Achievement of Sunbeam 1000hp Restoration recognised with Royal Automobile Club Award

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Ian-Stanfield, Senior Engineer at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, receiving the Personal Endeavour award. Trophy Presenter Andy Wait, Country Manager at Motul.

Restoration of the World Land Speed Record car, Sunbeam 1000hp by the National Motor Museum's workshop team – led by Senior Engineer Ian Stanfield – has earned a prestigious Personal Endeavour award.

Ian Stanfield and the National Motor Museum Engineering Team were winners of the Personal Endeavour category of the Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards 2026, a category sponsored by engine oils brand Motul.

The awards were presented on Thursday evening at the Club's building in Pall Mall, London.

The Royal Automobile Club judges were full of praise for Ian – who is known at Beaulieu as 'Stan' – and the team of staff and volunteers. They said, "Ian Stanfield and the National Motor Museum engineering team showed exceptional skill, persistence and dedication in restoring a remarkable piece of British motoring history – the Sunbeam 1000hp World Land Speed car.

"Their three-year effort represents an extraordinary technical and historic achievement and deserves recognition, not just for the hours spent, but for being completed in time to meet the shipping deadline to arrive at the post-restoration debut at Pebble Beach Concours, where it showcased British engineering craftsmanship on a world stage. This was a truly outstanding personal endeavour by a team working at the peak of its skill, culminating in that appearance at Pebble Beach, which made us all feel proud to be British."

The iconic Sunbeam 1000hp car – the first car to ever go over 200 mph – was fully restored as part of a major project by the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu in advance of its centenary celebration at Daytona Beach next year. The car recently won the accolade of 'Car of the Year' at the International Historic Motoring Awards after a public vote declared it top of a shortlist of outstanding vehicles from around the world.

The Sunbeam 1000hp restoration has taken over three years – with many additional years of preparatory work, with the National Motor Museum's workshop team expertise being tested with such a mammoth motoring heritage project.

Led by Ian, the workshop team found more problems than expected while dismantling the front engine – one of two of the Sunbeam's colossal 22.5 litre Matabele V12 aero engines – and extensive work was carried out, both on and off-site, to repair the original parts. Collaboration partners and supporters worked extensively with the Museum to get the project over the line. Funds to support the project were raised following a National Motor Museum Trust campaign, and many engineering companies and other organisations helped in kind or with finance to see the car reborn.

Without a manual to work to, the Museum's engineers returned the car to the exact specification in which Henry Segrave drove it in 1927. The Sunbeam began 2026 with one of its engines in pieces, yet by August it was on display at the 75th Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. From there it called in at Jay Leno's Garage for filming before going on display at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, where it remains for the rest of the year. Next spring it returns to Daytona Beach for a centenary run, 100 years after Segrave's record, before heading home to the UK.

National Motor Museum Chief Executive, Jon Murden says, "I'm so proud of this recognition from the Royal Automobile Club of the National Motor Museum workshop team. It's a reflection of Ian Stanfield and his team's expertise and perseverance, and how the National Motor Museum Trust has sought to keep our historic motoring heritage alive. The honour reflects the hard work and passion of our whole team and supporters."

Ian Stanfield, National Motor Museum Senior Engineer said: "I'm so delighted to win this Personal Endeavour award. The team and I get to work on unique cars at Beaulieu, and we are so proud of what we achieved with our workshop team and volunteers. We've restored and maintained vehicles that are renown worldwide – the Sunbeam 1000hp being the latest but most challenging project. It will be a privilege to be behind the wheel of the car next

year during the centenary celebrations at Daytona Beach, and hear the engines roar again."

To follow Sunbeam's itinerary in the USA, its history and restoration see https://nationalmotormuseum.org.uk/sunbeam1000hp or for videos of the restoration visit the National Motor Museum's YouTube channel: https://tinyurl.com/ye2apxdw