



HISTORIC AWARDS 2025

Royal Automobile Club
Pall Mall, London



Our inaugural Club Concours was staged in July at our unique Woodcote Park estate, featuring some 200 jewels of automotive excellence across three centuries. A phenomenal success, the Concours will return in 2026, bringing all-new categories and special displays celebrating design, sport, key anniversaries and icons.

Royal Automobile Club

Historic Awards

Thursday 20 November 2025



It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the Club's 2025 Historic Awards this evening. For more than 125 years, the Club has proudly celebrated achievement, skill and innovation in the historic vehicle world. These Awards continue that legacy by shining a light on the remarkable individuals and organisations who help preserve, restore and champion motoring heritage.

The historic motoring industry remains a vital contributor to the UK's culture and economy, contributing an estimated £18 billion annually and supporting around 113,000 jobs. With some three

million historic vehicles across the UK, it is your passion and commitment that ensures this remarkable heritage continues to thrive.

Once again, the quality of this year's entries has been outstanding. I'm especially inspired by the nominations for our Young Achiever Award, which show that the stewardship of our historic vehicles is in very capable hands. Across every category, the standard has been exceptional, making the task of our expert judges – each selected for their knowledge and experience – particularly challenging. After much thoughtful deliberation and debate, we look forward to revealing this year's winners tonight.

My sincere thanks go to our judges for their diligence and to our partners for their invaluable support. These awards could not happen without their generosity, so on behalf of the Club I would like to extend our gratitude for their continued enthusiasm and commitment.

Congratulations to all our finalists and winners – I wish you all a most enjoyable evening and a very jolly festive season ahead!

Duncan Wiltshire
Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club

This year, the RM Sotheby's London to Brighton Veteran Car Run celebrated 125 years since the 1,000 Mile Trial, organised by the Club. The only working survivor of that landmark event - this 1899 Wolseley, affectionately known as 'OWL' - successfully reached the sunny Brighton seafront, along with 340 other finishers.



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Awards Background



The Royal Automobile Club was founded in 1897 and its distinguished history parallels that of motoring itself. In 1907, the Club was awarded its Royal title by King Edward VII, sealing its status as Britain's oldest and most influential motoring organisation.

The Club's early years were focused on promoting the motor car and its place in society, which developed into motoring events, awards and a series of internationally recognised trophies and medals celebrating motoring achievements. The Historic Awards add to these extensive motoring activities, but also complement some of the Club's motorsport involvements in events and races such as the coveted Historic Tourist Trophy, Woodcote Trophy and the Royal Automobile Club TT Celebration, the jewel in the crown of the Goodwood Revival.

The Royal Automobile Club has been at the heart of the motoring and motorsport world for

128 years and the Awards continue its rich pedigree in celebrating motoring accomplishments. Underpinned by the Club's authority and integrity, they reward achievement and innovation by highlighting and celebrating the wide range of companies, clubs, events, associations and individuals responsible for influencing and driving the British historic motoring movement.

Meet your Host



Lee Mackenzie

Lee is best known for her work in Formula 1, presenting and interviewing the drivers for Channel 4 and previously for the BBC. Her debut book 'Inside F1' was published in 2022, focusing on the careers of seven F1 drivers, using her personal insights and interviews to tell their stories. Lee presents several other sports, from the Rugby World Cup for ITV, to the Six Nations, Wimbledon, Olympics and the Paralympics. As a news journalist, Lee covered the Lockerbie Trial, General Elections and the opening of the Scottish Parliament. She was the first female recipient of the Jim Clark award and has co-driven in many rallies, from Mountain Rally Norway to Rally GB.

Our Lead Judges and Jury

Each category had its own bespoke, specialist judging panel, headed by a Lead Judge who is an expert in that particular field. Each Lead Judge has appointed other members to the jury, ensuring each category was assessed rigorously by those best-qualified to do so.

Lead Judges

Sarah Bennett-Baggs

Founder, AutoAddicts.com, and a classic biker and racing driver.

