



HISTORIC AWARDS 2024

The Royal Automobile Club
Pall Mall, London

The 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SLR '722', in which Sir Stirling Moss triumphed at the 1955 Mille Miglia with Denis Jenkinson, gracing the rotunda in May. The Club was honoured to celebrate the life of Moss, the former Club member and racing driver, whose memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey on 8 May 2024.



The Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards

Thursday 21 November 2024



It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome you all to the Club's 2024 Historic Awards.

These Awards, now a mainstay of the historic motoring calendar, continue the Club's rich heritage of rewarding the achievements of pioneers, champions and all forms of motoring excellence.

The standard of entries this year has been overwhelmingly high and our judges, who are central to the integrity of the awards, and

all independent experts in their field, had a tough time honing them down to the finalists. The people and projects we're celebrating tonight contribute hugely to craft, business and leisure in and around veteran, vintage, classic and 'young-timer' vehicles.

The entries we receive continue to astonish us, and I'm again especially impressed by the nominations for our Young Achiever Award - it gives me confidence that the preservation and guardianship of our historic vehicles are in safe hands.

These awards cannot happen without generous support from our partners, and on behalf of the Club I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for their continued enthusiasm, as well as to the judges for their diligence and commitment to the judging process.

With a turnover of £18bn and providing employment for 113,000 people, the sizeable contribution the historic motoring industry makes to the business and leisure economy in the UK should not be underestimated. Hats off to you all for achieving this, and wishing you much success for the rest of this year, and for 2025.

So, a hearty congratulations to everyone this evening, and I wish you all a very jolly festive season!

Duncan Wiltshire
Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club



The rotunda was shaken by one of the original Aston Martin DB5s, used to promote the 1964 007 film Goldfinger, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Complete with bulletproof shield, revolving number plates, and machine guns, this is for many the definitive James Bond car and, like the film, remains adored by millions.

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The Royal Automobile Club

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.



At 5am on Thursday, 9 May, Pall Mall assembled three fabulous cars unlikely to be seen together in the UK again. Headed by the 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR '722,' the procession also included a 1955 Mercedes-Benz W196 Formula One Car, and the 1954 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Stirling Moss and Denis Jenkinson drove to recce the Mille Miglia, ahead of their famous victory.

Today, the Club develops and supports automobilism through representation on the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the RAC Foundation while promoting its own motoring events including the new St James's Motoring Spectacle, the RM Sotheby's London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, and London Motor Week. Its membership includes racing drivers, industry leaders, car designers and countless enthusiasts of every different type of car and motorcycle.

The Club's early years were focused on promoting the motor car and its place in society, which developed into motoring events such as the 1000 Mile Trial, first held in 1900. In 1905 the Club held the first Tourist Trophy, which remains the oldest motorsport trophy still being competed for today. It promoted the first British Grand Prix at Brooklands in 1926 and the first modern Formula 1 Grand Prix at Silverstone in 1950, while continuing to campaign for the rights of the motorist, including the introduction of the first driving licences.

The Club also awards a series of internationally recognised trophies and medals celebrating motoring achievements in racing, engineering, personal endeavour and motoring publishing. Some of these include the Segrave Trophy, the Torrens Trophy, the Simms Medal, the Dewar Trophy, the Motoring Book of the Year Awards, The Diamond Jubilee Trophy, the Hawthorn Trophy and the Tourist Trophy.

Awards Background

The Royal Automobile Club has been at the heart of the motoring and motorsport world for 127 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. The Historic Awards add to the Club's current extensive motoring activities as described in the history of the Club opposite, but also complement some of its 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.

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.

Award Categories

The start of the 2024 RM Sotheby's London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, at Hyde Park on Sunday 3 November. The Run remains the world's longest-running motoring event, and this year saw 317 vehicles reach the Brighton seafront finish, including this delightful 1901 Albion.

