camera
- Electric Powerfold Mirrors

The Launch Edition includes either Ardent Red or British Racing Green as standard, and all other colours from the Lotus range are available as a cost option.

Following on from these first 450 Lotus Evora Launch Edition sportscars, customers will have the opportunity to spec to a more personal level – but of course they will not be part of the select few who will be among the first to own Britain's latest sportscar and one of the most anticipated cars of the year, complete with a unique Evora commemorative build plate in the cabin.

Data logging

Every second Saturday of the month the good people of Van Sten Engineering organise an informal meeting at their premises, Rijksweg 9c, Den Hoorn (NL). Apart from an always great atmosphere with Lotus drivers meeting each other and their cars, Peter Delfgaauw sometimes invites a specialist to explain about his (Lotus related) work.

Last month Vincent van der Valk (1999 Dutch Champion Formula Ford Zetec) was invited, a young professional who's business is data logging. He can be hired by racing teams, but also by individuals or small groups of drivers. A racing data logger is a device that acquires readings from one or more sensors on a race car and stores the data for later analysis. Next to data logging Vincent is also an instructor for the 'Rensportschool Zandvoort', teaching people the do's and don'ts of car racing.



Vincent has developed a simple but effective system, using a data logging device and a GPS receiver. It can be installed in any car in minutes. And taking it out is even faster, without leaving any damage or traces to the car.

Now I am not a technician but what I did understand is that with his system he can help any driver to improve on any circuit. He will analyse every round and together with the driver he will find out where profit can be gained by braking or accelerating at different points.



For more information: vincentvandervalk@gmail.com

Model cars

In the year 1923 the first le mans 24 hour race was run. From day one Dunlop supported this event with advertising and a public footbridge. The Dunlop bridge generated so much enthusiasm that others have been built around the world. At the Donnington Park Circuit in England, Mantrop Park in Sweden, Sugo and Suzuka in Japan, the Dunlop bridges are famous, enhancing the motor racing atmosphere.

Spark have announced two miniature versions of a Dunlop bridge, for your dioramas and shelf displays in 1/43rd and 1/87th scale.



Spark Dunlop Bridge, 1/43rd, 117 cm long

More news from Spark: The 1967 Team Lotus Transporter, here is an image. As far as I know it is not yet available, so we have to wait a little bit....



Spark 1967 Team Lotus transporter, 1/43rd

New from SMTS are the 1/43rd Type 48 models, in 1967 - #3 J. Clark and Hockenheim 1968 - #1 J. Clark liveries. Unfortunately SMTS are not spreading the news around in an active way, but here are some images:



SMTS Type 48 - #3 1967 Jim Clark



SMTS Type 48 - #1 1968 Jim Clark Hockenheim

Henri Baigent's scratch built models

Henri Baigent (1910-1971) was not only a master modeller but also a precision engineer, an artist and an inventor.

I have been in contact with Ray Baigent several times, as one day he did find one of his late fathers models on my website. See the Type 49 page in the model car section, scale 1/12. Ray explained to me that he was working on a website devoted to the life and cars of his late father. This website is on line now and I like to highly recommend it to you, even if you are only interested in the Lotus models that Henri Baigent created. But I am sure this website will keep you busy for a couple of hours...

<http://www.henribaigent.org>

Extreme Exige

UK Garage, the official Italian importer of British brands like TVR, Noble, Radical in Italy, is offering A V8-powered Lotus Exige for sale.



The bodywork is a an S1 Exige, made to look like an S2 an it is called the Extrema and for sale from 69,000 Euros. Probably you will have to bring your own car and have it converted for this price. The bodywork is made from carbon fibre and manual or sequential gearboxes are available.

There are a number of different V8s available: two LS3 engines (420 and 500 bhp), the LS7 (519 bhp) and the LS9 (649 bhp) from GM. With the LS9 engine the car has a 0-60 time of 2.9 secs and a seven second 0-100mph, the top speed will be 200 mph.

As far as I understand the Extrema will be made to order, to the customers own specification.

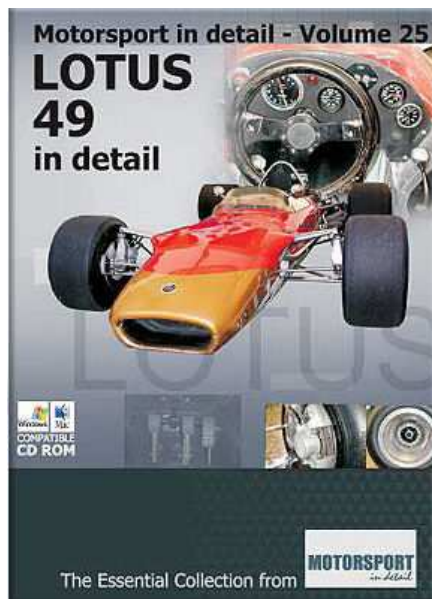
Motorsport in detail

Motorsport in detail is a series of cd-roms, presenting images and information on Motorsports subjects. The series started in March/April 2005 with Volume 1 - Ferrari Enzo in detail. The series has grown now and for us Lotus addicts the Volume 25 is very interesting, covering the Lotus 49!

