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The first words

A little bit late this time, ill health forced me to take it easy the last weeks. This time I have some interesting images of aluminium Lotus Elans, the Lotus Elan hardtop, rare cars for sale and more.

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>

In this section of the website you will find the latest news by Lotus, normally unedited. But you will also find my own reports here, like recently the images from the IAA in Frankfurt.

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.

If you like to know if there is an update on this page, I suggest you become a friend on Facebook, as all the updates will be mentioned there. Or you can also get Google+, where I am also giving notice of updates on the website.

Finally, if you get an RSS reader, you will be able to receive updates by RSS. So there are lots of possibilities to stay up-to-date!

Various Formula One team name changes

Formula One team Virgin Racing is now the third team that has informed the FIA that it wants to change its name, starting in the 2012 season. We already know that Lotus Renault GP wants to be known as "Lotus" and the current Team Lotus wants to continue as "Caterham". Virgin wants to change its name to Marussia, after the Russian sports-car maker that sponsors the team.

In order to complete a name change, 18 of 26 voters on the Formula One Commission must approve the application.

Group Lotus Secures British Government Backing

Group Lotus awarded multi million Regional Growth Fund

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has formally confirmed that Group Lotus' bid for funds from the second round of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) has been successful. One of the main purposes of the Regional Growth Fund is to support growth within the UK manufacturing sector. Lotus recognised that the Government was seeking applications which would enable private sector organisations to invest in projects that would create jobs and secure long-term growth. Lotus' growth plans are completely aligned with the Fund's objectives and will go some way towards rebalancing employment between the public and private sector in the South Norfolk region.

The grant will be put to good use supporting the industrial research element of the production of Lotus' future product range. This significant development will go towards ensuring that the manufacturing of future Lotus products remains in the UK for the foreseeable future and in the process create a considerable number of new jobs over the next five to six years.

Read the full story in the Press Releases section of my website:

http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/Press/Lotus_secures_government_backing.php

New issue of the Lotus Magazine



Issue number 4 is now available, the winter 2011 edition of this magazine. I hope to be able to give you a review next time, at this moment I do not yet have a copy of the magazine.

Contents: Lindsay Lohan loves Lotus, tattoo artist Scott Campbell, a secret place for Skiing revealed, Lotus in music video's, interview with fashion designer Helmut Lang and much more!

Hardtop for Elan

Now that the winter is coming, you may like to have some more comfort while driving your Elan. I still have some images of me in an Elan DHC in the snow, but can't find these right now. Driving open of course, with a soft-top on my own head... Anyhow, it's good to know that the Lenham hardtop, that was used by Elan drivers in the 1970's, still seems to be available!

Have a look here: <http://www.lenhammotorcompanyltd.co.uk/Index.html> and browse through the product list to find: CCK42 Lotus Elan Hardtop



(images made by Nico, copied from an advertisement)

First Lotus showroom in China

The First week of November saw a major milestone event in Group Lotus' history as the first Lotus showroom in China was declared officially open for business. The formal opening ceremony at the showroom in Beijing was overseen by senior representatives of Group Lotus and Lotus China alongside Clive Chapman, the son of Lotus Founder Colin Chapman.



China-based sports car enthusiasts had their appetites for the Lotus brand whetted with the first public unveiling of the Evora GTE Road Car and the F1-inspired customer race car, the T125 before being

introduced to the rest of the current Lotus line-up. The Beijing Showroom features six models, the Elise R, Elise SC, Evora, Evora IPS, Exige S 240 and the Exige S 260.

Speaking at the launch Li-Chen Zhang, President and CEO of Lotus China said: "This is the first showroom that the Lotus brand has set up in China since entering the Chinese market on June 15 and it's a very proud day for all of us who believe so strongly in the brand. We truly believe that the Chinese market will completely embrace the Lotus philosophy of performance through lightweight and innovation through clever design – we sold around 300 units before we even opened the showroom so the initial interest and orders put forward indicate that our faith in the brand is well placed."