Outstanding Journalism

Supported by the Royal Automobile Club

Young Achiever

Supported by StarterMotor

Personal Endeavour

Supported by MOTUL

Innovation

Supported by Bosch and Federation Skills Trust

Competitive Event

Supported by Piper-Heidsieck

Motoring Spectacle

Supported by RM Sotheby's

Museums & Collections

Supported by Lockton

Restoration

Supported by Bicester Heritage

Royal Automobile Club Lifetime Achievement Award

Meet the Lead Judges

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.



Sarah Bennett-Baggs

The editor of AutoAddicts.com, and a classic biker and racing driver.

EVENT CATEGORY
Personal Endeavour



Alastair Clements

Editor-in-Chief of Classic & Sports Car.

EVENT CATEGORY
Motoring Spectacle



Steve Cropley

Editor-in-Chief of Autocar.

EVENT CATEGORY
Outstanding Journalism



Vanessa Marçais

Historic motorsport competitor and event organiser.

EVENT CATEGORY
Young Achiever



Lizzie Pope

Associate Editor, Classic & Sports Car and historic rallyist.

EVENT CATEGORY
Innovation



Simon Taylor

Journalist, TV commentator and former Editor of Autosport and Managing Director of Haymarket Magazines.

EVENT CATEGORY
Resoration



Ian Titchmarsh

Motor racing commentator and trustee of Silverstone Heritage.

EVENT CATEGORY
Competitive Event



Allan Winn

Vice President of Brooklands Museum, Pebble Beach judge, former Director of the VSCC and former CEO of Brooklands Museum Trust.

EVENT CATEGORY
Museums & Collections

Meet the Jury



Richard Barnett

Classic Car Weekly's auction editor and former SMMT media spokesman.



Peter Haynes

Peter has worked with RM Sotheby's since 2007. He previously worked for Caterham Cars, Ford, Peugeot and Autocar.



Danny Hopkins

PPA award-winning journalist and magazine editor and Editor of Practical Classics.



Paul Lawrence

Motorsport journalist specialising in historic motorsport, with nearly 50 years' experience in the sport.



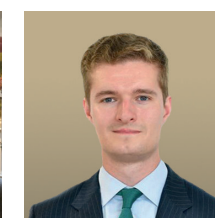
James Page

Author, freelance journalist and former editor of Classic & Sports Car.



Marcus Pye

Historic motorsport journalist, race commentator and competitor.



Michael Squire

Director of Research/Specialist for RM Sotheby's.



Peter Stevens

Designer of the McLaren F1 road car, Jaguar's XJR-15 and the World Rally Championship-winning Subaru Impreza WRC.



Jeremy Vaughan

Head of Motoring at the 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 feature can cover all aspects of the historic motoring world.

LEAD JUDGE Steve Cropley

SUPPORTED BY The Royal Automobile Club



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.

The Club's library in Pall Mall has over 6,000 books and the archive has a wealth of original material and manuscripts that chart the development of motoring in the UK dating back from the Club's formation in 1897 to the present day. The Club's annual book awards have grown to be the accolades to achieve in motoring book publishing, with record quality entries from around the world.

So it was only fitting that the Club's Historic Awards should have a journalism category to reward excellence in this specialist sector that supports the vibrant historic motoring world.

The finalists

Giles Chapman

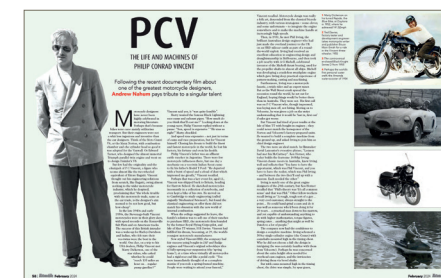
Watt's the Story. *The Automobile*



Giles Chapman's beguiling story about James Watt tells the tale of someone who grew up as a 'carefree petrolhead' to find a variety of fascinating roles on the periphery of the burgeoning post-war UK car industry - the kind of willing, unassuming character essential to the industry 70 years ago, and one who probably couldn't exist today.

Andrew Nahum

PCV: The Life and Machines of Philip Conrad Vincent. *The Automobile*



Andrew Nahum's story of Philip Conrad Vincent weaves a thorough examination of the character of an eccentric and enigmatic central figure into the tale of one of Britain's most iconic motorcycle marques, to show what made it very different from all the rest in a motorcycle scene packed with shoulder-to-shoulder rivals like BSA, Triumph, AJS and Matchless.