Each CD has been carefully put together and presented in a DVD type case. Each car featured has a minimum of 100 photos, which comprise of 4 major areas:

1. Body and Wheels
2. Engine
3. Cockpit
4. Luggage or Front End area.

Also on the disk is a section on specs and data and the brief history for that particular car.



More information and distributors addresses on the website of the editor:

<http://www.motorsportindetail.com/>

Lotus on Ebay

Just recently I found Lotus themselves as a seller on Ebay! In the offers there is a statement reading "We are Lotus Cars Limited. All our items are genuine and shipped direct from the warehouse at Hethel."

They have a strange approach, for instance a silk tie will cost GBP 17,01 if bought in the Lotus Webstore but on Ebay it will cost you 3,5 pounds more! The 60th Anniversary Umbrella in soft grey with Lotus Logo will cost you GBP 22,95 in the Webstore and GBP 27,50 on Ebay.... (as seen on 20 February 2009). Maybe the message Lotus wants to give is that one should visit their webshop? I don't know....

If you like to see what is on sale, please check: <http://shop.ebay.co.uk/merchant/lotuscarsltd>

Lotus Dealer in Saudi Arabia

Lotus Cars Limited announced the appointment of Al Ghassan Motors (trading under the name Al Ghassan Lotus) for the retail of Lotus cars in Saudi Arabia.

Al Ghassan Motors has its head office in Jeddah and dealership facilities in Jeddah, Riyadh and Al Khobar. Al Ghassan Motors is considered to be one of the foremost specialised car dealers in the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia and one of the leading protagonists in the Gulf region. Al Ghassan Motors was formed in Jeddah in 1992 and began by specialising in all makes of higher end luxury vehicles. Today, Al Ghassan Motors is the officially appointed distributor for Bentley, Bugatti, CRG, Ducati, Lamborghini, Rotax and Stoof. The company's mission statement is "To become the preferred distributor and supplier of quality imported sports, luxury and supercars in the Gulf region through gaining reputation for the delivery of unrivalled levels of customer service and quality product."

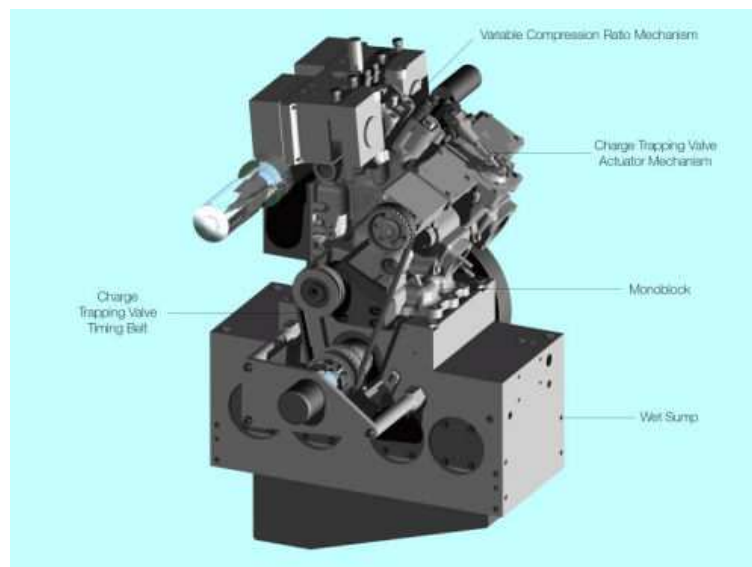
(See also the press releases section of the website)

Lotus reveals flex-fuel engine concept to maximise fuel efficiency when running on renewable fuels or gasoline.

Lotus Engineering unveils its latest research into engine efficiency at the 79th International Geneva Motor Show. The Omnivore engine concept has the potential to significantly increase fuel efficiency for sustainable alcohol based fuels, which increases the prospect of a greater amount of vehicle miles travelled using renewable fuels. On display will be the single cylinder research engine monoblock that demonstrates the novel architecture designed for high thermal efficiency when fuelled on any alcohol based fuel or gasoline.

The Omnivore concept features an innovative variable compression ratio system and uses a two-stroke operating cycle with direct fuel injection. It is ideally suited to flex-fuel operation with a higher degree of optimisation than is possible with existing four stroke engines.

