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### The first words



In this issue I continue to give updates on both the Formula one and the Indy Series happenings, but I will restrict myself to what's happening with Lotus as there are enough websites and newsletters dealing with these sports already.

I was able to attend to a meeting of all Dutch Elan M100's a few days ago, just great!

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
- Elan M100 meeting in The Netherlands – 8 May 2010
- Formula One Grand Prix of Spain
- Indy Series 2010 round three – Grand Prix of Alabama
- Indy Series 2010 round four – Grand Prix of Long Beach
- Indy Series 2010 round five – Kansas Speedway
- Lotus Engineering demonstrates the lightweight future of the passenger car
- Lotus Racing - There's an app for that!
- New website for SJ Sportscars
- Club Lotus Racing
- About Lotus and the Indycar Series 2010
- Lotus Racing merchandise
- Model cars
- 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:

- Lotus Engineering demonstrates the lightweight future of the passenger car
- The Taku Twist, Takuma Sato racing on an oval track for the first time

## New on the website

You will find all recent changes on the 'news' page of the website. Last month I was able to collect some modelcar news, new downloads, a very interesting videoclip and more.

## Elan M100 meeting in The Netherlands – 8 May 2010

Unfortunately the sun was not with us this day, but I did not want to miss this rare moment in my personal Lotus history, as we only have a few Elans (M100) in our country. In order to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this model a very enthusiast Dutch owner, Henri van Gelder, organised a meeting. All known owners in The Netherlands had been invited and the plan was to see 11 cars. Unfortunately, my own M100 was not on the road and another owner had other things to do, so we did see 9 cars this day. On the group images you only see 8 of these, as one Elan just had a rebuild on a new chassis and was used for demonstrating purposes.

After arriving at the start location, Van Sten Engineering in De Hoorn, we were greeted with coffee and cream pie. Of course there was soon a very lively conversation between owners going on, giving each other ideas about how to solve the small problems that occur with older cars. The main message I got was 'you're not alone!'



Henri gave a presentation with a beamer, explaining us about the history of the M100 and what makes this car so very special. We all agreed that even after 20 years there are no front wheel drive competitors with the road holding that we are so attached to!

After this very interesting presentation we did all drive to the photoshoot location, a unique moment for the Dutch owners! This was the first time to have the Dutch Elans together at a meeting.



Returning after the pictures were made, a lunch was waiting for us and once again we had time to discuss our mutual hobby. All in all a very nice meeting and a big thank you for Henri and for Van Sten Engineering, allowing us to use their facilities!

## Formula One Grand Prix of Spain



Lotus Racing basically had a good weekend in Barcelona, bearing in mind that this first year is used for learning and catching up with the established teams. We did see some progress and during the practice sessions it was clear that the gap between Lotus Racing and the other new teams was a bit wider. In favour of 'our' team.

During the race we did only see Trulli in action, as Kovalainen faced a software problem with his gearbox while firing up at the grid and was unable to race.

Tony Fernandes, Team Principal, after Sunday's race:

"It was a good day at the office today - disappointing for Heikki but on the positive side the reliability looks good and we had no hydraulic issues at all. We continue to have at least one car finish ahead of all the other new teams which has always been one of the goals and we learnt a lot again today. It's a shame Heikki wasn't there as it makes a big difference when we only have one car on track - both of them can help push us further ahead. We're all now looking forward to Monte Carlo and Turkey where we'll have all our upgrades together on both cars and build on the performance we put in during qualifying here."

You can find more information and the current standings in the press releases section of the website, please see [http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/Press\\_F1\\_Team.php](http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/Press_F1_Team.php)

## Indy Series 2010 round three – Grand Prix of Alabama

As usual my approach when writing about Indy or Formula One events is from the Lotus point of view, as there are enough website's where you can read about these subjects in general.

Mario Moraes led the three KV Racing Technology drivers in front of a record crowd in the inaugural Indy Grand Prix of Alabama at the Barber Motorsports Park on 11 April 2010. Moraes finished 12th, Viso 16th and Sato 25th.



Formula One veteran Takuma Sato was driving his third IZOD IndyCar Series race and looked to be very competitive after making the Firestone Fast Six in qualifying. The driver of the No. 5 Lotus - KVRT Honda/Dallara/Firestone car waged a tremendous battle with past IndyCar Series champions Dario Franchitti and Tony Kanaan. However, a throttle part failure left Sato stopped on the course on lap 11. The Lotus crew replaced the part and Sato returned to action 22 laps later. Sato recorded solid laps to finish the event.

