

QUAD-CITIES BRITISH AUTO CLUB



2019 Edition / Issue 2

1 February 2019

VALENTINE'S DAY

Question:

What Valentine's Day candy is best to give a girl?

Answer:

Her-She Kisses.



2018 Heartland British Autofest
Le Claire, IA

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THE QCBAC

The QCBAC was formed to promote interest and usage of all British cars. The QCBAC website is at: <http://www.qcbac.com>

The Quad-Cities British Auto Club will hold its February 2019 dinner at the Maple Street Grille located at 303 10th Avenue, Orion IL, on Sunday the 17th of February.

JANUARY DINNER

We had 15 QCBAC members show up for the January 13th QCBAC dinner held at Hollar's Bar and Grill in Moline, IL. The food was good and the conversation was refreshing.



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BRIT CAR QUESTION:

The car below is a 1951 "roadster" developed as a racer by a manufacturer celebrating over 60 years of existence this year. It has a very interesting front profile.



Name This Car

It used the chassis, engine, gearbox, and differential from another [pre-existing] car with substantial modifications to the chassis and a sleek, aluminum two-seater body. [I think it looks nifty.]

????????????????????????????

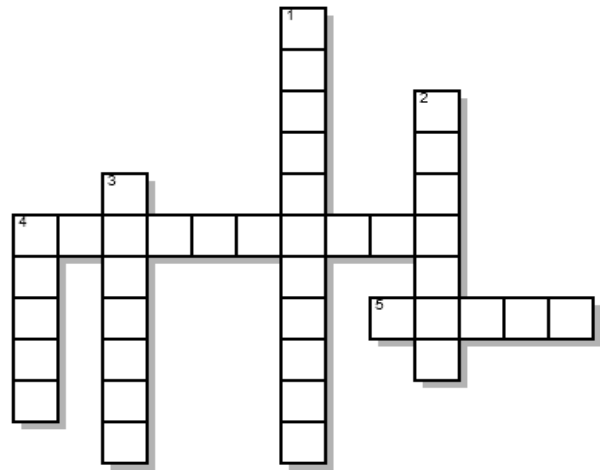
The answer appears at the end of this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Dinner	17 Feb 2019	4:00 pm
Maple Street Grille	303 - 10 th Ave.	Orion IL
Champagne British Car Festival	2 June 2019	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
David Davis Mansion	1000 Monroe Dr.	Bloomington, IL
NAMGBR Convention	23-26 June	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Car Show 26 Jun	3575 N, US-31 S	Traverse City, MI

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Valentine's Day Traditions
British and Other Countries



ACROSS

- 4 Sweet gift to celebrate Valentine's Day
- 5 Flowers with thorns often given during Valentine's Day

DOWN

- 1 Scottish village known as destination for eloping couples
- 2 Town in Scotland self-proclaimed as the "City of Love"
- 3 Town northeast of London where Jack Valentine leaves gifts at the back door for kids and adults
- 4 Small winged figure with a bow and arrow used to strike the hearts of people

PUZZLE WORDS
Chocolates, Cupid, Glasgow, Gretna Green, Norfolk, Roses.

VALENTINE'S DAY BACKGROUND

The origins of Valentine's Day are not clear but many sources believe that it stems from the story of St Valentine, a Roman priest who was martyred on or around February 14 in the year 270 AD. How he became the patron saint of lovers remains a mystery but one theory is that the church used the day of St Valentine's martyrdom to Christianize the old Roman Lupercalia, a pagan festival held around the middle of February.

Eventually the custom of sending anonymous cards or messages to those whom one admired became the accepted way of celebrating Valentine's Day. There was an increase in interest in Valentine's Day, first in the United States and then in Canada, in the mid-19th century. Early versions of Valentine cards fashioned of satin and lace and ornamented with flowers, ribbons, and images of cupids or birds appeared in England in the 1880s.

SYMBOLS

Hearts, the colors red and pink, roses, images and statues of cupids, and cupids' bows and arrows symbolize the feeling of romance and love on Valentine's Day. Cupid is usually portrayed as a small winged figure with a bow and arrow. In mythology, he uses his arrow to strike the hearts of people. People who fall in love sometimes are said to be "struck by Cupid's arrow". Valentine's Day focuses on love, romance, appreciation and friendship.

VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE UK

According to a 2017 study more than half (52%) of the UK population didn't plan to buy a gift for their loved ones for Valentine's Day. In fact, 48% didn't even plan on buying a card.

However, the study conducted for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) calculated that the people in the UK would spend almost half a billion pounds on Valentine's Day gifts, men spending about 40 pounds each, which is nearly twice as much as women. The study also predicted that the average spending on Valentine's Day would rise 12% compared to the year before.



LOTUS KIT CARS

Lotus Cars were covered in the QCBAC newsletter distributed back in January of 2017. However, Lotus is currently celebrating their 60th year of producing cars [67 years overall] so I decided to revisit Lotus Cars. The Lotus car company epitomized the British car manufacturer's efforts to create obtainable sports cars, bring race cars to the general public, and bypass restrictive government regulations by capitalizing on loopholes. It is great that the Lotus company has hung on through the years (sometimes by their fingernails) and continue to focus on "simplify, then add lightness" in their performance cars.

LOTUS CARS



The first factory was situated in old stables behind the Railway Hotel in Hornsey, North London. Team Lotus, which was split off from Lotus Engineering in 1954, was active and competitive in Formula One racing from 1958 to 1994.

The Lotus Group of Companies was formed in 1959. This was made up of Lotus Cars Limited and Lotus Components Limited.



Hornsey located in the North London area.



Colin Chapman in 1965

The founding company was formed in 1952 as Lotus Engineering Ltd. by engineers Colin Dare and Colin Chapman. Both engineers were graduates of University College, London.

The four letters in the middle of the logo stand for the initials of company founder, Anthony Colin Bruce Chapman.

LOTUS KIT CARS

The influence of Lotus on British auto-making started before Lotus even existed. The [Lotus] Mark I, as it was later called, was the first car designed and built by Colin Chapman in 1948, while Chapman was still a student at the University of London. The 1948 Lotus Mark I was constructed on an Austin 7 chassis and running gear while the body utilized a composite made of thin aluminum bonded to plywood. Chapman and his future wife competed with the car in English Trials, a form of competition over rough terrain against time.



1948 [Lotus] Mark I (replica)



1949 [Lotus] Mark II

The car that later became known as the [Lotus] Mark II was created in 1949, while Colin Chapman was serving with the RAF. For his second car Chapman built on the lessons learned from Lotus Mark I, so he again used the widely available and inexpensive Austin 7 chassis as a starting point. He boxed in the chassis rails and replaced the cross members with stronger tubular braces. He swapped the Austin engine for a Ford engine and transmission, first from a Ford 8, then from a Ford 10, but retained the Austin 7 rear axle. Chapman modified the engine as far as the club rules would allow.

In 1951, Chapman focused on a car for road racing to compete in the 750 Motor Club formula. Chapman used the Austin 7's chassis, engine, gearbox, and differential. A sleek aluminum two-seater body, which weighed only 65 lbs. was added and the engine was modified for more power. The car proved faster than the competition reaching 50 mph in 6.6 seconds with a top speed of 90 mph. A copy built for Adam Currie was the first Lotus to be sold to a customer and the first car to wear the Lotus badge.