The engine concept features a monoblock construction that blends the cylinder head and block together eliminating the need for a cylinder head gasket, improving durability and reducing weight. In this case, the application of a monoblock is facilitated by the absence of the requirement for poppet valves. A novel charge trapping valve in the exhaust port allows asymmetric timing of exhaust flow and continuous variation of the exhaust opening point.



(See also the press releases section of the website)

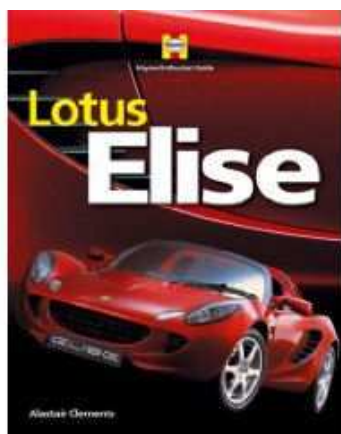
New: ProActive issue 30

The official magazine of Lotus Engineering is called proActive. From the website I am offering you links to these magazines, all in pdf format.

January/February 2009

- Strictly on track – Lotus Driving Academy
- Well-to-'two wheels'– a vision of the future of MotoGP
- Lotus and HEVs - those we can talk about
- The North Carolina Centre for Automotive Research - Inside the new proving ground

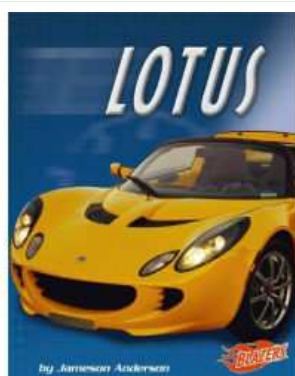
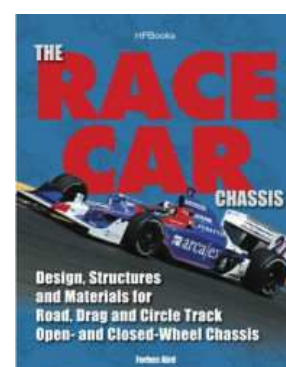
Books and videos



Something to look out for this year: a new Elise book will be published in the Haynes Enthusiasts' Guide Series, probably available from November 2009, ISBN-10 1844255743, hardcover, 200 pp, size 269 x 210 mm. This book brings the story of the Elise including Toyota-powered and supercharged cars. Essential reading for all Elise owners and enthusiasts. Written by Alastair Clements.

From the same author we did see the book "Elise – rebirth of the true Lotus" some years ago, also published by Haynes.

A recent book that may be interesting for you is "The race car chassis" by Forbes Aird. This invaluable handbook on the structural design and science behind the race car chassis includes sections on materials and structures, structural loads, a brief overview of suspension and chassis design, multi-tube and space frame chassis, joining ferrous metals, stressed skin construction, and joining light alloys. And of course you will read about the designs of Colin Chapman. ISBN-10 1557885400, paperback, 128 pp.



The next book that I like to bring to your attention is basically a children's book: Lotus (Blazers). Simple text and colourful photographs describe the history and models of Lotus.

Written by Jameson Anderson, ISBN-10 1429612800, 32 printed pages

Recently I did also find some Japanese books that I have not heard of before. I can not read these, but there are plenty of nice images:

The Japanese version of "The magnificent Seven" by Chris Rees. ISBN 4544400074, 160 pp, 270 x 210 mm.

Caterham Super Seven Owners Bible, Japanese, ISBN 4883932249, 167 pp, 297 x 230 mm



Type 74 Europa Special and Type 121 Europa S, Japanese, ISBN 4875146140, 72 pp, 328 x 239 mm



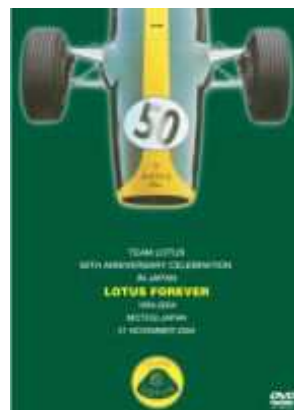
Elise & Lotus Vol 2, Japanese, ISBN 4777003361, 129 pp, 280 x 210 mm



Elise & Lotus Vol 3, Japanese, ISBN 4777007146, 129 pp, 280 x 210 mm



Another item I did not yet see before is this DVD that contains the celebration of the 50th birthday of Lotus in Japan. It is called Lotus Forever and was released in the year 2007. It is a Region 2 DVD with a run time of 102 minutes.



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

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.

Last month I did add several brochures and pricelists to this section of the website.