

The first words

It is a very busy time at work, something that seems to become a tradition by the end of the year. As many people are already preparing for Christmas it may be a good idea to show some extra Lotus miniature models in this newsletter, both older and brand new versions, to give your loved ones some inspiration....

Very good news is that Lotus have managed to change a loss that was close to the amount of GBP 5000000 into a profit of GBP 2000000 – great job! Read about it in the press release section of the website.

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

Ronald Ringma

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News from Group Lotus

Recently we did see:

- Racebred 2-Eleven unleashed
- Lotus – year end financial results to 31 March 2008
- Lotus Wins Award for Engine Research that Delivers 15% CO2 Reduction
- The 2009 Model Year Lotus Exige Cup 260: Add Lightness to Increase Performance
- New Lotus Cup Europe Race Series

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

Of course new pages have been made for the press releases section, new items have been added to several other existing pages. A complete overview of what is new can be found at the 'news' page on the website: <http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/new.php>.

ProActive

The latest issue, number 28, is out and can be downloaded if you use the hyperlink from the website.

Subjects are:

- The Project Eagle story
- Driving dynamics
- Q&A with Bob Lee
- Lotus Evora design story

Please see: <http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Proactive/index.php>

Model cars

I 'discovered' a 1/20 transkit from Factory T'z (Japan) that can transfer the Type 78 1/20 Tamiya model into a **Type 72D**. An image and a description can be found in the model car section of the website, on the Type 78 page.

The AutoArt **Europa S** in 1/18th scale is now available!

The Hot Wheels **Designer Challenge** model has now been seen in colour variations, I did see a red, white and silver version!



Until now, I did know about the white version being a pre-production model. So I anybody can tell me more about this, please let me and the other readers know.

In between my job and my family life I am always looking out for Lotus related news and, as part of my hobby, for Lotus miniature models. But it is impossible to find everything, so your help is most important to me. From one of the readers I did get images of miniature models from days gone, here are a few of these (thank you David!):



18 Circuit Series 1-43



25 Mikansue 1-43



49 Meri 1-43



49 Meri 1-43

Tesla News

The financial crisis is also hitting 'our world' as Tesla Motors recently announced that they are putting the Model S sedan (also known as Whitestar) on hold, closing the Michigan facility that was working on some of the sedan's engineering and laying off an unspecified number of people.

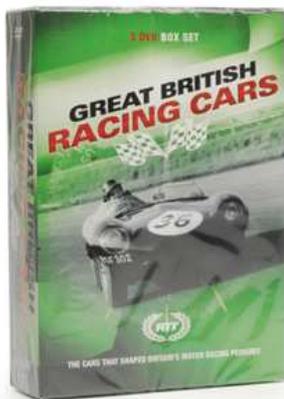
Tesla told San Jose officials that it will focus on selling its Roadster and power trains, and that it still intends to build a plant and its headquarters in San Jose, although the schedule may slip a bit.

LG Lotus

Here is a new Lotus that you may like; the LG Lotus! The squarish flip phone has a full QWERTY keyboard for texters, a One Click button that can be programmed to summon your favorite application (text, email, media player), a two-megapixel camera with video capture, stereo Bluetooth, music player, GPS, and microSD memory slot. And... it's almost Christmas time!



Books and videos



A new DVD set that you should know about is '**Greatest British Racing Cars**'. This set of three DVD's contents:

Aston Martin, the Story of how Aston Martin won Le Mans and became World Leaders in the production of luxury sports cars.

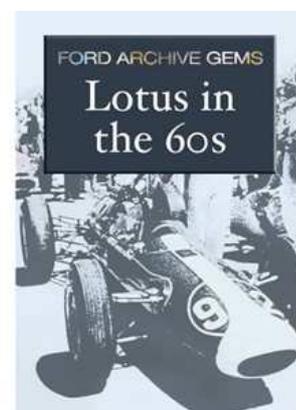
Jaguar, the story of the famous C & D type cars which dominated Le Mans in the 1950s

Lotus, the story of how Colin Chapman took his small shoestring operation and turned it into a successful motor racing team. It also charts the success of Lotus innovations which made their road cars so successful.

Another DVD that I did not yet mention in the newsletter is '**Lotus in the 60's**'. The story of a legend told through rare archive film from iconic car manufacturer Ford.

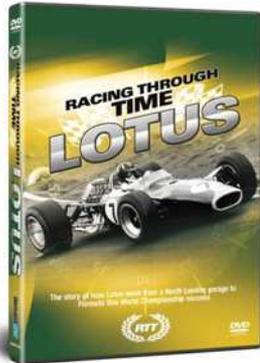
This breathtaking collection of extraordinary archive film is a unique insight into a golden era of motorsport, on both sides of the Atlantic.

Lotus in the Sixties includes a rare glimpse of footage from the 1969 Monaco GP, incredible trackside film from the legendary Indi 500 and the rookie appearance of superstar of speed Mario Andretti.



Just to show that I was really into multimedia this month, here is an other new DVD that is very interesting for us:

Racing Through Time, Lotus



Colin Chapman helped establish the British racing industry with his shoestring operation. His innovations led to a new approach racing and he also manufactured road cars too, such as the Élan and the Elite. The second part of the Lotus story with the 1960s Grand Prix racing cars. Innovations and world championships continued in the last flowering of Lotus' success in the 1970s

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

Location: International exhibition centre Donnington Park, Castle Donnington Nr Derby, England. More information: Club Lotus, events@clublotus.co.uk

May 21-25 2009, Lotus Club Holland International Meeting



More information will be available soon on the website, <http://www.lotusclubholland.nl>

The program is available for download now, please look here:

<http://www.lotusclubholland.nl/publicaties/2009/Lotus%20Club%20Holland%20ENG-V3.pdf>

The application form can be found here:

http://www.lotusclubholland.nl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=418&Itemid=9

Downloads

From the website you can now download the manual and partslist for the Lotus Europa, please have a look at either our download page or the manual section of the website.

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.