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The first words

Thank you all for your reactions to the last newsletter. And for sharing the information that some of the readers are sending me on a regular basis.

The Evora is hot, so I had to give you some information on books, brochures and the preproduction line. Also a lot of model car information this month, as there is a lot of news but also because I am a collector myself I guess....

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

Ronald Ringma



In this issue:

- News from Group Lotus
- New on the website
- Lotus Evora development end pre-production images
- Lotus Evora brochures
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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 Receive the 2008 Dewar Trophy for Technical Excellence.
The Royal Automobile Club has named Group Lotus plc as the recipients of the historic Dewar Trophy for 2008. The Dewar Trophy is awarded for an outstanding British technical achievement in the automotive field and the Dewar Trophy Technical Sub-Committee unanimously agreed that Lotus should be recognised for the company's development of its Versatile Vehicle Architecture (VVA) chassis technology.

New on the website

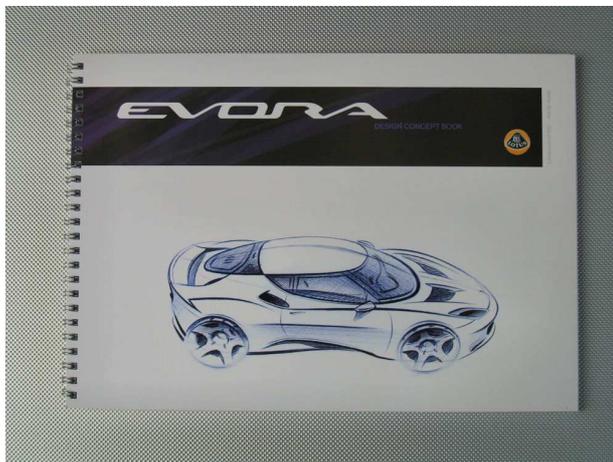
Of course new items have been added to several sections of the website. A complete overview of what is new can be found at the 'news' page on the website: <http://www.lotusdriversguide.com/new.php>.

Lotus Evora development and pre-production images

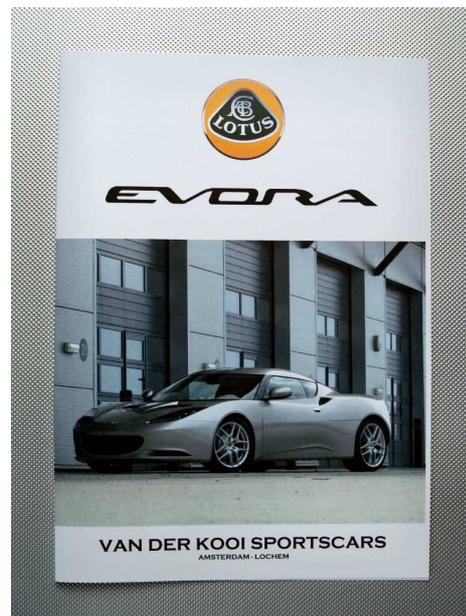
In the Genealogy section of the website I have made a new page, containing some Evora development images that I did make and some pre-production line images made by Lotus. You can access this page from the Genealogy menu and from the Evora page in this section.

Lotus Evora brochures

Recently I did 'discover' the Evora Design Concept Book. I did not yet see this before, it is an A4 sized book that includes a lot of drawings and images presenting the viewer the story of the Evora development. Group Lotus have made a limited run of 500 copies of this book.



Evora Design Concept Book



Dutch Lotus Evora brochure

On the Dutch Autorai car show a new brochure made by the Dutch distributor was handed out. Please see the image above.

More Evora (and other) brochures can be seen in the brochure and the download sections of the website.

Lotus on show

Group Lotus are showing the 2009 cars, including the new Evora, to the public. Here are some images from Geneva and Amsterdam:



Exige S, Geneva Motorshow 2009



Evora, Geneva Motorshow 2009



Amsterdam Autorai 2009

Model Cars

Do you remember the **Sussex police Exige**? If not, update yourself in the Press Releases section of the website, please see October 2007. The fully liveried Lotus Exige S was a pivotal part of the Force's campaign to educate less experienced drivers.

I did recently find a miniature copy of this car, based on the Autoart Exige. It is what collectors call a code 3 model, a model that has been altered without permission of the original makers. I do not know how many examples of this alternative model have been produced.



Sussex Police Exige



...and model car

At the Toyfair in Nürnberg last February, **Ninco** presented a new 1/32nd Lotus Exige slot race model. Here are some images:



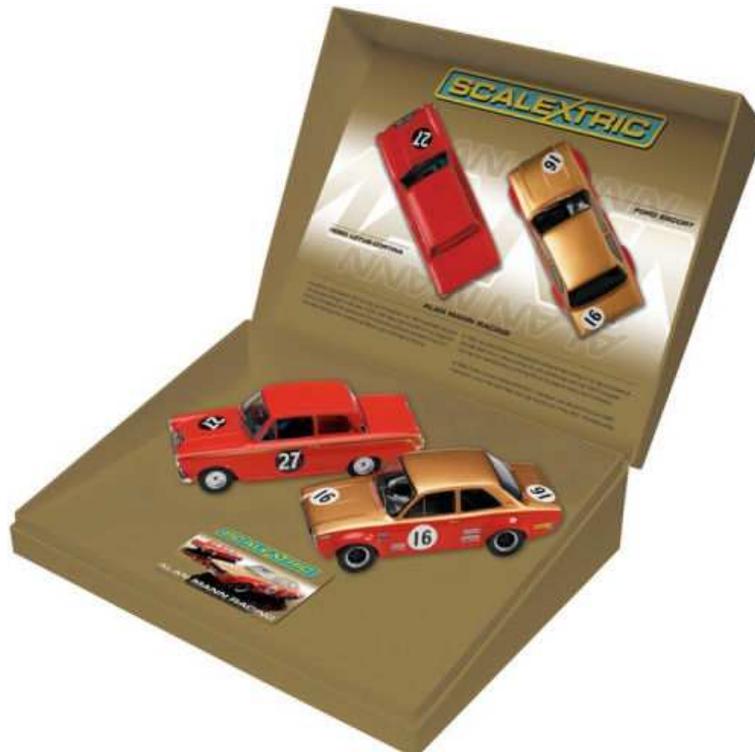
Ninco Lotus Exige slot race model 1/32nd

Scalextric have a new Alan Mann slot car set, including the Lotus Cortina, scale 1/32nd.

Some background information:

Alan Mann raced saloon and touring cars throughout the 1960s and later became racing team manager in the early 1970s. Alan Mann was notable for his allegiance to Ford throughout this period and the distinctive gold and red team colours of Alan Mann Racing draw attention at historic race meetings to this day.

In 1965, Sir John Whitmore enjoyed an extraordinary string of racing successes in the Alan Mann Ford Lotus Cortina. Sir John Whitmore won the 1965 European Touring Car Championship, winning his class in every race entered.



Scalextric Alan Mann set

And as I am writing about slot race models, I was told to expect a 1/32nd Lotus 79 slot car made by **Fly car model** after the summer of 2009. I do not have an image yet, who can help me here please?

The 1/32nd Lotus 79 slot car that was announced by **Ostorero** last year should now be available soon as far as I know, in Hector Rebaque and Ronnie Peterson version, here are some images:



Ostorero Lotus 79 Peterson



Ostorero Lotus 79 Rebaque

More slot car news, as **Superslot** (Scalextric) have also announced some new models, the Type 49 in Jim Clark and Graham Hill versions. I do not have any images yet at this moment, except a promotional artists impression of the two models.



Matchbox Lotus Evora



Matchbox Lotus Evora



Matchbox Lotus Europa

Matchbox have presented the new versions of their 1/64 **Evora** and in the so called Heritage Classics series Matchbox have reissued the Lotus Europa.



Hotwheels Esprit

More small scale news; **Hotwheels** have presented a new 1/64 version of the Lotus **Esprit** in their Clover Cars Series. Also new in the Easter Eggsclusives series of Hotwheels is the **Sport Elise**



Hotwheels Sport Elise

Unique **Esprit** (**AutoArt** 1/18) diorama! Somebody has created a very nicely done scrapyard diorama with an old Esprit model. The fun part...the rust on the bodywork....



Many of us will remember the television series called 'The Avengers' due to the fact that Emma Peel used to drive a Lotus Elan. In fact she started with a white S2 DHC (as featured in the Corgi Avengers gift set in the 1960s) and later in the series she did use a blue Elan S3 DHC.

The people from **Vitesse** have made a copy of the blue **Emma Peel Elan**, scale 1/43rd. Based largely upon the Vitesse Lotus Elan model, but modified and upgraded in various ways. It is said that only 195 of these models have been produced a while back, so it will be difficult to get one.

The standard Vitesse model featured headlights with working pop-up mechanism headlights, whilst this upgraded version has the lights fixed in the closed position.



Vitesse Elan S3 DHC Emma Peel

The Vitesse model was of the Elan S4. The upgrades to the model include the removal of the side repeater indicators above the front wheel arches and windscreen top has been slimmed down. Special badges have been added to the front wings.

The conversion also features beautifully finished new paint - the Vitesse versions never came in this colour - and the correct SJH 499D number plates. Also we see silver painted bumpers and trim.

The model a special box where we can read a brief history of the car and the tv series, plus where the original car can be seen today.

And hot news from **Spark**: the **340R** model is now available, here is an image for you:



340R by Spark, resin, 1/43rd

Books and videos

Colin Pitt has published a new soft back book in December 2008: 'Lotus **Elise**, Exige and 2-Eleven'. A book with collected road tests and articles. ISBN 1841556955, 102 printed pages.

The well known writer John Tipler has informed me that he is very near to finishing his new book. It's on the **Evora** and due for publication by Coterie Press in June. He is working on the page proofs of the Evora book right now. It will be similar to the Elise book that Coterie did, but all the material is vetted by Lotus, all the people concerned with the design and inception have been interviewed.

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

April 24-26 Hockenheim Historic – in memory of Jim Clark

Classical route cars, GT-vehicles, different formula vehicles from past eras as well as fast sports prototypes will be at the start. The "Hockenheim Historic – In Memory of Jim Clark" is a platform for all veteran car fans and owners of classical vehicles of all years of construction. All fans of historical motorsports are welcome to the racings, the spacious club areas as well as the stands.

More information: www.hockenheim-historic.de.

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 put some recent brochures in the downloads section, including Evora brochures! And a checklist made by Lotus Sport to use before a track day.