1951 Lotus Mark III

LOTUS KIT CARS



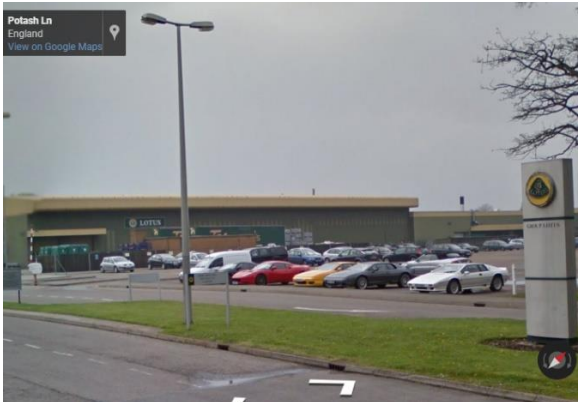
1955 Lotus Mark 6

With the loan of £50 from Colin's girlfriend Hazel Williams, Chapman formed the Lotus Engineering Company. Production of the light-bodied, powerful Mark 4 began, but soon afterwards the construction of the space-framed Mark 6 racer designed in 1952 overtakes it. Over 100 Mark 6 examples were made over two years, and this became Lotus' first series production car. It was available to the public in Complete Knock Down (CKD) kit car form. Note that Hazel became Colin's wife.

The heart of the Mark VI was a space frame chassis. The chassis offered enough stiffness while keeping the weight low (the 6' space frame weighed only 55 lbs.). The chassis also provided a good amount of flexibility for the customers. Rather than a complete car, it was available to the general public as kit, wherein the customer could install any preferred engine and gearbox, making it eligible for a wider number of formulae.



1953 Lotus Mark 6 Chassis



Lotus factory at Hethel

Lotus moved to a purpose-built factory at Cheshunt in 1959 and since 1966 the company has occupied a modern factory and road test facility at Hethel, near Wymondham. This site is the former RAF Hethel base and the test track uses sections of the old runway. In its early days, Lotus sold cars aimed at privateer racers and trialists. Its early road cars could be bought as kits, to save on British automotive sales taxes. The Lotus factory is open to the public.

LOTUS KIT CARS

One of the most well-known Lotus cars was the Lotus Seven which was first offered to the public in 1957. The Lotus Seven was produced in four generations from 1957 through 1973. The Lotus Super Seven was produced beginning in 1961. The Super Seven initially used a Cosworth modified 1,340cc Ford Classic engine and later fitted with 1,498cc or 1,599cc engines.



1958 Lotus Seven



*Caterham Seven being delivered
(Similar to Lotus 7)*

The concept of selling kit cars continued with the Lotus 7 and still exists today with the Caterham Seven which is produced under a 1973 license agreement with Chapman. See the discussion in an earlier [newsletter](#). Putting these kit cars together yourself was a bid to sidestep British tax requirements. To avoid taxes on the kit, no assembly instructions could be included. However, since there was no rule covering ‘disassembly instructions’, customers simply had to follow those guides in reverse.

Current Lotus models include the Elise, Exige, and Evora. Current Caterham models include the Seven 270, Seven 310, Seven 360, Seven 420, Seven 620S, and Seven 620R. Some of these cars can still be ordered in kit form. The next generation Caterham is the AeroSeven concept car.

*Happy
Birthday
Lotus!*

BRITISH CAR NEWS

All Makes: (1/7) Gordon Murray presents one heck of a resume, but now he can add "Commander of the British Empire" to it. Queen Elizabeth II awarded Murray the accolade in December for his "services to motoring." Murray, who was born in South Africa, is best known as the man behind the McLaren F1, the powerhouse supercar that came out of the original McLaren Cars start-up in 1991. In the 1988 F1 season, a McLaren racer won every race except the Italian Grand Prix. Today, Murray runs Gordon Murray Design and the newly established Gordon Murray Automotive. He also introduced GMD's iStream construction to automakers; the first car to benefit from the F1-derived engineering practice will be the reborn TVR Griffith.