Damien Smith

Alain Prost. *Motor Sport*



For this profile, Damien Smith first succeeded in winning excellent access to Prost, a notoriously reluctant subject, then framed well-prepared, well-targeted questions. The result is a comprehensive and stylishly-written story, packed with fresh quotes and information. The resulting piece adds much to our knowledge of Prost, especially in the modern era.

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. This is a vibrant industry and it's vital that future generations who are making an exceptional contribution within their organisation are recognised. There is a wide remit for this category - from apprentices to club officials through to event organisers and classic car dealers. The possibilities are endless!

LEAD JUDGE Vanessa Marçais

SUPPORTED BY StarterMotor

STARTERMOTOR

The historic vehicle sector is at risk. If nothing is done to introduce a younger generation into the sector, to be part of the community and to pursue careers in a range of professions vital to its longevity, then eventually the ability to enjoy our motoring heritage will disappear.

StarterMotor is committed to providing access to vehicles and the ability to get involved with events and educational opportunities to inspire and motivate the next generation to be active participants in our old car world.

The finalists

Tom Cowling (age 27)



Tom Cowling has been creating and posting videos about classic cars for several years on his YouTube channel Tom // Drives. He has used his profile to research and raise awareness of the plight of the MG Rover prototypes which were languishing outside the old Longbridge factory, harnessing the power of social media to lobby tirelessly - and successfully - for their preservation.

Catherine Ruff (age 28)



Machinist Catherine Ruff works almost entirely from 2D drawings and occasional models to recreate high quality parts for vintage Bentleys, the Bentley Motors continuation cars and many racing cars at Kingsbury Racing Shop. Paving her own way in a world largely dominated by males, she's a true inspiration to young women in the engineering and historic car world.

Max Edleston (age 27)



Having started at Haymarket as a junior photographer a few years ago, Max Edleston has stepped up to become the lead photographer at *Classic & Sports Car* this year. He has created the magazine's photographic style in the process, shooting nine out of the twelve covers in 2024. His fantastic work for the magazine in California gained the attention of Ford CEO Jim Farley.

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 - private enthusiast, club organiser or perhaps a specialist who has achieved something remarkable.

LEAD JUDGE Sarah Bennett-Baggs

SUPPORTED BY MOTUL



Launched in 1853, long before the motor vehicle even came into existence, today MOTUL is a global leader in the development, production and marketing of high-quality lubricants and care products for cars, motorbikes, bicycles and many other related areas. In the field of synthetic lubricants, in particular, MOTUL is considered the specialist par excellence. As long ago as 1971, MOTUL became the first lubricant manufacturer to launch fully synthetic, ester-based, engine oil onto the market - MOTUL 300V - with technology that was originally used in aviation.

MOTUL is considered a natural partner on the historic motoring and motorsport scene and, constantly working on the latest technological developments, was the first lubricant company to develop an era-specific range of historic car lubricants.

The finalists

Angela Hucke



Everything Angela Hucke does for the Bugatti Trust and Museum is done to a level which makes it a significant Personal Endeavour. Her knowledge of and passion for the marque is unmatched, and she is exemplary when it comes to negotiating with other museums on a national and international basis, ensuring that important historical documents, Bugatti cars, significant artefacts and items of note are available for others to study through the Trust.

Nigel Parrott



This year has seen Nigel Parrott celebrate the 45th anniversary of NP Veteran Engineering, the company he founded in 1989. His lifetime has been dedicated to the conservation of not only these historic vehicles but also the heritage and traditional working methods that were used when these machines were built. Whether this is blacksmithing, machining, woodworking or diagnostics, Nigel is a recognised authority in the veteran car world.