EVENT CATEGORY Personal Endeavour

Alastair Clements

Editor-in-Chief, Classic & Sports Car

EVENT CATEGORY Motoring Spectacle

Steve Crompton

Editor-in-Chief, Autocar

EVENT CATEGORY Outstanding Journalism

Vanessa Marçais

Historic motorsport competitor and event organiser

EVENT CATEGORY Young Achiever

Lizzie Pope

Associate Editor, Classic & Sports Car

EVENT CATEGORY Innovation

Simon Taylor

Journalist, commentator and author

EVENT CATEGORY Restoration

Ian Titchmarsh

Motorsport Commentator and Trustee of Silverstone Heritage

EVENT CATEGORY Competitive Event

Allan Winn

Vice President, Brooklands Museum

EVENT CATEGORY Museums & Collections

Jurors

Richard Barnett

Journalist and Auction Editor, Classic Car Weekly

Peter Haynes

Director of Marketing and Business Development EMEA London, RM Sotheby's

Danny Hopkins

Editor, Practical Classics

Paul Lawrence

Motorsport journalist

James Page

Author and journalist

Damien Smith

Freelance motorsport journalist, and motorsport editor for Autocar

Michael Squire

Collector car consultant, historic racer and concours judge

Peter Stevens

Designer of the McLaren F1 road car, Jaguar's XJR-15 and the Subaru Impreza WRC

Jeremy Vaughan

Head of Motoring, Royal Automobile Club

Outstanding Journalism

This award is presented to the author of what the judges deem to be the best written or broadcast feature that has appeared in a British publication, TV/radio/film/broadcast media or digital platform within the twelve-month judging period.

The finalists



Giles Chapman
'Ernie Unger' *The Automobile*

This excellent profile of the unsung designer of the technically advanced Unipower GT shows this author's ability to find new events and characters in motoring history, and present them in his accessible, well-informed way. This engaging interview holds the reader's interest and takes them in unexpected directions.



Dan Cogger
'Lucky Number 13' *The Automobile*

An extremely good example of painstaking research turned into a fascinating and impressively readable story. The reader becomes invested in the characters of this tale much more than usual. The car is also driven by the writer as part of it, which is rare these days in stories about cars of such exalted rarity and value.



Jon Pressnell
'100 MG Marque-defining Moments' *Octane*

This novel summary of MG's action-packed first 100 years is a brilliant way of presenting the sports car maker's complex history succinctly and palatably for enthusiasts without specialist knowledge of the company, done so in a way that makes MG's modern history as absorbing as its beginnings.



The Royal Automobile Club has one of the finest collections of motoring books, publications and archives in the UK and has been supporting and inspiring journalists and authors for over a hundred and twenty years in their quest for painstaking research for their next article, book or film.

Young Achiever

This award is aimed at rising stars aged between 18 and 30 who are going above and beyond and building their future in Britain's historic motoring world. It is vital that future generations making exceptional contributions in their field are recognised.

The finalists



Samantha Ruff (age 29)

In 2021 Samantha achieved her ambition of entering a career working on historic cars when she joined Harry Fraser Vehicle Upholstery as a trimmer. With no previous upholstery experience, she enrolled herself on a sewing machine course to master the basics before stepping confidently into a role in which she now excels.



Will Marsh (age 22)

Will has already carved a reputation as one of the most promising and committed young historic motorsport competitors, and demonstrated how the Vintage Sports Car Club can be a great stepping-stone towards a successful future in vintage motor racing. He's also shown a desire to understand the engineering and maintenance of a race car, rather than having just an 'arrive and drive' attitude.



Jack Rawles (age 28)

In 2015, aged just 18, Jack joined his family's business, Bill Rawles Classic Cars Ltd. Not long afterwards, a family medical emergency threw him in at the deep end as he found himself running the company. Over the next 10 years, he dedicated himself to the industry, growing the business 3x in turnover and personnel, while also making a name for himself as a historic racer.



StarterMotor assists a younger generation to find careers in the classic and historic car sector, providing access to vehicles, events and educational opportunities to inspire and motivate the next generation to be active participants in the classic car community.

Personal Endeavour

This award seeks to recognise any individual who has made a truly outstanding contribution to heritage, historic motoring or historic motorsport during the judging period. The winner can come from any part of the British historic motoring world.