Sato: "It's motor racing and things happen but I had a good start and a exciting battle with Tony Kanaan in the early portion of the race through turns 2, 3, 4 and 5. That was fun. Then we had a throttle part failure and we had to stop. The crew did a good job replacing the part and I was able to rejoin the race. I was racing with many different people today and despite being down quite a number of laps, it was good experience to run to the end."

More information in the press releases section of the website, please follow this link:

<http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/index.php>

### **Indy Series 2010 round four – Grand Prix of Long Beach**

Moraes fights from 15th to 6th in street course battle

Moraes, the youngest full-time driver on the IZOD IndyCar Series at age 21, turned in a spectacular drive Sunday in the 36th annual Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach when he drove his No. 32 KV Racing Technology Honda/Dallara/Firestone car from 15th to sixth in the 85-lap feature event. Moraes' KVRT teammates, E.J. Viso and Takuma Sato, recorded 15th and 18th place finishes respectively on the tough, narrow 1.968-mile, 11-turn circuit.

Viso, driving the No. 8 PDVSA—KVRT Honda/Dallara/Firestone machine, moved as high as tenth from his 17th starting position.

Sato, in his first Long Beach Grand Prix, had his No. 5 Lotus—KVRT Honda/Dallara/Firestone car hit from behind by Alex Lloyd, causing a spin. Sato returned to action to take the checkered flag.

More information in the press releases section of the website, please follow this link:

<http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/index.php>

### **Indy Series 2010 round five – Kansas Speedway**

Mario Moraes ended seventh, Takuma Sato 24th and E.J. Viso 27th, but these results do not reflect what really went on as the three KVRT drivers put on quite a show in the 200-lap contest on the 1.5 tri-oval west of Kansas City in the fifth round of the 17-race IZOD IndyCar Series.



Sato, the Formula One veteran, was impressive in his first oval start in the No. 5 Lotus—KVRT Honda/Dallara/Firestone machine by charging to sixth with 14 laps remaining when a collision with Hideki Mutoh on the front straightaway ended his day. Sato, starting 11th, drove past the likes of Will Power, Victor Meira, Danica Patrick and Ryan Hunter-Reay to compete for a top-five finish before the mishap. Sato did not yet drive on an oval track until Wednesday's rookie testing session at Kansas Speedway.

More information in the press releases section of the website, please follow this link:

<http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/index.php>

## Lotus Engineering demonstrates the lightweight future of the passenger car

A recent study by Lotus Engineering concludes that a vehicle mass improvement of 38% versus a conventional mainstream vehicle can be achieved at only 3% cost. The study investigated scenarios for two distinct vehicle architectures appropriate for production in 2017 and 2020. The near-term scenario is based on applying industry leading mass reducing technologies, improved materials and component integration and would be assembled using existing facilities.



A benchmark Toyota Venza was disassembled, analysed and weighed to develop a bill of materials and understand component masses. In developing the two low mass concepts, Lotus Engineering employed a total vehicle mass reduction strategy utilising efficient design, component integration, materials selection, manufacturing and assembly. All key interior and exterior dimensions and volumes were retained for both models and the vehicles were packaged to accommodate key safety and structural dimensional and quality targets. The new vehicles retain the vision, sight line, comfort and occupant package of the benchmarked Toyota Venza.

More information in the press releases section of the website, please follow this link:

<http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/index.php>

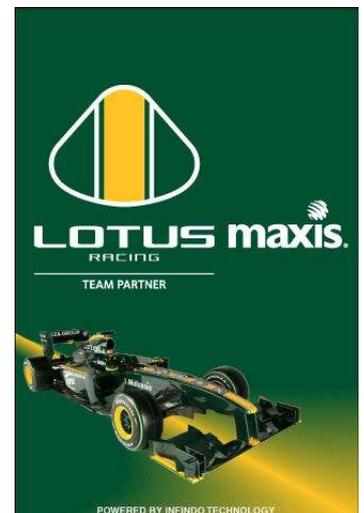
## Lotus Racing - There's an app for that!

Malaysian mobile communications giant and Lotus Racing sponsor Maxis have released an app for us all to keep up to date with this year's F1 season and our team. From the app...

"One of the most awaited premium F1™ mobile applications for the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. Simply the ultimate mobile application for the F1™ Racing fans. Get detailed information for all the races with exclusive live commentary, top stories, results, schedule, standings, drivers / teams / circuit info, and many more.

The 2010 Formula 1™ season is the 61st FIA Formula 1™ World Championship season with Michael Schumacher, the greatest F1 driver ever, announcing a comeback with Mercedes GP. Will Michael's return make an impact to this year's World Championship?

More information in the press releases section of the website, please follow this link: <http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/index.php>



## New website for SJ Sportscars

SJ Sportscars (Crediton, UK) have recently redone their website. The site has been re-designed and provides a simpler search method as well as the complete Lotus parts database. There is also a new facility for on-line ordering and payments.