Dominic Taylor-Lane



Dominic Taylor-Lane is the founder and MD of the Association of Heritage Engineers (AoHE). This year, he drew up a framework for a potential new Parliamentary advisory group, the 'Advanced Fuels Alliance', organised the first industry seminar on sustainability and sustainable fuels at Brooklands Museum and put together the sustainable theme for Kop Hillclimb 2024. AoHE also co-hosted the Coventry Concours as a part of Motofest 2024.

Innovation

There has never been a better time to be celebrating innovation in this industry. Turning great ideas into solutions, harnessing technology to improve or re-produce components, creating initiatives that enrich the industry or evolving products and services that meet the ever-demanding appetite of the growing historic motoring and motorsport scene – it's time to reward this remarkable creative talent that exists in the industry. There is a wide remit for this category, which is open to British-based classic vehicle clubs, individuals and organisations.

LEAD JUDGE Lizzie Pope

SUPPORTED BY Bosch and Federation Skills Trust



The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. Employing more than 6,000 associates across 36 sites, every one of the Bosch Group's business sectors has a presence in the UK: Consumer Goods, Energy and Building Technology, Industrial Technology, and Bosch Mobility. In the latter, Bosch brings together comprehensive expertise in vehicle technology with hardware, software, and services to offer integrated mobility solutions. We are excited to be involved in many cutting-edge projects, including the decarbonisation of automobiles through diverse powertrain technologies. We are motivated by the desire to develop products that are 'invented for life' – sparking enthusiasm, improving quality of life, and conserving natural resources.



The Federation Skills Trust is a registered charity which promotes the teaching of engineering skills and processes. It encourages and supports the transfer to new generations of traditional skills in the repair, maintenance, preservation and restoration of heritage transport, historic vehicles and machinery.

The FST and its predecessor have made grants of over £500,000 to support the development of Heritage Engineering Apprenticeships since 2014.

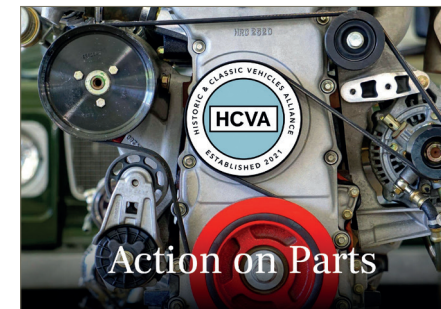
The finalists

Goodwood Revival



History was made when the 2024 Goodwood Revival raced exclusively on sustainable fuel, marking an important moment for historic motorsport as we usher in a new era that will secure the future of this great event for years to come. Every car and bike seen in competitive action over the three days ran on fuel with a minimum of 705 sustainable components.

HCVA's 'Action on Parts' programme



If a component fitted by a restorer or maintainer doesn't fit properly or fails prematurely, the resulting rectification can impose costs onto the installer far beyond the value of the part that failed. The HCVA's 'Action on Parts' programme was introduced to collect data and initiate constructive dialogue between all parties to investigate feasible improvements as well as their commercial ramifications.

Rustival



Saturday 9 March 2024 saw the launch of Rustival, a new classic, retro and young-timer car and vehicle show hosted by YouTubers Ian and Carly from HubNut, Matt from Furious Driving and Steph from idriveaclassic. Described as 'the UK's friendliest car show', Rustival's main motto is 'Clapped out to concours – if it's got wheels it's welcome.'

Competitive Event

This award seeks to celebrate the very best of the 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. Historic racing series are also eligible, as are individual races if they are spectacular enough to form an 'event' in themselves. Eligible events must have taken place within the UK, or have had a significant part taking place within the UK.

LEAD JUDGE Ian Titchmarsh

SUPPORTED BY Piper-Heidsieck



Founded nearly 240 years ago by Florens-Louis Heidsieck, Piper-Heidsieck's historical success has been shaped by a forward-thinking, pioneering spirit which continues today.

