

# Meet Our Guests



## Bob Dance:

Bob was a chief engineer at Lotus the early 1960s and again from 1976-94, has been honoured with a John Bolster Award at the AUTOSPORT Awards in recognition of his outstanding achievements in motorsport.

Bob Dance's motorsport career is as impressive as it is extensive. From his first forays into the sport in 1950 through to his Formula 1 spells with Lotus, March and Brabham and later work with the Audi and Bentley Le Mans projects, he has been driven by un-stinting passion and fastidious attention to detail. His work continues to this day as an integral member of Classic Team Lotus.

Bob was a chief engineer at Lotus the early 1960s, before in 1963 "I asked Colin if I could switch from the components and development department at Lotus to the race team. But Colin said 'Don't do that. It's a dead end job.' "He was right because here I am all these years later still doing it!" Along the way Bob worked closely with Jim Clark and in 1968 became chief mechanic, playing a significant role in Graham Hill's 1968 championship triumph in the Cosworth-powered Lotus 49.

Bob moved away from Lotus to work with Max Mosley's new March outfit, and then later joined Bernie Ecclestone's Brabham. At the time he worked not only with Carlos Pace and Carlos Reutemann but also the man he calls the best designer of the time, Gordon Murray.

Lotus beckoned once more in 1976, with Dance joining as chief mechanic. He stayed until the doors closed in 1994, as a result working with Mario Andretti, Emerson Fittipaldi, Ayrton Senna and Mika Hakkinen.



## Matt Becker:

The LOG 33 committee is pleased to announce that Matt Becker, Head of Test and Development for Lotus Cars will be joining us as our featured guest speaker at LOG 33 in August.

Matt has been with Lotus since 1988 and along the way has helped develop the Elise Mk1 and the development of multiple vehicle systems for the Elise Mk2, Exige and Evora.

Matt brings unique viewpoints and perspective to many of the Lotus cars that will be brought to LOG and that are driven every day by our members.

Besides being our guest speaker, Matt will be available all weekend for one on one conversation, and a "come look at my car" opportunity. How often can you say that you sat down with lead development person who is responsible for the way your car feels and drives. You can if you come to LOG 33.



## Brian Buckland:

Our guest for LOG 33 is Brian Buckland. Noted author of the Lotus Elan Addendum Engineering Workshop Manual. Brian is one of the world's leading authorities on the wonderful Lotus Elan and is willing to share his wealth of knowledge to anyone that will listen.

Brian is back for his second time to LOG and we hope you take advantage of one of his lectures that will be held throughout the weekend. You can also catch on a one on one basis during the weekend. Show him you Lotus Elan and if you are like me, within

5 minutes you will realize how little you know about the Elan and how much Brian does.

## John Ambler:

John Ambler, from Pennsylvania, became a part time member of Team Lotus through helping repair a damaged Lotus 72 at Watkins Glen. This was followed by doing the US and Canadian GP's and in turn becoming a full time member of the Team based out of Ketteringham Hall.

His involvement spanned 8 years and the Types 72 thru the inception of the T92 (about half of the Lotus F1 car types of the Chapman era). He was involved throughout the ground effect period, including the conception and development of the twin chassis cars. John was a part of a very small group that tested concepts for, developed and constructed the first F1 team built composite chassis. This is a design concept that has done so much to improve driver safety and racecar performance that it is still in use today three decades later. Some may also know him as the proprietor of The Lotus Workshop.

John would be pleased to share insights into his experiences and the amazing group of dedicated, talented co-workers that carried out Colin Chapman's inspirations making Team Lotus what it was. John welcomes and looks forward to discussion with and questions from loggers.



## Steve Allen:

Steve Allen joined Lotus cars in 197, was transferred to Team Lotus in 1979 and finally to Classic Team Lotus in 1999. He worked with Colin Chapman looking after his aircraft expenses (landing fee's etc) and used to receive an invite to Colin's Christmas sherry party. At Team Lotus he worked with drivers who included Nigel Mansell, Mario Andretti, Elio de Angelis and Ayrton Senna. Steve's main job was accountant but was also involved with merchandising, works tours and assisting the mechanics at the occasional race meeting.

## WATKINS GLEN

# LOG 33