Aston Martin: (1/2) The expanded family of Aston Martin cars was shown during August's 2017 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, except for the shooting brake whose design was yet to be finalized at the time. The Vanquish Zagato Shooting Brake represents the biggest departure from the standard Vanquish, due to its powered tailgate and long roof with glass inlays. Despite the long-roof design, there are still only two seats inside. The cars are built to the same specification as the Aston Martin Vanquish S with a 5.9-liter V-12 mounted up front and paired to an 8-speed auto. 580 horsepower is delivered to the rear wheels propelling the car 0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds. The unique suspension which was tweaked on the Nürburgring can reach speeds in excess of 200 mph. Aston Martin is limiting production of the coupe, convertible and shooting brake to 99 examples for each body style. (1/7) Aston Martin CEO Andy Palmer told *Reuters* on Monday that the automaker has prepared for a "no deal" Brexit future by stockpiling some finished cars in Germany and planning to fly parts in on private jets. Although Palmer didn't specifically address production delays with any car in the *Reuters* report, the company acknowledged in a September 2018 filing for its initial stock offering that delays or increased costs due to Brexit "could have a material adverse effect on Aston Martin Lagonda's ability to control expenses and efficiently conduct its operations." Unlike global automakers such as Honda, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, and Nissan, which all have manufacturing facilities in the U.K. and abroad, Aston Martin's only production facilities are in the U.K. and are especially vulnerable to slowdowns or increased costs. (1/24) Aston Martin CEO Andy Palmer uploaded a video to Twitter showing a prototype for the electric Rapide E on the move. This was the first time the car was shown moving under power of its breakthrough 800v battery. The car is being developed in partnership with Williams Advanced Engineering, the Williams Formula 1 team's technology offshoot. The high voltage makes an 80-percent charge of the battery possible in as little as 15 minutes, assuming a suitable high-speed charging station is used, delivering a range of 200 miles. The battery will power a pair of electric motors mounted at the rear axle which will deliver a combined output of more than 600 horsepower and 700 pound-feet of torque. Just 155 examples will be built, each priced at around \$250,000. Lessons learned from the project will be used in the Aston Martin's Lagonda EV sub-brand SUVs and sedans to challenge Bentley and Rolls-Royce.

BRITISH CAR NEWS

Bentley (VW): (1/9) Bentley has always been known for quiet luxury; however, it is not a stranger to power and speed. Bentley's highly anticipated Bentayga Speed SUV will be unveiled in the first half of 2019 as a 2020 model. It will come with Bentley's 6.0-liter twin-turbocharged W-12, with output dialed up to around 650 horsepower. That will make the Bentayga Speed more powerful than the Lamborghini Urus. The Bentayga Speed will be targeted at buyers seeking a combination of performance, luxury and off-road capability. In fact, there will be little in the way of direct combination when the Bentayga Speed arrives. Bentley is trying to pull potential buyers from the Land Rover Range Rover Sport SVR, Maserati Levante Trofeo, Mercedes-AMG GLE63 and the upcoming Aston Martin DBX. (1/23) Bentley celebrates its centennial in 2019 (the actual date is July 10), and the British automaker has already revealed a special Mulsanne limited to 100 units, each featuring a slice of the original crankshaft that featured in the 1930 8 Litre owned by company founder Walter Owen (W.O.) Bentley. Furthermore, every Bentley built this year can be fitted with special touches to mark the milestone. Bentley will use March's 2019 Geneva International Motor Show to present a new special-edition vehicle inspired by one of the automaker's most iconic racing models. It is likely a special edition based on Bentley's sportiest model, the Continental GT. It was in 1919 that engineer W.O. Bentley registered the Bentley brand and showed off the company's first chassis at that year's London auto show with an appearance at the Indianapolis 500 in 1922.

Jaguar (TATA): (1/10) Jaguar-Land Rover plans to reduce its workforce around the world by 4,500 employees, citing a sales downturn in the United Kingdom over Brexit and in China. The job cuts are in addition to 1,500 layoffs last year and come as demand for diesel-powered vehicles continues to fall. The UK market slumped 6.8 percent, the worst since the global financial crisis, as Great Britain deals with the possibility of no real strategy to execute its exit from the European Union. JLR said its retail sales fell 4.6 percent last year and blamed Brexit for consumer uncertainty. The brands also cited the U.S.-China trade war for slumping sales in China; JLR sales were down 22 percent in the world's largest auto market. JLR has already taken steps to restructure its manufacturing footprint by moving its LR Discovery production to Slovakia to make room for future battery-electric vehicles. Rumors suggest management has drawn up plans to take Jaguar fully electric in the next five to seven years. (1/18) Despite a market that continues to crave crossover SUVs, Jaguar's sedans are safe. According to Jaguar CEO Ralf Speth, the XE and XF sedans will continue as sedans will play an integral part in Jaguar's electrification strategy and are important to long-term strategies in Europe and China. Specifically, Speth said as Europe and China implement stricter emissions regulations, sedans are inherently easier to work with due to their superior aerodynamic properties. In contrast, taller SUVs are more difficult to squeeze efficiency out of, simply by the nature of their shape. Furthermore, although SUV sales continue to grow, Jaguar believes SUV demand is starting to level out while sedan demand will level off and likely recover. (1/30) The Jaguar F-Type has been updated for 2020 and a Checkered Flag Limited Edition model has been added. The Checkered Flag cars are intended to celebrate the Jaguar's competition heritage and can be ordered with rear-drive with a 296-hp, 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder or all-wheel drive with a 380-hp, 3.0-liter V-6.

