

SUPER 7 *Racing*



Lets Race



What is Super 7 Racing?



Since the first Lotus 7 of Colin Chapman appeared in 1957 and amazed the racing community with its brilliant performance from a relatively underpowered but genius design, Lotus Sevens have been attractive to sports car lovers and racing drivers all over the world. Even though very little has been changed on the cars since then it is more popular than ever. So too here in South Africa.

The Lotus Register was founded in 1985 by Lotus car lovers in South Africa from where the Lotus Challenge as the racing platform for this club initiated. Lotus seven replicas were welcomed into the fraternity and immediately showed why this design by Colin Chapman dominated club races and more. A road class (cars in full road trim) and a racing class was established to give everybody the opportunity to put their cars through their paces under conditions it was designed for.

But racing is racing and not before long Lotus 7's became the quickest cars on the Regional Circuit. All this obviously came at a price and to compete on that level became very expensive.

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This is where Super 7 Racing comes to play it's very attractive yet affordable role. This is a series, based on a standard drive train, that has for nearly 50 years thrilled race drivers and enthusiasts alike. Lap times on any race track in a Super 7 will shame most highly tuned sports cars and even in endurance races is the car to back(or drive).

A Super 7 race car is basically a Lotus 7 replica(or authentic Lotus 7 if you can find one), with a controlled drive train and Toyota 1600 20v engine. The aerodynamics is improved by taking the headlights and windscreen off and set-up is fine tuned for track racing.



This form of racing is not only very competitive and as close to single seater racing you can get but also affordable due to the prescribed standard state of tune of the engine.

The most important answers before you ask!

Who can participate?

Anybody with a racing driver license from Motorsport South Africa. A drivers license, acceptable medical report and application form from MSA

What vehicles are used?

In Super 7 Racing only Lotus 7 and replicas of the Lotus 7 with standard Toyota 1600 engines may participate.

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When are races taking place?

An annual calendar with all the races for the year is provided by MSA which covers all the qualified Regional Races for this specific championship.

When and where can one practise?

Some of the race tracks have dedicated practise days like Zwartkops on Wednesdays or on the day preceding a race when the track applicable is dedicated to competitors for practice. Very often special track days are organised by clubs or groups at race tracks to add some practise opportunities.

How expensive is a competitive vehicle?

Super 7 Racing focuses on affordable, competitive racing and once a vehicle as the biggest single expense has been acquired should be one of the most affordable motor racing classes available. A decent car with the prescribed Toyota engine will cost between R50 000 and R100 000.

Where can I find a vehicle to race with?

Lotus 7 derivatives are very popular and hugely in demand. As such, availability can be compared to that of any popular sports car and one should be able to source the right car in weeks from the normal trade channels. The Lotus Register and Auto Trader are good places to start looking.

There is another very exciting alternative though-and that is to build your own Lotus 7 replica! In South Africa there are mainly three suppliers that can help. They are Caterham, Birkin and Locost(all their applicable contact numbers are supplied in this booklet).

How do I obtain a racing license?

Complete the application form from MSA. Provide a medical examination form as supplied by MSA Lodge your application with MSA(in person if possible) Walk away with your license



Who can build the engine?

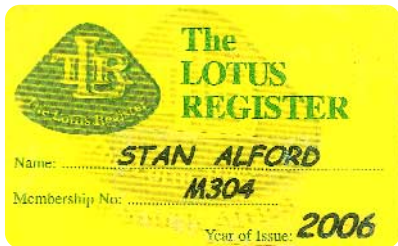
The engine used in Super 7 Racing is a standard Toyota 1600 20v engine which is not only extremely capable in the agile Super 7 chassis, but also very reliable. It is therefore not necessary to have an engine built. There are certain allowances like balancing engine components, which can be done by a reputable engineering shop like Van der Linde Developments

Who can build a car for racing?

Again-a Super 7(Lotus 7 replica) is a very capable racing car in standard trim and is very quick around a racing track. The old hands in the club will certainly provide valuable know-how to make your car even quicker once you are one of the boys!

Are there specific clubs I must belong to?

Yes-to compete one must belong to The Lotus Register.



What does a complete kit(suit, helmet etc) consist of?



A helmet certified for motor racing.



Racing suit certified for motor racing



Balaclava



Fire resistant underwear



Racing boots



Racing Gloves

Neck brace



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Where do I find?

- *An engine and gearbox*
Engines and gearboxes are available from dealers in second hand spares. Contact numbers on the last page of this book.



- *Tyres and rims for Super Seven Racing*
Tyres for the really seven Racing series is prescribed Dunlop Type R and can be obtained from ATS.



- *A racing license*
Only from Motorsport South Africa
- *The required numbers and display stickers*
All these are available through the club (TLR) but you can add a few if you want.



- *The electronic engine management system*
Various makes are available but it is advisable to opt for a more widely used system.

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- *Odds and ends*
The club(members) is a source of information and will assist where-ever possible to get you in your racing car.