The finalists



Tania Brown

Tania's nomination highlights the exceptional work she does at the Vintage Sports Car Club. Perfectly attuned to the needs of the club and its members, she consistently goes that extra mile, and makes a tremendous difference, be that by championing women in motorsport, encouraging the adoption of sustainable fuels or building relations for future generations by creating family-friendly events.



Julian Grimwade

Earlier this year, the world of pre-war motoring lost one of its champions, with the untimely passing of Julian Grimwade. His competitive racing was matched only by his generosity of spirit and he brought colour, courage and character to every Vintage Sports Car Club event. Beyond the VSCC, Julian gave decades of service to the Bentley Drivers Club and was a central figure at Brooklands.



Mark Reber

Californian born Mark Reber went above and beyond the call of duty to enable his now home town of Clevedon in Somerset to celebrate its place in automotive history by creating a permanent monument to the 1898 Stephens prototype. To succeed, with no prior knowledge of building such a complex, full-size monument, takes extraordinary patience, determination and skill.



Launched in 1853, long before the motor vehicle existed, MOTUL is now a global leader in the development and production of high-quality lubricants. MOTUL constantly works on the latest technological developments and was the first lubricant company to develop an era-specific range of historic car lubricants.

Innovation

This award celebrates the turning of great ideas into solutions, harnessing technology, improving components, creating initiatives and evolving products and services across the historic motoring and motorsport scene.

The finalists



Bridge Classic Cars Kids

Bridge Classic Cars Kids seeks to inspire the next generation of classic car enthusiasts, with sustainability being central to this message. The programme engages families and young children at events and online, via stories and videos, with plans to blend this with school visits. It's about bringing classic cars alive and seeing their place in the 21st century.



Equipe Super Sprint

This new event turned the idea of a race meeting on its head, with a fresh, competitor-focused format and inclusive nature that maximised track time, benefiting close racing, customer satisfaction and value for money. Drivers aren't categorised by the age or specification of their car, but by their lap times in this exciting addition to historic racing.



ifindautoparts

This new, community-focused website has the potential to be a lifesaver for restorers and home mechanics alike. It's creating an ecosystem, connecting trusted specialists and suppliers with owners, built by enthusiasts for enthusiasts to help reduce the time, expense and hassle of sourcing classic car parts. This fantastic resource could be especially useful for those new to the hobby.

SUSTAIN



SUSTAIN proudly safeguards motoring's heritage and the planet, using sustainable fuels that preserve the past and power a cleaner future.

The Federation Skills Trust charity promotes the teaching of traditional skills in the repair, maintenance, preservation and restoration of historic vehicles.

Competitive Event

This award seeks to celebrate the very best of UK-based events that have a strong competitive element, from motor racing meetings and hill climbs to navigation and stage rallies, regularity trials, and hot rod and drag races.

The finalists



Equipe 6 Hour

Created in the spirit of the classic version of the Spa 6 Hours, as it was when it was first run in the early 2000s, this new event at Donington Park was a welcome addition to the historic racing calendar. Like the Spa race that inspired it, the 6 Hour was run for pre-'66 GT and GTS classes, with the exception of the Ford GT40, to ensure a closely matched grid and race.



International McRae Rally Challenge

The International McRae Rally Challenge at Knockhill was a wonderful celebration of 50 years of rallying for Jimmy, the 30th anniversary of Colin winning the World Rally Championship and 30 years since Alastair won the British Rally Championship. It was enhanced by a star-studded guest list and perfectly complemented by a highly competitive contemporary event.



Silverstone Festival

What turned out to be the final Silverstone Festival marked the end of an era in some style for the circuit's annual historic motorsport extravaganza. The centrepiece was an astonishing collection of F1 cars, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the World Championship, all enhanced by an outstanding, packed schedule of historic races for sports cars, touring cars and single-seaters.



The most-awarded Champagne House of this century, Piper-Heidsieck's historical success has been shaped by a forward-thinking, pioneering spirit which continues today. Their dedication to innovation and sustainability is exemplified in becoming the first B Corp certified House. Excellence and innovation since 1785.

Motoring Spectacle

This award recognises UK classic and historic car events that have displayed a true sense of spectacle. Entrants must have no significant element of timed competition. Eligible events include concours d'elegance, tours, classic vehicle shows and club gatherings.