Group Lotus Chief Executive Office Dany Bahar said: "East Asia and in particular China represents an interesting market for Lotus and this latest development is a crucial step in the strategic plan we have for expansion within this important region. We see many exciting opportunities for growth within the Chinese market and we could not ask for better partners than Lotus China to join us on this journey. The response we have had from China to the current and new Lotus range has been incredible particularly the demand for the Evora GTE Road Car – this activity confirms our suspicions that now is the perfect time to really push in this market."

The showroom, situated in the fashionable Chaoyang district, also represents another key event in Lotus' journey as it's the first showroom in the world to adopt Group Lotus' new corporate identity alongside a dedicated boutique for Lotus Originals. Covering a total area of 600m², the uniquely designed showroom has two floors, the first is dedicated to the cars, sales and Lotus Originals with offices on the second.

A further ten showrooms are expected to be opened in China in 2012.

IWR Elans



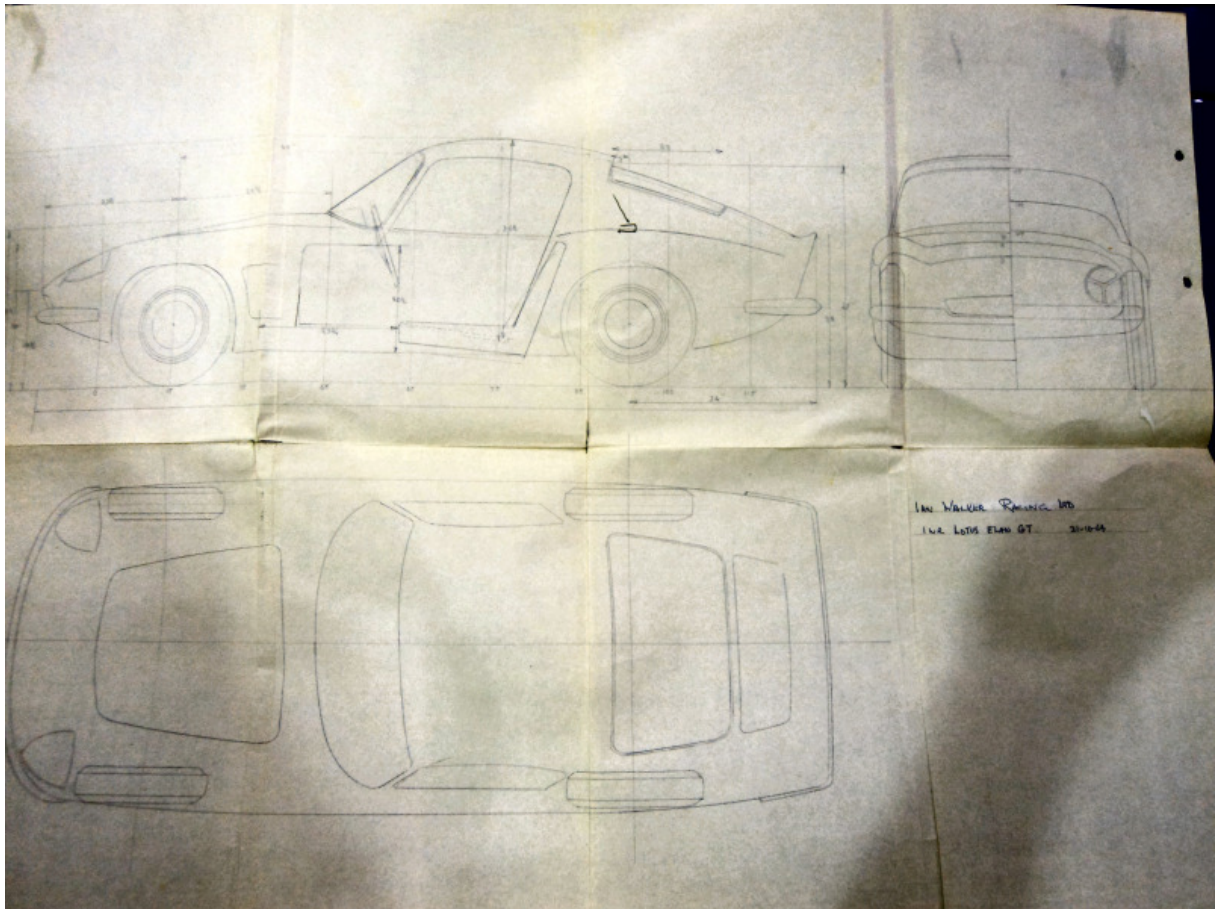
At the Club Lotus Show in Donington many visitors had a look at a very strange Lotus Elan. In fact, this was the second aluminium bodied Elan that was designed by Ian Walker Racing (IWR) and was bodied by Harold Radford.

