Land Speed Record breaker Sunbeam 1000hp restoration team shortlisted in RAC Historic Awards

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World Land Speed Record breaker Sunbeam 1000hp restoration team is shortlisted in Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards

The National Motor Museum tells us:

Senior Engineer Ian Stanfield and the workshop team at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu have been shortlisted as finalists in the prestigious Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards 2026.

They have been recognised for their remarkable achievement of bringing World Land Speed

Record Sunbeam 1000hp back to life, after a complete restoration of the car and its two huge 22.5 litre Matabele V12 aero engines.

The project has been a labour of love over the last three years, with nearly a decade of preparatory work beforehand and no manuals or documentation to help. The team's knowledge and expertise were put to the test to complete the restoration through hard work, ingenuity and dedication, with support from collaboration partners and supporters. See more here: *https://youtu.be/NBWX2rJC-Hs*

The winner of the Personal Endeavour category of the Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards will be announced at a celebratory dinner at Pall Mall on November 19.

Ian will follow in the footsteps of Sir Henry Segrave, when he takes the honour of driving the Sunbeam, affectionately known as The Slug, along the beach at Daytona for the 100th anniversary of breaking the 200mph barrier there in March 2027.

Ian said: "It will be a privilege to be behind the wheel at Daytona Beach, especially as the only other recorded driver of the car was Sir Henry Segrave when he set the World Land Speed Record. It would mean the world to me to win this award, as not everyone gets to work on such a unique car and we are so proud of what we achieved with our workshop team and volunteers."

The Sunbeam 1000hp has also been shortlisted for two further awards in the International Historic Motoring Awards 2026: the Restoration of the Year award will be decided by an expert panel, while the Car of the Year is chosen by public votes. Celebrating excellence, innovation and dedication across the global historic motoring community, the awards shine a spotlight on preserving, promoting and enriching shared motoring heritage and the winners will be announced at a ceremony at The Peninsula London on November 13.

The challenges faced in the Sunbeam restoration were immense, as engineers encountered more problems than expected while stripping down both engines and needing to source replacement parts which maintained the car's historical integrity. Getting its completion

over the line on time has been a testament to the team's vision, determination and engineering excellence.

The Sunbeam 1000hp is now on show in the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, after making a star appearance at the world-famous Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. To follow Sunbeam's itinerary in the USA, its history and restoration see https://nationalmotormuseum.org.uk/sunbeam1000hp.

National Motor Museum

The National Motor Museum Trust Limited is an independent charitable organisation founded in 1972, which runs the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu in the New Forest. Continuing the work of the flagship Montagu Motor Museum, the Trust has a world-famous collection of vehicles and associated motoring items on display at the National Motor Museum at the Beaulieu attraction. The Museum opened to the public in 1972 and in 1989 the nearby Collections Centre was established. The collections at the National Motor Museum total 1.9 million items. They comprise, vehicle, object, reference library, archive, photographic and film & video Collections, all of which were Designated as being of national and international significance in 1997. The Museum shares the story of motoring on the roads and racetracks of Great Britain, and its mission is to engage and inspire people with the story of motoring through world class collections.

For more information about its collection and services, see www.nationalmotormuseum.org.uk.

Beaulieu

Your ticket to Beaulieu includes entry to the National Motor Museum with its new gallery Driven: Britain's Motoring Story and hands-on We Had One Of Those. Step back in time at Palace House with its recently refurbished former private wing, 13th century Beaulieu Abbeyand the Secret Army Exhibition, have fun in Little Beaulieu and enjoy unlimited rides on the monorail while exploring the beautiful grounds and gardens. For tickets and details

see www.beaulieu.co.uk or call 01590 612345.