SJ Sports Cars are independent Lotus specialists, known for providing parts and accessories for sale worldwide, and doing servicing and repairs in the United Kingdom.

My own experience is that due to their specialist knowledge you will get the correct parts very quickly and also some good advice. Unique are the downloadable one-model brochures.

See: <http://www.sjsportscars.co.uk/>

## Club Lotus Racing

Formula One enthusiasts should have a regular look at the Lotus Racing website as there will soon be the launch of the official Club Lotus Racing. At this moment there is no more information available than this fact, so we will have to be a bit patient for now...

This is the website: <http://www.lotusracing.my/index.php>

## About Lotus and the Indycar Series 2010

After the press release by Lotus about the fact that Lotus and Cosworth have entered into a technical and commercial partnership with IndyCar competitors KV Racing Technology, there may have been some confusion. At least I was confused after reading the press release and it may well be that this happened to more people.

Confusion because the return to the IndyCar Series followed the recent announcement that Lotus and Cosworth are to become closely-associated through a strategic partnership, looking at the opportunity to develop high-performance engines for Lotus cars. And we could also read from KV Racing Technology "We are delighted to be part of Lotus and Cosworth's return to the IndyCar Series".

Was there going to be a Lotus-Cosworth engine in a 2010 Indy Car?

Because of all confusion it may be good to mention that basically we are (at this moment in time) talking about a partnership as a sponsor.

So there is no Cosworth engine, as the entire IndyCar Series field is using Honda Indy V-8 engines. And they are all using a Dallara chassis, so there is no Lotus involvement there.

## Lotus Racing merchandise

Lotus Racing have recently launched a new line of merchandise products. Tony Fernandes' words: "I want to see a sea of green at every race, and wherever I go around the world."

Lotus Racing leads the way again as the first of the new teams to unveil its range of clothes and accessories like a lanyard, umbrella, polo and team shirt are available from the new website:

<http://shop.lotusracing.my>



## Model Cars



102D by Spark, 1/43

**Spark** showed their new version of the **Type 102D** in scale 1/43, this time it is the car used by Johnny Herbert (#12) during the South African GP 1992, where he ended the race on the 6<sup>th</sup> position.

From **Model Factory Hiro** I did recently see this very detailed **Type 56** 1/20 multimedia kit.



Type 56 by Model Factory Hiro

## Books and videos

No news this month.

## 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>.

**Le mans Classic, 9-10 July, 2010.** See [www.lemansclassic.com](http://www.lemansclassic.com). When the "Le Mans Classic" was launched in 2002, there were a lot of positives working in its favour. Firstly, one of the world's most

legendary races did not have an event celebrating its past. Furthermore, the company S.A.V.H. brought together two experts within their respective fields: the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, creator and organiser of the Le Mans 24 Hours; and Peter Auto, specialist in historic motor racing. Last, but by no means least, the fame of the French endurance race and the use of the actual 24 Hour circuit added the finishing touches.

After the first event, it became clear that the concept was fundamentally solid. For the second edition of the Le Mans Classic in 2004, it became obvious and from the third edition in 2006 Le Mans Classic has followed the racing line of its two predecessors and had a growing number of spectators.

2010 will be the 5th edition of this event.

### Club Team Lotus Festival, 20 June 2010.

Snetterton will be celebrating one of Britain's most iconic marques on Sunday 20 June when it hosts the Classic Team Lotus Festival, featuring superb demonstrations, displays and racing.

One of the highlights of the event will be a stunning gathering of Team Lotus F1 cars, including Jim Clark's 1965 Indianapolis-winning Lotus Ford 38 - which will only be appearing in the UK for a short while before returning to the Henry Ford collection in the USA.

There will also be a packed programme of Lotus racing, starring Lotus Cup Europe and Lotus on Track Elise Trophy. Other track action includes the GAZ Shocks Production BMW Championship, Heritage Grand Touring Car Challenge and the Mono Championship for single seaters.

Plus you can enjoy classic Lotus parades, display areas from several Lotus clubs, a huge exhibition area and a fantastic party atmosphere.

See <http://www.classicteamlotus.co.uk>

Tickets:

<http://ticket.motorsportvision.co.uk/calendar/2010/june/100620-lotus-sn.aspx>

TICKETS  
0870 950 9000  
www.motorsportvision.co.uk

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### Castle Comb track day, 29 May 2010

This is the main track day of the year for Club Lotus, at the Castle Comb circuit near Chippenham, Wilts. For information please contact [jane@clublotus.co.uk](mailto:jane@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.

Last month I did put some more Lotus brochures online for you to download!

This newsletter is send 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 of the list.