BRITISH CAR NEWS

The CF version features an interior with fancy checkered-flag graphics on the headrests, steering wheel, and door sills. Exterior colors include Caldera Red, Fuji White, and Carpathian Gray with a black roof and 20-inch wheels with red brake calipers. Inside, the CF has leather-wrapped performance seats with embossed headrests and red or gray stitching. There's also dark brushed aluminum trim on the center console and a red band at 12 o'clock on the steering wheel. Pricing for the regular F-Type coupe starts at \$62,625 and convertibles start at \$65,725. The CF coupe model that starts at \$72,925 for the I4 or \$95,525 for the V6. The convertible version will cost an additional \$2,400. All F-Types use the eight-speed automatic transmission as the manual transmission has been discontinued.

Land Rover (TATA): (1/6) A prototype has been spotted for the mid-cycle update for Land Rover's Discovery Sport which was introduced back in 2016. There will be substantial changes made to the small SUV's underpinnings, exterior and cabin. Land Rover has developing an updated version of the current Discovery Sport's D8 platform (also referred to as LR-MS). The updated platform, which offers more space and capacity for electrified powertrains, debuted in the redesigned 2020 Range Rover Evoque. Initially, the updated Discovery Sport will offer a 246-horsepower 2.0-liter turbocharged inline-4 matched to a 9-speed automatic. An available mild-hybrid powertrain using the same 2.0-liter mill will offer 296 hp. Eventually, a plug-in hybrid option will join the options. The exterior features a more streamlined look with redesigned fascia at the front and rear as well as new headlights. The interior also receives a major redo and will utilize Land Rover's latest infotainment system featuring multiple screens.

Lotus (Geely): (1/18) Lotus parent company Zhejiang Geely Holding Group has ambitious plans in store for the sports car manufacturer from Hethel. The goal is to transform Lotus into a proper Porsche rival, by launching high-volume models and using the profits for sports car development. At the top of the agenda is an SUV, which Geely Chairman Li Shufu said last year that could be built in China. *Reuters* reported on plans for a \$1.3 billion plant to be constructed in the city of Wuhan, in China's Hubei province, based on information found in company job advertisements and local government websites. A website for the planning authority of Hubei revealed an annual production capacity of 150,000 units for the plant, while a website for the Wuhan Development Zone revealed that the plant will be used for "Geely's Lotus project." Lotus is expected to introduce two sports cars first, to replace the aging Elise and Exige, and then will likely move on to the SUV. Rumors of additional models including a limited-edition electric hypercar and a second SUV have also made the rounds in the recent past. (1/28) Lotus and Williams Advanced Engineering announced they have entered a strategic technical partnership to bring an electric hypercar to market. Williams will contribute its knowledge about electric powertrains to the hypercar's development which pioneered the first Formula E powertrains during the first four seasons of the motorsport. The car supposedly goes by the codename "Omega" and will be part of a major push to reinvigorate Lotus under its new owner, Geely. The Omega will likely sport all-wheel drive with at least two electric motors to provide power. It's expected the car will make at least 1,000 horsepower and offer 250 miles of range with a fast-charging system onboard.

