

MYTH BUSTER

Debunking the most common old wives' tales



VOLVO 850

1 PORSCHE DEVELOPED THE ENGINES

It's often claimed that Porsche helped to develop the new five-cylinder engines for the 850. It didn't. It may have worked on the fresh 2.9-litre six-cylinder 24-valve engine for the 960, but it didn't get involved with the 850's five-pot being designed at the same time. Later though, Porsche did help out with the high performance T-5R's luxury Amareta suede and leather interior and tweaked its engine and gearbox.

2 IT WAS VOLVO'S FIRST FWD CAR

The 850 was the first front-wheel-drive Volvo to be sold in the USA and the first 'big' Volvo with powered leading wheels. But it wasn't Volvo's first ever FWD, as some believe. The small and sporty 480 ES coupé, which had its press launch in 1985, scooped those laurels. The new 850 AWD did become the first four-wheel-drive Volvo in 1996, though.

3 THE RACING ESTATES WERE JUST A GIMMICK

Entering two 850 estates in the 1994 British Touring Car Championship certainly got Volvo publicity that far outweighed its eighth place season finish – especially when one did a parade lap with a large stuffed collie in the back to wind rivals up. But although heavier, the estate's larger roof area greatly improved downforce, thus giving an advantage that no doubt contributed to the rule change on aerodynamics the following year: this meant that Volvo then had to resort to saloons instead. Incidentally, there's no truth in the assertion that the 850 T-5Rs were homologation cars for Volvo to enter the BTCC – it was already competing in the championship when the T-5R was launched.

Richard Gunn



850 Wagon racer wasn't a gimmick – it had more downforce than the saloon.

AWARDS

NATION'S CLUB STARS REVEALED

The shortlisted entries for the National Car Club Awards have been revealed – is your club on the list?

Britain's classic car heroes will be celebrated at the National Car Club Awards next month – and the shortlisted entries for this year's prizes have just been revealed. The event's organisers say that they've had a record number of submissions for the 17 categories in this year's awards, which are being presented at a prestigious ceremony at the NEC in Birmingham on Saturday, 24 March.

Awards Director, Lee Masters, says: 'Once again the clubs continue to raise the bar and have made deciding the finalists a very tough job for the judges, who now have the difficult task of agreeing on an overall winner in the coming weeks. Good luck to all those selected.'

There are new categories this year to recognise clubs' efforts to help good causes and the hard work carried out by younger car club members. And the prize for Outstanding Car Club Award has been split into two gongs to recognise the success not only of



shows and events, but club runs, rallies and tours, too.

A further seven awards will be presented to clubs exhibiting at this year's Practical Classics Classic Car and Restoration Show, with Discovery, which takes place at the NEC the same weekend. 'There'll also be a new award presented to one lucky club taking part in the show, recognising the best live demonstration on a car.

CCW editor, David Simister, is one of this year's award judges, and will



The MG Car Club has been shortlisted for four of the categories in this year's National Car Club Awards.

be joined by Practical Classics editor, Danny Hopkins, David Whale from the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, and Tourism Ireland's David Boyce.

David Simister says: 'It was tricky enough judging last year's awards because there were so many deserving entries from the clubs – and it looks like it's going to be even more difficult this year.

'For there to be so many entries of such a high standard on this year's shortlist is a wonderful reflection of the tireless work that clubs do to support the cars we all love.

'I'm really looking forward to seeing the heroes who make these great events, magazines and initiatives happen being celebrated. 'Good luck to everyone who's been shortlisted.'

