



## Royal Automobile Club announces shortlist of contenders for Motoring Book of the Year



With the inaugural Royal Automobile Club Motoring Book of the Year Award just weeks away, the final nominations for this important new writer's accolade have now been received, thanks to a panel of experienced and independent judges.

The Award will be presented to the winning author as the climax to the first Motoring Literary Festival, at the Royal Automobile Club's historic clubhouse on London's Pall Mall on the evening of Wednesday 29 October 2014.

The event aims to reinvigorate interest in all kinds of automotive. This is at a time when – thanks to intense competition from the Internet and difficult trading conditions for book retailers – the art and craft of automotive publishing is at risk of being overlooked and sidelined.

The Royal Automobile Club possesses one of the most significant collections of automotive-related books in the world. It is available for access by members and researchers in the magnificent surroundings of the Club's permanent Library. It can also justifiably claim to be the cradle of motoring journalism because the clubhouse is the official home of the Guild Of Motoring Writers, and is the venue for that long-established organisation's own annual Awards.

'We share with the Guild a determination to celebrate and promote the best research and writing into the history and development of cars, motoring and motor racing,' says Ben Cussons, Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club's Motoring Committee.

'We see our Motoring Book of the Year Award as a significant extra prize that authors can aim for – a shot in the arm for the whole industry and, we hope, a symbol of genuine encouragement for something that matters greatly to the Royal Automobile Club.' In order to make the Award independent and insightful, the Club asked six experts who independently review books regularly and in detail for their opinions. They are Mick Walsh, Editor-in-Chief of Classic & Sports Car magazine; Gordon Cruickshank, Deputy Editor of Motor Sport magazine; Keith Adams, Editor of Classic Car Weekly; Henry Willis, Consumer Writer at Auto Express magazine; Henry Hope-Frost, long-time contributor to Autosport magazine; and motoring book reviewer at Octane magazine Richard Heseltine. The Club is grateful for their time and support.

They each provided a list of the 10 best titles they've read professionally in the previous 12-month period. The books that received the most nominations, and so are in contention for the Award, in alphabetical order, are:

- Ayrton Senna – All His Races, by Tony Dodgins; published by Evro.
- Cunningham: The Passion, The Cars, The Legacy, by Richard Harman; published by Dalton Watson.
- Group 2: The Genesis Of World Rallying, by John Davenport & Reinhard Klein; published by McKlein.
- John Surtees: My Incredible Life On Two And Four Wheels, by John Surtees & Mike Nicks; published by Evro
- Maserati: A Century Of History, by Gianni Cancellieri, Luca Dal Monte, Cesare De Agostini and Lorenzo Ramaciotti; published by Giorgio Nada Editore.
- McRae: Just Colin, by David Evans & Colin McMaster; published by McKlein.

Attendance at the presentation is by invitation only.

Notes to Editors:

### **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 Bonhams London to Brighton Veteran Car Run held on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd November 2014.

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.

[www.royalautomobileclub.co.uk/motoring](http://www.royalautomobileclub.co.uk/motoring)



A Royal Automobile Club Event

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