An early willingness to 'twist the script' on marketing conventions has led to Piper-Heidsieck's longstanding relationship with the world of Cinema. They were the first Champagne House to feature on film, in Laurel and Hardy's 1933 'Son's of the Desert', and became a firm favourite of Old Hollywood's elite; Fred Astaire, Ava Gardner, Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe being enthusiastic fans. Their dedication to innovation also extends to their long-term sustainability commitments. In 2022, Piper-Heidsieck was one of the first Champagne House to achieve B Corp Certification, illustrating an ongoing commitment to sustainability and improving both their social and environmental impact on the planet. In a similar vein, they also joined the International Wineries for Climate Action and invested in Vitibot, an innovative robotics business producing electric vineyard machinery that limits soil compaction and facilitates herbicide-free farming.

Concurrently, the quality of Piper-Heidsieck's wines has never been finer, leading them to become the most-awarded Champagne House of the last Century. Their chief winemaker, Émilien Boutillat, is one of the youngest in Champagne's history and has been driving standards even higher at Piper-Heidsieck since 2018. Émilien's exceptional talents led him to be named 'Sparkling Winemaker of the Year' by the IWC in both 2023 and 2021 and shortlisted for 2024.

Champagne Piper-Heidsieck - Excellence and Luxury since 1785

The finalists

Lydden Legend Festival



A new event for 2024, the Lydden Legend Festival featured on-track action from machinery spanning the history of rallycross. A diverse range of classes were headlined by Group B and 4WD monsters, with star names and international cars making an appearance. In addition machinery and drivers from the Retro Rallycross Championship and Five Nations Championship were in action.

Roger Albert Clark Rally



The 2023 edition of the Roger Albert Clark Rally was easily the best yet, as this stunning biennial event captured the hearts and imagination of a whole generation of rally fans. The rally truly came of age as one of the biggest motor sport events in the UK, concluding with a stunning 40-mile special stage in Kielder forest, which represented the longest special stage in UK rallying for many years.

VSCC 2023 Cotswold Trial



The VSCC's 2023 Cotswold Trial Weekend brilliantly showcased vibrant grassroots motorsport. The Trial was expanded into a full weekend, which proved to be a game-changer. The first day catered to more experienced competitors, while the second saw the introduction of a dedicated Novice Trial, with one-third of its competitors aged 30 or under, showing that the Club's efforts to engage younger enthusiasts are definitely paying off.

Motoring Spectacle

This award recognises the stunning range of classic and historic car events that take place around the UK throughout the year. Potential nominees must have no element of timed competition. Eligible events include concours d'elegance, tours, classic vehicle shows and club gatherings. The judges look for events – big or small – that have displayed a true sense of spectacle. Eligible events must have taken place within the UK, or have had a significant part of the event take place within the UK.

LEAD JUDGE Alastair Clements

SUPPORTED BY RM Sotheby's

JUDGES' SPECIAL MENTION



Considering this was the very first running of Rustival, it was a remarkable effort as its influencer organisers motivated their social media audiences to gather 800 classics of all ages, values and varieties for this inclusive, accessible and welcoming event at the British Motor Museum.



With over 40 years of proven results in the collector car industry, RM's vertically integrated range of services, from auctions (live and online) and private sales to estate planning and financial services, coupled with an expert team of Car Specialists and an international footprint, provide an unsurpassed level of service to the global collector car market. RM Sotheby's is currently responsible for six of the top ten most valuable motor cars ever sold at auction.

RM Sotheby's employs over 100 full-time professionals within the organization — the largest staff of any collector car auction house — who are committed to achieving the best possible results for our clients.

Every car entrusted to RM Sotheby's has a unique story, and we're here to tell it.

The finalists

Hagerty Festival of the Unexceptional 10th Anniversary



A previous winner of this category, the Hagerty Festival of the Unexceptional continues to go from strength to strength. Totally inclusive and a huge draw for younger enthusiasts, for its 10th-anniversary running in 2024 it gathered a record turnout of more than 2,000 unexceptional cars and more than 4,000 people, with several new features making the celebration of the ordinary something truly extraordinary.

The Inter-Club International Weekend



Collaboration between car clubs is vital to support the future of the movement. With the larger, wealthier clubs bearing the brunt of the set-up costs of the Inter-Club International Weekend, smaller clubs could enjoy the benefits of a large-scale event they could never usually hope to put on. More than 40 clubs took part, drawing 2000-plus visitors: truly an example for the future.