CLASSIC CAR CLUB CATEGORIES

National Car Club of the Year

Sponsored by Lancaster Insurance

- Enthusiasts of British Motors built before 1985
- Gay Classic Car Group
- Lotus Drivers' Club
- MG Car Club
- Morris Register
- National Street Rod Association
- Škoda Owners' Club GB
- TR Register
- Volvo Owners' Club

Outstanding Club Magazine of the Year (Printed)

- BMW Car Club GB – for Straight Six
- Gay Classic Car Club – for Big End
- Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club – for Jaguar Enthusiast
- Jensen Owners' Club – for Jensen
- MG Car Club – for SafetyFast!
- Midget and Sprite Club – for MASCO
- Mini Cooper Register – for CooperWorld
- National Street Rod Association – for Street Gasser
- The Porsche 924 Owners' Club – for TwoFour

Outstanding Online Presence

- BMW Car Club GB
- Enthusiasts of British Motors built before 1985
- Lotus Drivers' Club
- Maestro Montego Owners' Club
- Mk1 Golf Owners' Club
- National Street Rod Association
- Opel Manta Owners' Club
- Škoda Owners' Club GB
- The 1100 Club

Outstanding Car Club Event (Run or Rally)

Sponsored by Classic Car Weekly

- Bright Yellow Car Group – for Bright Yellow Car Convoy to Bilbury
- Club Triumph – for Ten Countries Run
- Jensen Owners' Club – for Saxony Tour
- Marcos Owners' Club – for British Classic Welcome Le Mans France
- Midget & Sprite Club UK & Spridget Club Switzerland – for Alpine Miglia Tour

Shows and Events

- BMW Car Club GB – for BMW Car Club National Festival 2017
- Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club – for The Royal Windsor Jaguar Festival
- MG Car Club – for MGLive!
- National Street Rod Association – for 27th NSRA Hot Rod Supernationals & 21st ESRA European Street Rod Nationals
- Rover Sports Register – for Roverfest
- TR Register – for TR Register drivers parade at the British Grand Prix
- Volvo tuning – for Volvo 90... The VT Revolution celebrating 90 years of great Volvo cars

Outstanding Club Initiative to encourage the Next Generation

Sponsored by FBHVC

- Morris Minor Owners' Club
- Morris Register
- National Street Rod Association

Best Car Club Contribution to Charity

Sponsored by Carole Nash

- Crash Box & Classic Car Club
- Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club
- Rover 200 and 400 Owners' Club
- Sporting Bears Motor Club
- Triumph Classic Owners' Club
- West Berkshire Classic Vehicle Club
- Wolsey Register

DEVOTED CLUB MEMBER CATEGORIES

National Car Club Unsung Hero of the Year

Sponsored by Footman James

- Avenger Sunbeam Owners' Club – for Steve Conry
- Gay Classic Car Club – for Ian Roberts
- Jensen Owners' Club – for Thelma Smith (dec'd)
- MG Car Club – for Mike Parker
- Morris Register – for Dave Lawton
- Post Vintage Humber Car Club – for Glen Bunting
- Riley Motor Club – for Anthony (Tony) Hipperson (dec'd)
- Rootes Archive Centre Trust – for Matt Ollman
- Scirocco Register – for Will Purnard
- Volvo Owners' Club – for Ron Kirby
- Wolsey Register – for Bob Langston

National Car Club 'Young Member' of the Year

Sponsored by Lancaster Insurance

- Austin A30/A35 – for Neal Welch
- MG FWD Register – for Ben Hatton
- Racing-Puma.co.uk – for Benjamin Crosby
- The Imp Club – for Gemma Weeks