BRITISH CAR NEWS

McLaren: (1/9) McLaren just released a teaser video for a new edition in its hardcore Longtail (LT) series of models. All McLaren will say right now is that the car will be the fifth to carry the LT designation. The first four were the F1 GTR LT, 675LT, 675LT Spider, and the 600LT. All indications point to the fifth car being a 600LT Spider. The exhaust design, engine cover, and rear fenders confirm the model as a member of McLaren's entry-level Sports Series range. Additionally, certification documents filed last year with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) confirm that a 600LT Spider is coming for 2019. The open-top 600LT Spider should boast a 3.8-liter twin-turbocharged V-8 dialed to deliver 592 horsepower and 457 pound-feet of torque. A longer tail realized via a stretched rear diffuser and fixed rear wing will also be present, as will a host of weight-saving mods. If the 600LT sounds interesting, you had better contact your local McLaren dealer in soon as previous LT models have sold out within a couple of weeks of being announced. [Update 1/19: McLaren did release the next Longtail as a 600LT Spider. The 600LT Spider's mid-engine 3.8-liter twin-turbocharged V-8 delivers 592 horsepower and 457 pound-feet of torque and is mated to a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission.]

Mini (BMW): (1/7) Mini will mimic Tesla's strategy of playing up the performance aspect of electric powertrains when it launches its first volume EV next year in the form of an electric Hardtop. The car will reportedly arrive as a Mini Cooper S E Hardtop. The same designation currently used for the plug-in hybrid version of the Countryman. Subtle differences for the electric version will include a sealed grille and additional accent lighting, and naturally there won't be any exhaust pipes. *Autocar* magazine points to the BMW i3s powertrain being adopted, albeit with the electric motor positioned at the front axle in the Mini instead of at the rear like in the BMW. The i3s motor is good for 181 horsepower, which is close to the 189 hp generated by the current Mini Cooper S Hardtop's 2.0-liter turbocharged inline-4. Range is expected to be 200 miles or more. Look for the electric Hardtop to reach showrooms around the end of the year as a 2020 model.

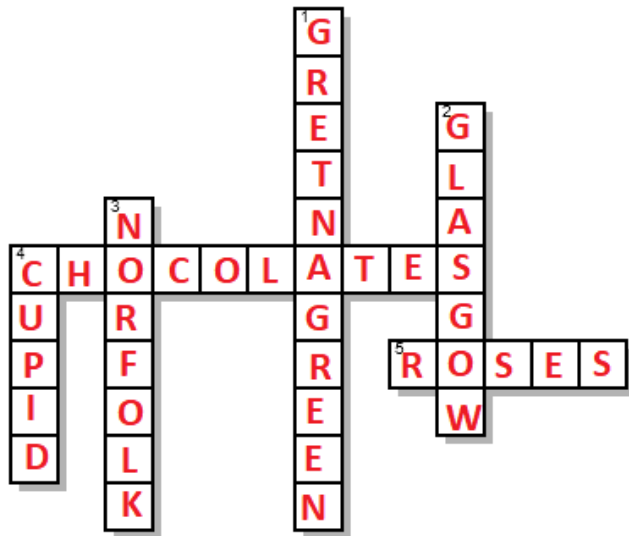
Rolls Royce (BMW): (1/23) The Rolls-Royce Ghost was refreshed back in 2014 and now some prototypes are out testing. Rolls-Royce has stuck with the same basic design on the new Ghost although it appears a little sleeker and more refined. The new Ghost will be built on the same platform as the recently redesigned Phantom. In addition to improved driving dynamics, the new Ghost will offer all-wheel drive as an option for buyers who need all-weather capability. Power should come from the Phantom's 6.75-liter twin-turbo V-12, which currently makes 563 hp and 664 lb-ft of torque. It's also possible that an electric version will be introduced later in the Ghost's life cycle.



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Valentine's Day Traditions

British and Other Countries



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ANSWER TO THE QUESTION:

The Lotus Mark III was a single-seater sports car built by Colin Chapman as a 750 Racer. It was the first car to ever be called a "Lotus" and it used the chassis, engine, gearbox, and differential from the Austin 7. By the end of the racing season, it was apparent the Mark III was the best 750 Formula car in England.



*1951 Lotus Mark III
made by Colin Chapman*