Senna 30 Year Legacy at Silverstone Festival



The Silverstone Festival always highlights a particular moment in motorsport history, and for this year it was an emotional anniversary marking 30 years since the passing of a Formula One legend, Ayrton Senna. A record turnout of 26 of Senna's cars were joined by an accompanying exhibition in the Silverstone Museum, featuring many items which had never been seen by the public before, plus demonstration laps.

Museums & Collections

Historic vehicle collections come in many forms, from those amassed by private individuals to those curated by museums large and small or by internationally-renowned marques. The award is presented to a British-based collection which is accessible to the general public and which makes a significant contribution to the historic motoring movement in the UK or internationally. Examples include public-facing activities held in a museum or through sharing the vehicles from the collection at public events, or creative virtual events/seminars etc. that have allowed a wider audience to participate online.

LEAD JUDGE Allan Winn

SUPPORTED BY Lockton



For over 40 years, Lockton Performance has been the top choice for classic and specialist car owners. Whether you have a single performance vehicle, a stunning collection, or belong to a prestigious car club, we've got you covered. Our team provides tailored motor insurance, expert advice, and high-quality service with enthusiasm and unmatched passion.

We are the insurance partner to the RAC and sponsor of many landmark UK car events, including the London-to-Brighton Veteran Car Run, we also partner with the UK's most prestigious car clubs. These include the Aston Martin and Ferrari Owners Clubs, Porsche Club Great Britain, Maserati Club UK, Lamborghini Club UK, The 96 Club, Drivers Union, SCC Private Members and the Altitude Drivers Club.

We're not just about high-performance vehicles. We can also cover all your family's cars, giving you complete peace of mind. As part of the Lockton Private Client division, we offer exclusive insights and expertise to help protect your most valuable assets, such as property, fine art, jewellery, and yachts.

With Lockton, you'll have a dedicated client manager who's always ready to help. Whether you're looking for the right insurance for one performance motor, or you have one of the most amazing car collections in the world, we promise expert guidance with matched with dedication.

The finalists

British Motor Museum



The launch of the new Learning Hub education space for pupils with special needs, the introduction of the Adopt a Car scheme, a new, groundbreaking car design exhibition, *From Sketch to Street*, and the painstaking reconstruction at Gaydon of Herbert Austin's office - now just along the corridor from that of his great rival William Morris - are just some of the reasons why the British Motor Museum was shortlisted this year.

National Motor Museum



2024 saw renewed focus on the social and cultural history of the motor vehicle for the National Motor Museum, backed up by a new corporate identity. The new *Streets Ahead* exhibition and "We Had One of Those!" interactive experience evoked fond memories and stories, while much of the work on the restoration of the mighty 1,000HP Sunbeam Land Speed Record car has been moved onto the display floor, so visitors can get close to it.

The Tyrrell Shed at Goodwood



The Goodwood team - starting with an idea from Doug Nye - have managed something quite remarkable, bringing the simple World War II wooden shed which was the headquarters of the Tyrrell Racing team in the 1950s and '60s lock, stock and barrel - with nut, bolt, oil cans and old wasps' nest - from Weybridge, where it was facing demolition, to Goodwood.

Restoration

The Restoration award is presented to the restoration that results from impressive technical expertise, significant research and sensitivity to the vehicle and its history. The judges look for evidence of a dedication and determination to learn as much as possible about the subject's provenance, and for an immaculately-documented research and restoration process, combined with world-class skills. Once the finalists were selected, they were gathered together at Bicester Heritage, where the judges examined them all in minute detail.

LEAD JUDGE Simon Taylor

SUPPORTED BY Bicester Heritage



Bicester Heritage has created a revolution in historic vehicle ownership. The unique location is the UK's only hub for historic motoring excellence and is the national centre for an £18bn per annum industry that employs over 34,000 skilled people.