The finalists



Salon Privé

Salon Privé 2025 was a celebration of motoring culture, bringing together collectors, restorers, manufacturers and enthusiasts from across the globe. The introduction of the new Automotive Gallery - a spectacular glass structure built from 1,206 panes of glass and covering 4,460 square metres - set a new benchmark for presentation in the automotive event world.



The Jim Clark Trust's celebration of Jim Clark's 1965 season

60 years ago, the incredible talent of Jim Clark shone brighter than ever before with an unprecedented quartet of worldwide victories. To celebrate, the Jim Clark Trust drew an exceptional collection of cars and legendary names from the motorsport world to beautiful Duns Castle for what must surely be a once-in-a-lifetime presentation.



The Royal Tunbridge Wells Festival of Motoring

This inaugural tribute to the very first British motor show, held in Tunbridge Wells in 1895, produced a remarkable event with a truly unique feel. Free to enter and with a huge variety of cars and motorcycles, plus curated panel discussions, it drew an incredible 27,000 visitors, many of them new to the world of historic vehicles.



RM Sotheby's has provided an unsurpassed level of services to the global car collector market, including auctions, private sales, estate planning and financial services. RM's is currently responsible for six of the top ten most valuable motor cars ever sold at auction.

Museums & Collections

The award is presented to a British-based collection (private, museum or marque owned) which makes a significant contribution to UK or international historic motoring. Collections include public-facing activities and virtual events allowing a wider audience.

The finalists



British Motor Museum

This year the Museum expanded and enhanced its STEM Career Days programme and also trained four motor industry apprentices to drive its 1904 Thornycroft on the Veteran Car Run. The new 'Brick Bank' has already seen over 1.5million LEGO bricks find new homes, while the new Rubery Owen Gallery launched with the Beep-Beep, Yeah: The Sounds and Songs of the Motor Car exhibition.



Great British Car Journey

A wide-ranging emphasis on special attractions for younger visitors marks out this year. Youngsters can now drive a classic Leyland Mini Automatic, take classic car passenger rides aimed specifically at children, use a specific 'Kids' version of the portable audio device for visitors, play with an impressive Hot Wheels track and drive electric mini-Land Rovers on an off-road course.



Haynes Motor Museum

A busy year has seen a new exhibition - British Icons: Driven by Innovation - the launch of a new annual event, the John Haynes Classic, substantial improvement of the Williams Formula One display and a series of innovative 'Bonnetts Up' experiences. And visitors can now enjoy a new, Somerset-themed Scalextric circuit.



For over 40 years, Lockton Performance has been the broker of choice for classic and specialist car owners, and many of the most prestigious UK car clubs. Lockton also manage and provide comprehensive and strategic insurance solutions for individuals, their advisors and family offices with their Private Clients team.

Restoration

The judges in this category look for evidence of a dedication and determination to restore with impressive technical expertise and a sensitivity to the vehicle's provenance. The project must show an immaculately-documented research and restoration process.

The finalists



1924 Hispano-Suiza H6C 'Boulogne' – Simon Kidston, Jonathan Wood Ltd

By the 1970s, this magnificent Hooper-bodied machine, bought new by Bentley Boy, aviator and Le Mans winner Glen Kidston, was in New Zealand, sporting an amateur-built replacement body and being used to tow a caravan. In 2018 it was rescued by Simon Kidston, the first owner's nephew and there followed a seven-year restoration which involved massive research and exceptional skill.



1926 Rally Grand Sport Type S – David Foster, Bob Thredder & Tom Hardman

Of the very few of these little French cars that were built, four remain in the world. The forgotten remains of this one were found in a collapsed shed - where it had languished for some 50 years - with many irreplaceable parts missing. It seemed beyond saving, but, in 2018, the indomitable owner, David Foster, bravely took it on, helped by an army of artisans, many in their 70s and 80s.



1953 Jaguar C-type – Anthony Purnell, Pendine Historic Cars & CKL Developments

This C-type had survived its 70 years in Europe, North America, Japan and the Antipodes in one piece, but had suffered from various ill-judged repairs and alternating periods of hard use and lying fallow. Its new owner is a perfectionist, and his brief to CKL Developments was for a restoration which sought absolute originality and required forensic levels of research.