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A summary of the rules that control Super 7 Racing

A simple guideline for the rules applicable to Super 7 Racing follows:
(A full set of the rules and regulations can be obtained from the TLR web site: www.lotusregister.co.za.)

- One must be registered with The Lotus Register and be in possession of a racing license from MSA.
- The prescribed clothing and helmet must be worn.
- The car must be a Lotus 7 or replica with a standard Toyota 1600 20v engine.
- Tyres are Dunlop Type R with a width of not more than rim 7J. Rims can be between 13" and 15". Only TWO sets per year are allowed.
- A full roll cage must be fitted to the car.
- The car including driver and fluids after a race, may not be less than 630kg.
- Head lights and windscreen may be removed.
- Aerodynamics of the car may not be improved except to fit a cover over the passenger side of the vehicle.
- Length and width of the cars are limited.
- Only approved safety harness allowed.
- The car must be wired according to MSA rules and marked accordingly.
- The relevant numbers(obtained from TLR) and backings must be displayed on the car during races.

A very short history of the Lotus Seven

Very few cars have a history covered in glory such as the Lotus Seven and after more than fifty years is still capable of upsetting much more expensive and sophisticated machinery on the racetrack.

Designed and manufactured by Colin Chapman (born in London in 1928), the Lotus Seven evolved from the extremely successful Lotus XI which won the Index of Performance at Le Mans of 1956 and set a speed record for its engine size.

The Lotus Seven was the first Lotus to be built for customers and a huge success in the club racing scene and its basic design is still today difficult to improve on. In 1973 Caterham Cars obtained manufacturing rights of the Lotus 7 from Lotus and is still today producing some of the most exciting Sevens available. Caterham called these cars the Super 7 as it was already then obvious that the cars' fundamental design was nearly impossible to improve on. These were the first kit cars and became the basis of most later kit cars. Lotus was again at the forefront of automotive history by allowing all the parts of the car to be sold, plus the instructions to assemble it. This reduced labour costs and taxes dramatically and made the Lotus design philosophy - sports performance from a standard engine and simple design - available to enthusiasts all over the world.

Open classes have been dominated by Sevens all over the globe and in 1986 Caterham started a one make Super 7 championship in England which was followed in various countries.

There are today many copies of the original Lotus Seven available, but the best ones are undoubtedly those that have kept the original Colin Chapman philosophy of performance through simplicity alive.

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How do I get involved in Super 7 Racing ? (A summary)

1. Buy a Lotus 7 or replica and make sure that it complies with the rules(somewhere in this book).
2. Become a member of The Lotus Register.
3. Obtain your racing driver's license.
4. Register with Toyota Motorsport for special discounts on items for your racing car.
5. Practise as much as possible(on track!)
6. Enter for races.
7. Call the help numbers for Super 7 Racing for guidance.



If this looks like fun, you should be on track.
Play Station is nothing in comparison to the real thing.
Man, can they race!
This is life.
0-100 in five seconds!

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Books to read:

Going Faster The Skip Barber Racing School

Build your own race car for 250 pounds - Ron Champion

Magnificent 7 - Chris Rees

Prepare to win - Carroll Smith

Tune to win - Carroll Smith

Drive to win - Carroll Smith

Web sites to visit:

www.lotussuper7cars.com

www.lotusregister.co.za

www.birkindirect.com

www.locost.co.za

www.bbc.co.uk (search:Colin Chapman and Lotus Cars)

Credits:

Dave Hastie for the photos

super7cars.com

bbc.co.uk

The Lotus Register

The Lotus Challenge

Super 7 Racing

Pointers of people and places that are prominent in the
Super 7 Racing fraternity.

The Lotus Register(Clive Wilmot) . . . . .	.082 440 2689
Lotus Challenge(James Forbes) . . . . .	.083 399 6446
Super 7 Racing. (Derek vd Merwe ) . . . . .	.082 495 6114
MSA . . . . .	.011 466 2440
Kyalami . . . . .	.011 466 2800
Zwartkops . . . . .	.012 374 5800
Wesbank Raceway . . . . .	.011 842 8000
Midvaal Racetrack . . . . .	.016 364 1277
Neil le Blanc(Technical) . . . . .	.083 505 7384
Ken Cloud(Technical) . . . . .	.082 745 4320
Toyota Motorsport . . . . .	.011 809 2755
Lou Apple(Engine and Gearbox) . . . . .	.011 493 8260
Commercial Engine and Gearbox(Kevin) . . . . .	.011 493 4401
Birkin(Cheryl) . . . . .	.082 774 6436
Locost(Brad Wooley) . . . . .	.011 794 7030
Caterham (Brian Tucker) . . . . .	.082 927 3073
ATS sports equipment . . . . .	.011 670 8400
Van der Linde Developmennts (Shaun)011 704 1063
Dave Hastie(Professional Racing Photographer)083 418 0372

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