

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## Bonhams to Sell Another Star



**Auction fever has hit the market, with outstanding cars hitting new heights. Another star is due to soar on 15th August, when the annual Bonhams & Butterfields Quail Lodge sale in California puts the prototype Jaguar 'E2A' under the hammer. Bids in excess of \$7 million are expected for this unique sports-racer - a car that helped shape Jaguar's evolution.**

Driven by no fewer than four of the world's greatest racing drivers (**Sir Jack Brabham**, **Bruce McLaren**, **Dan Gurney** and **Walt Hansgen**), 'E2A' is, says Bonhams, 'presented in wonderfully original and unspoiled ex-works condition, preserved in just one family ownership for over 40 years'. So it is, in effect, a one-owner car ex-works.



By 1960, **Jaguar** had won **Le Mans** five times, twice with the **C-type** and three times with the **D-type**, and **Sir William Lyons** decided it was time for an all-new semi-monocoque chassis - which would emerge in 1961 as the **Jaguar E-type**. One of the prototypes, what could be seen as a 'missing link' between **D-type** and **E-type**, was this powerful, fuel-injected, 3-litre sports-racing two-seater, the 'E2A'. It was raced by **Briggs Cunningham's** experienced team at **Le Mans** in 1960, with **Dan Gurney** and **Walt Hansgen** at the wheel, but retired after 89 laps.



The car then competed in the US, driven by **Hansgen**, **Jack Brabham**, and **Bruce McLaren**. In the late 1960s, 'E2A' was purchased by the prominent collector and racing photographer, **Guy Griffiths**, and it has remained in his family ever since. While Bonhams & Butterfields is offering the car fitted with its current 3.8-litre XK competition engine, an original competition 3-litre power unit is also available to the buyer.



**Text:** *Classic Driver*

**Photos:** *Bonhams & Butterfields*

**Period racing photo:** *Bob Tronolone*

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