Founded in 2013, Bicester Heritage has gone from a standing start to a home for over 50 specialist businesses with a collective turnover of over £200m, making it the largest player in the industry, growing exponentially with a global reach. The unique ecosystem of businesses based at the beautiful 444 acre former WW2 RAF Bomber Training Station acts as 'marina-like' cluster, promoting skills and expertise, employment, qualified customer footfall, shared business incubation and aggregate growth. Collectively, Bicester Heritage is all about driving the future of the past.

Bicester Heritage is a component part of Bicester Motion, which is set to become the UK's pre-eminent destination to experience all forms of motion technology, past, present and future.

The finalists

1927 Bentley 3 Litre Boat Tail Speed Model

(Julian Parker LTD)



The chief challenge in conserving and restoring this unique car was the extreme rarity of the coachwork... just three glass plate images were known to remain of the original coachwork. When the car's owner, Chris Jaques, passed away before the end of the three-year project, his children ensured that was completed with the intense focus on detail, accuracy and conservation established by their late father and restorer Julian Parker.

1965 'Lady Brown' Aston Martin DB5

(RS Williams)



This DB5 was first owned by Lady Brown, the wife of Aston Martin's then-chairman, David Brown, and was finished in Roman Purple – a colour handpicked by David Brown himself. During the two-year restoration, the RS Williams team worked meticulously to retain as many of the original aluminium body panels as possible, even going the extra mile to source authentic parts, such as the period-correct AML fire extinguisher – a rarity in itself.

1939 ERA E-Type GP2

(Tip Top Engineering)



The racing debut of chassis no. GP2 – the second and final E-Type ERA – was delayed due to WW2. When the car was retired in the early 1950s it was the least campaigned ERA and, consequently, is also probably the least-known today. Tip Top Engineering have returned it to original specification to be raced once more, a feat which required no small amount of ingenuity. Our 2020 Young Achiever winner, Jack Bond, played a significant role in this project.



Winner of 'Restoration' at the 2023 Royal Automobile Historic Awards

Bugatti Type 57S by Corsica Coachworks,
Restoration by Clark & Carter Restorations and Ivan Dutton Ltd.

If it could talk, then what stories the Bugatti that occupied the Rotunda at Pall Mall last February could tell. Built in 1937, the car, a Type 57S, is believed to be the long-lost, third member of a trio of Bugattis built on a special lightened, competition chassis. For many years it was the world's only remaining hidden Bugatti until, in 2021 it was acquired by Lord

Bamford, Club member and the chairman of JCB, who had it painstakingly restored, a project culminating in its award of Best of Show at the 2023 Salon Privé Concours at Blenheim Palace.

In its day, the Type 57S – S stands for surbaissé, meaning lowered – was one of the fastest cars in Britain. The example displayed in the Rotunda was one of only 42 ever built. It was ordered by its first owner, Robert Ropner, the member of a successful family shipping business, with a sporty, four-seat body custom-built by Corsica Coachworks of Cricklewood, North London. Bearing the registration number DUL351 (hence its nickname, 'Dulcie'), the car took to the road in early 1937. Unfortunately, on its maiden outing, it caught fire, the first of a series of misfortunes. It was quickly repaired

and some months later, recorded a speed of 111mph on Montlhéry race circuit in France where, the year before, one of two legendary Type 57G race car versions had won the French Grand Prix (the same car would also win Le Mans the following year). In 2021, Bonhams confirmed that Dulcie shared its drilled and lightened chassis design with both racers.

After being laid up in storage during the War, Dulcie was sold and passed through several hands, enduring various scrapes and partial restorations along the way until, in 1969, it was acquired by Bill Turnbull, a talented and fastidious New Zealand engineer who had emigrated to the UK and was then working at JCB. He was passionate about the car and set about restoring it, a project which, by the time of his retirement from the company in 1995, he still hadn't completed. Eventually, Dulcie was lost from view, secure in a locked garage until, in 2021 it was offered for sale, when, fittingly, it was bought by Lord Bamford and restored by Clark & Carter Restorations and Ivan Dutton Ltd to the concours-winning condition members and visitors were able to admire at Pall Mall.





Previous Award Winners

Our Partners

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, the Man in the Shadow' (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



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