Bicester Motion's world-leading business community is set on shaping the past, present and future of mobility technology. It is a recognised centre of excellence and home to over 50 enterprises, which contribute over a billion pounds to the global economy.

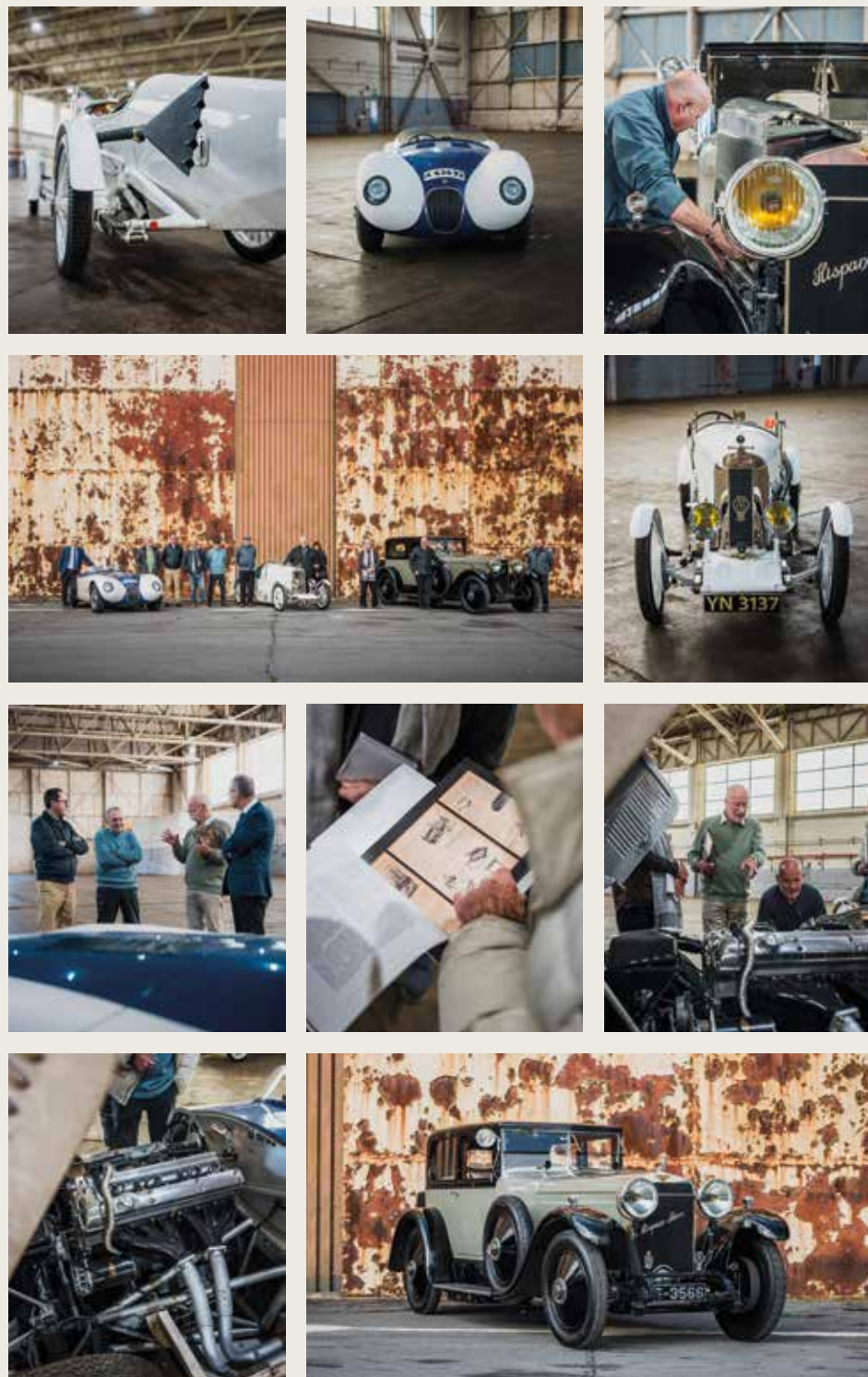
A Grand Day Out:

Judging the Restoration Finalists in this year's Historic Awards

One of the distinguishing features of these awards is how hands-on our judges are in certain categories. The Restoration category is a fine example of this.