National Car Club Lifetime Achievement Award

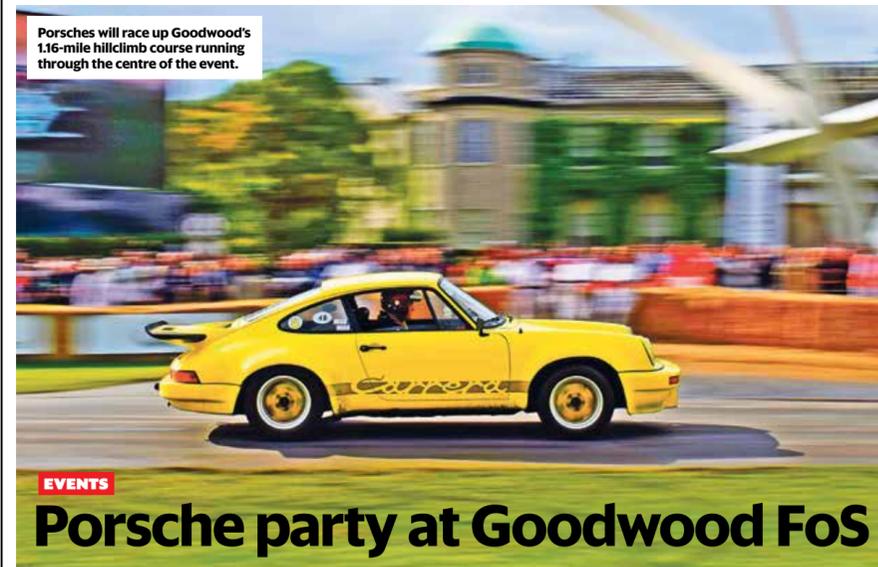
Sponsored by Tourism Ireland

To be announced soon – watch this space!

'At Show Awards' – Cherished Car Categories and Classic Car Club Display Awards

Judged at the Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show, with Discovery

- Best Car in Show
- Best Stand and Car Club Display (under 80 square metres)
- Best Stand and Car Club Display (over 80 square metres)
- Best Live Working on Vehicles at Show
- Best Restored Car in Show
- Best Live Demonstration on a Car Club stand at Show



EVENTS

Porsche party at Goodwood FoS

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon (formerly Lord March) will welcome Porsche into his estate for this year's Festival of Speed in order to celebrate a milestone anniversary.

The Stuttgart manufacturer is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the creation of its very first sports car – the 356 – at this year's Festival of Speed on 12-15 July.

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon says: 'This year Porsche will become the first manufacturer to create the central display at the Festival for the third time, underlining the huge contribution from

this iconic manufacturer of world-beating racing cars and road cars.' The German marque celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1998 and the 50th anniversary of the 911 in 2013 at Goodwood. This year's Festival will showcase a dedicated batch on the Goodwood Hillclimb, which will include a never-before seen parade of Porsche cars that have helped to define the company's vision.

Cars already confirmed include the company's crown jewel – the 1948 356 No 1 from the Porsche Museum in Stuttgart – and the most recent entry

into Porsche motorsport history, the 919 Hybrid LMP1 race car, winner of the 2017 FIA World Endurance Championship. Other examples of the marque's rich heritage will also be displayed around the site.

Managing director of Porsche cars Great Britain, Alexander Pollich, says: 'This will be the perfect setting for a celebration – allowing the cars that, over seven decades, have made Porsche so unique and so special, to be seen, and heard, in action.'

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MARKETS

Willis's Charger could be yours

A 1969 Dodge Charger previously owned by film star, Bruce Willis, and Jamiroquai frontman, Jay Kay, is for sale this weekend with an estimate of £50,000-60,000.

It will go under the hammer at Silverstone Auctions' Race Retro auction, on 24 February.

Willis's first wife, actress Demi Moore, bought the car for him as a gift. Jay Kay bought the car from Willis in 2008 and imported it to the UK.

The comprehensive history file shows that Jay Kay spent £25,000 having the 8.2-litre V8 engine and three-speed automatic gearbox engine rebuilt and upgraded as part of an improvement package in 2014.

Nick Whale, managing director at Silverstone Auctions, says: 'Aside from the fact that it has been enjoyed by two massive global mega-stars, it is also an unbelievable example in its own right. Indeed, its star-studded celebrity past will attract interest from bidders around the world, who will also appreciate that it is one of the best examples of a 1969 Dodge Charger currently available to buy.'

silverstoneauctions.com



The left-hand-drive American muscle car is estimated at between £50,000 and £60,000.

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