



Royal Automobile Club Announces Winner of the Motoring Book of the Year 2015

A masterpiece of research and unparalleled dedication to Pre-War racing cars has won the Royal Automobile Club's coveted 2015 Motoring Book of the Year award.

Simon Moore's *The Magnificent Monopostos: Alfa Romeo Grand Prix Cars 1923-1951*, took more than a decade to produce, and saw the author travel the world to investigate and verify every fact for the two-volume book, which is published by Parkside Publications. It is the most exhaustive study into Alfa Romeo's single-seater Grand Prix and Formula 1 cars ever seen.

The Award was presented to Mr Moore at the ceremony on Wednesday 28 October in Pall Mall, London by Tom Purves, Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club.

The Club initiated its Motoring Book of the Year award in 2014. The event is one part of its mission to foster interest in all aspects of cars and motoring in Britain – a role it has played for over 110 years – through a series of events during London Motor Week.

'Our Library here already contains some exceptional works, but Simon's book shows a staggering depth of research which has impressed everyone who has seen it', said Tom Purves. 'Our highly experienced judges, who are completely independent of the Club itself, were united in their praise for what he has achieved.'

A new book on the life of British motor racing legend Sir Stirling Moss OBE, also impressed the judging panel. *Stirling Moss: My Racing Life*, written with Simon Taylor and published by Evro, received their Special Merit commendation. Other books that were in close contention included *Porsche 917 – Autobiography of 917-023* by Ian Wagstaff, *Jaguar Lightweight E-type 4 WPD* by Philip Porter (both from Porter Press), and *Jim Clark: Racing Hero* by Graham Gauld (McKlein).

Some 40 titles were nominated by the judges, all of which were published between July 2014 and June 2015. Books from publisher Veloce were nominated six times, with three each from Dalton Watson, McKlein, Motorbooks and Porter Press.

Besides the overall winner and special merit choice, they all had their own personal favourites. For example, Keith Adams, of Classic Car Weekly, rated *Saving Jaguar* by Sir John Egan, while Henry Willis of Auto Express liked *The Porsche 924 Carrera: An Evolution To Excellence* by Roy Smith.

The other judges included Mick Walsh of Classic & Sports Car magazine, Henry Hope-Frost of Autosport and Goodwood, Gordon Cruickshank of Motor Sport magazine, and independent reviewer and Octane writer Richard Heseltine.

On *Magnificent Monopostos*, Gordon Cruickshank commented: 'This is a rare case of the term 'definitive' being truly appropriate – it's deeply researched by a pre-eminent Alfa Romeo historian.' Mick Walsh added: 'This is the final book in Moore's trilogy of Alfa Romeo books, and it has fanatical research and a stunning selection of historic photographs, all beautifully presented.'

Peter Read, Chairman of the Club's Motoring Committee, said: 'With books of the high calibre evident in this year's nominations, it was always going to be hard to choose one, overall winner. But Simon Moore's book truly stood out for its excellence. Only a genuine enthusiast could consider such an undertaking, and we heartily applaud that.'

Notes to Editors:

About London Motor Week

London Motor Week is presented by the Royal Automobile Club and runs from Monday 26th October until Sunday 2nd November, culminating in the world famous Bonhams London to Brighton Veteran Car Run. Other events include:

Monday 26 October: Royal College of Art - Design Presentation Evening
Tuesday 27 October: Royal Automobile Club Motoring Lectures
Tuesday 27 October: The Art of Motoring Exhibition (private view by invitation only) however the exhibition is open to the public from 26th Oct to 31st Oct.
Wednesday 28 October: Motoring Book of the Year Award
Thursday 29 October: Royal Automobile Club Motoring Forum
Friday 30 October: Bonhams Auction
Saturday 31 October: Regent Street Motor Show
Sunday 1 November: Bonhams London to Brighton Veteran Car Run

For further details, please visit: www.londonmotorweek.co.uk

The Royal Automobile Club:

The Royal Automobile Club was founded in 1897 and its distinguished history mirrors that of motoring itself. In 1907, the Club was awarded its Royal title by King Edward VII, sealing the Club's 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 such as the 1000 Mile Trial, first held in 1900. In 1905, the Club held the first Tourist Trophy, which remains the oldest continuously competed for motor sports event. The Club promoted the first pre-war and post-war Grands Prix at Brooklands in 1926 and Silverstone in 1948 respectively, whilst continuing to campaign for the rights of the motorist, including introducing the first driving licences.

Today, the Club continues to develop and support automobilism through representation on the Motor Sport Association (MSA), Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and RAC Foundation, while continuing to promote its own motoring events, such as the free-to-attend Regent Street Motor Show and the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, which are two of the highlights of the Club's London Motor Week, which this year runs from Monday 26 October to Sunday 1 November 2015.

The Royal Automobile Club also awards a series of historic trophies and medals celebrating motoring achievements. These include the Segrave Trophy, the Tourist Trophy, the Simms Medal, the Dewar Trophy and the Torrens Trophy.



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A Royal Automobile Club Event



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