To select tonight's winner, the Restoration judging panel made a road trip to Bicester Motion where, in the atmospheric surroundings of a vast WW2 aircraft hangar, they cast their expert eyes over the candidates, comparing the three finalist cars side-by-side, quizzing the restorers over fine details and delving further into the history of the vehicles and the research and restoration process.

Lead Judge Simon Taylor was joined by jurors Danny Hopkins and Peter Stevens for a most enjoyable day in which even Bicester Motion's test track was brought into play, allowing the judges to see and hear the three finalists in action and even to enjoy a passenger ride or two.





Previous Award Winners

2019 **Outstanding Journalism:** Nick Trott - *'Helter Skelter' (The Road Rat)*
Competitive Event: Chateau Impney Hill Climb
Race Series: Historic Sports Car Club International Historic Formula 2
Motoring Spectacle: The Concours of Elegance at Hampton Court Palace
Personality: Paul & Andrew Wood
Collection: The Jim Clark Motorsport Museum
Restoration: 1967 Jim Clark Lotus Type 38 Indy car - Nick Fennell and Classic Team Lotus
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: Allan Winn

2020 **Outstanding Journalism:** Gary Pusey - *'The Wildlife Conservation Pioneers' (Land Rover Monthly)*
Young Achiever: Jack Bond
Competitive Event: HSCC Legends of Brands Hatch Super Prix
Race Series: GT & Sports Car Cup
Motoring Spectacle: Classics for Carers
Personality: Janice Pitchforth
Collection: British Motor Museum
Restoration: 1948 Land Rover JUE 477 - Ineos Automotive and Julian Shoolheifer
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: Peter and Betty-Ann Banham

2021 **Outstanding Journalism:** David Tremayne - *'Donald Campbell' (Magneto)*
Young Achiever: Billy Earwicker
Competitive Event: The Longstone Tyres Light Car Race (VSCC)
Motoring Spectacle: Hagerty Festival of the Unexceptional
Personality: The Reverend Adam Gompertz
Collection: Silverstone Interactive Museum
Restoration: 1979 Aston Martin Bulldog - Classic Motor Cars and Phillip Sarofim
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: John Grant

2022 **Outstanding Journalism:** Mark Dixon - *'Preferred Carrier' (Octane)*
Young Achiever: William Heynes
Personal Endeavour: Simon Diffey and Sarah Jane Adams-Diffey
Innovation: TR Register European Breakdown App
Competitive Event: Rally the Globe Generations Rally 2022
Motoring Spectacle: Austin Seven Centenary Celebration
Collection: Sammy Miller Museum
Restoration: 1931 AEC Regent 486 bus - Transport Museum Wythall
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: Simon Taylor

2023 **Outstanding Journalism:** Mark Dixon - Karl Ludvigsen - *'Pom' (The Automobile)*
Young Achiever: Tom Parrott
Personal Endeavour: Tiggy Atkinson
Innovation: HERO-ERA Rally for the Ages
Competitive Event: Castle Combe Autumn Classic
Motoring Spectacle: MG & Triumph 100
Collection: The Dunsfold Collection
Restoration: 1937 Bugatti Type 57S by Corsica - Clark & Carter Restorations & Ivan Dutton Ltd.
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: Doug Hill

2024 **Outstanding Journalism:** Damien Smith - *'Alain Prost' (Motor Sport)*
Young Achiever: Catherine Ruff
Personal Endeavour: Angela Hucke
Innovation: HCVA's 'Action on Parts' programme
Competitive Event: Roger Albert Clark Rally
Motoring Spectacle: Senna 30 Year Legacy at Silverstone Festival
Museums & Collections: National Motor Museum
Restoration: 1927 Bentley 3 Litre Boat Tail Speed Model - Julian Parker LTD
 1939 ERA E-Type GP2 - Tip Top Engineering
Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award: Bob Dance

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heritageengineering.co.uk



global.lockton.com



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