On the left side is an image of this car, taken in Switzerland while it was for sale at Christoph Grohe Classic Cars, I believe in the year 2002. It spent a large part of its life in a collection in Switzerland.

Not a real beauty with its Triumph Vitesse or Gordon Keeble lookalike front end, and that was also the opinion of Colin Chapman who warned Ian Walker that he would not

sell him any new Elans if Ian would continue to redesign these cars.

I was able to have a chat with the current very enthusiastic owner Bill Graham who did show me the original drawings of the two Elans that have been designed by Ian Walker.



On this original drawing you can see the two different back-ends of the two cars

In my opinion this modified Elan looks odd. But then again, I was also talking with people who seemed to be charmed by it. And with what I know now, the enthusiasm of Bill may have had a reason.... The car is now for sale at Paul Matty Sports Cars, asking GBP 75,000.

To make this story more complete, here are some images of the first IWR Elan, also aluminium bodied. As far as I know Paul Matty is the owner of this car and his wife used to race it.

This is the car that was supposed to go racing at Le Mans but was parked on its roof by Mike Spence during a race just before Le Mans. It's looks very different compared with the second IWR Elan. This one has the Elan front end (more or less), Cortina rear lights (as shown on the drawing) and the interior is built for racing. Note the huge Le Mans filler cap and pipe.



Rare cars for sale

Sometimes you can still find a treasure in a barn.... This 1964 Elan S1 was a very rare time warp find recently on eBay. Parked in the garage since 1973 after a rear axle flex joint disintegrated. The plugs were pulled and cylinders filled with oil at that time. Brakes, clutch hydraulics, and lights appear to work properly. Engine has not been started - it needs to be fully inspected first. Prior to parking it in the garage, all service was carried out by the book. Factory shop manual is included. 32.015 miles only.



And off course the IWR Elan. as mentioned earlier, is also for sale and therefore deserves to be mentioned in this article. No, I'm not getting a percentage of the sale. Unfortunately....



Model Cars



This Lotus **Elan S4 Sprint FHC** 1971 by **Spark**, scale 1:43, is expected to be released very soon.

New from **Minichamps** is this 1:43 scale **Type 79**, the car that was used by Nigel Mansell during his first Formula One test at Paul Ricard, October 1979



This **Elan 26R** by **Spark**, scale 1:43, was released recently. This is the Walker Racing Lotus Elan 26R as raced by Tommy Weber, Crystal Palace 1964.



New from **AxeIR**, a transkit to change a 1:43 diecast Type 49 model to the version as raced by Soler-Roig during his 1970 home Spanish GP.

Includes good quality decals, air intake and rear wing. Limited to 75 pieces.



Spark recently announced that this **Type 30 S2** will be available now. It is the car as driven by Muir for Team Willment, No.17, Zeltweg 1965.



Ebbro, known for their very well made (Spark) 1:43 models, has now also announced a plastic kit, scale 1:20. Release date and price are yet to be announced, but here is an impression of their new **Type 72C** kit!



Also new from **Spark**, this 1:43 **Type 78** Cosworth F1 Imperial Racing as driven by Gunnar Nilsson during the Japanese GP in 1977

New from **Spark**, this 1:43 **Type 78** Cosworth F1 Team Lotus John Player Special as driven by Mario Andretti during the Japanese GP in 1977



A model that was already announced at last years Nuremberg Toy Show Is now available, this **Elan M100** made by **Premium X**, scale 1:43. So far, I did only see the red version with closed top, But the open top version should also be available by now.

Also made by **Spark**, this 1:43 scale **Type 102** as driven by Martin Donnelly during the Belgium Formula One Grand prix in 1990.

Earlier, Spark announced the Herbert and Warwick versions as well, lets wait and see....

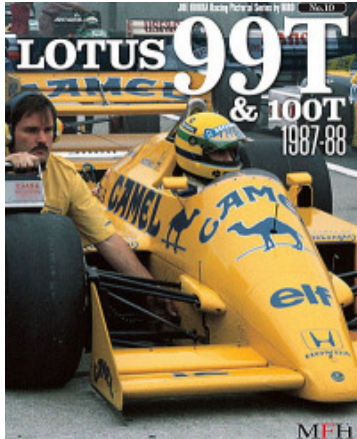


Coming soon:

Team Lotus **T128** by **Spark**, 1:43 scale, as driven by Chandhock during the German Formula One GP 2011.

Norev has announced a 1:43 model of the 1979 **Caterham** Super Seven in white, expected April 2012. Also announced by **Norev**, a 1:43 scale diecast model of the **Caterham** Super Seven from 1983, finished in a two-tone yellow and green colour way.

Books and videos



Joe Honda Photobook Vol. 10, Lotus 99T & 100T

This is a modelling guide produced for Model Factory Hiro, based on the work of Japanese motorsports photographer Joe Honda and are inspired by the subjects that Hiro have released. Plenty of race action and of course the all important close up photos of the cars in various pit garages and paddocks. Obviously it is intended to compliment one of the Hiro kits of this car but this book will be interesting for F1 and Lotus fans in general. Japanese text.

A new book presented by the Lotus Renault Grand Prix team.

Memories are made of this is a comic book, offering you a 2011 F1 Season review by artist Cirebox, featuring LRGP and other F1 characters.

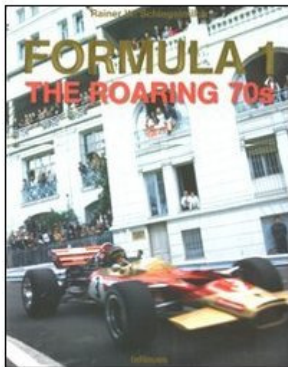
Paperback: 54 pages

Language: English

Product dimensions: 29,7x22x1,2cm



Formula 1 – the roaring 70's



With "The Golden Age of Formula 1", legendary photographer **Rainer W. Schlegelmilch** created a homage to a special time in racing. That successful title not only showcased great sports images, it defined the essence of an era and also set a very high standard for Schlegelmilch's new book, "Formula 1: The Roaring 70s". The colour photography has an intriguing and exciting feel, leading the readers back to an ambiance far removed from today's glossy standards. Those halcyon days really did have a special charm all their own. This volume presents all the stars of the decade: Jackie Stewart, Emerson Fittipaldi, Niki Lauda, and Mario Andretti. Even the uninitiated will become true fans.

Hardcover, 216 pages. Language English, German, French, Italian, Spanish. ISBN-10: 3832795375, ISBN-13: 978-3832795375, size 34,6 x 28,4 x 3 cm

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>.



13-15 April 2012

Hockenheim Historic – The Jim Clark Revival.

For information, please see <http://www.hockenheim-historic.de/>

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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