

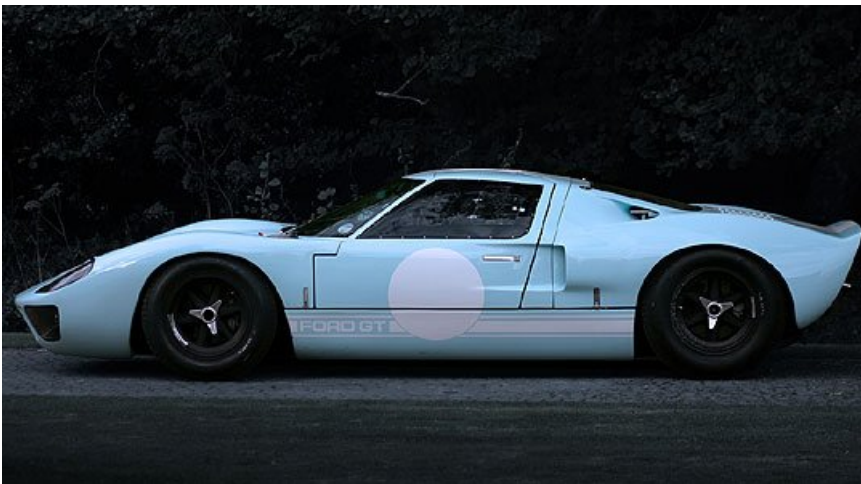
CLASSIC DRIVER

Classic Driver Dealer: Historic Classics



When we [ran a story on Eagle E-Types at the end of last year](#), we asked proprietor Henry Pearman why his business is devoted entirely to this one model. Well, since then, things have moved on. While the business remains first and foremost an E-type specialist, Henry's passion does spill over to encompass other marques. And this passion has finally become 'official' with the launch of a new enterprise - Historic Classics.

As the man himself puts it, "The thing I love is a car that stands out as being really special, and that appreciation could never be limited purely to **E-types**. Be it a **Mark 2 Jaguar** or a **GT40**, I value something that's in really special condition. Since the early days of **Eagle**, we've always had other cars around - **911s**, for example, and many **Ferraris** over the years.



"The clients who come to us for an **E-type** will often have more than one type of car. The common denominator is that they only want great cars - the best examples available. They frequently say, 'We would like a so-and-so: please can you find us one, as we know it'll be a top-class car?' So this side of our business, which we have christened **Historic Classics**, is less a separate enterprise and more, we feel, an addition to the services we offer within Eagle."



Take a look at the **Historic Classics** website, www.historicclassics.com, and you'll find some truly interesting cars. You'll also get the feeling, and quite rightly, that there's a bit of an emphasis on **Jaguar** (understandably) and on **Porsche**. Especially on **Group C Jaguars** and **Porsches**.

"We cover both road and race cars," agrees **Pearman**, "and over the past eight years there has been much juggling and further tuning of our **Group C Jaguar** and **Porsche** collection. But there's only so much space available, so we generally limit ourselves to a maximum of, say, 25 cars for sale within **Historic Classics** at any one time."





Of those 25 cars, there's a spectacularly interesting cross-section of cars of all sorts. One of the first that catches my eye is the **1938 Jaguar SS100**, and no wonder the sight of it rings a bell. "That Jaguar has been in 72 different magazine features, over the years," says **Pearman** with a laugh. "It's the **ex-Dave Garroway** car. The car went to America in the late 1940s and he was one of the country's main TV celebrities of the early 1950s – the original host of the '**Today**' show.

"He put a great big supercharger on the SS engine and blew it up (of course), so he persuaded **Jaguar** to let him buy a brand-new **XK120** engine, which they'd never normally release. **Garroway** fitted that engine in 1951 and he campaigned and kept the car for over 30 years." The next owner had it in California for another 30 years, before **Pearman** snapped it up as soon as it arrived back in England.



"I get a real buzz out of that car. I love reliving the substantial history of it. But then I like so many different sorts of cars – I get immense pleasure from driving a **Vintage Bentley**, for example, something we've done every Christmas morning for the past 10 years. In its own way, it's as rewarding to drive properly as experiencing 210mph down the **Mulsanne Straight** in a **Porsche 962**." And that's something **Pearman** can vouch for, as he was the **2008 Group C racing series Champion** in his **ex-RLR 962**.



Pearman's interest in **Porsches** crops up time and again – you only have to look at the **Historic Classics** website to see everything from **956** and **962**, to **993 GT2** and **996 GT3R**. “There’s a **2.7RS** that we’ve owned for the last four or five years,” says **Pearman** with evident enthusiasm. “And a **3.6 911 Turbo** – like the **E-type**, these are cars that people have a strong emotional bond with. They’re the cars they had on their bedroom wall when they were growing up.”



Please click [HERE](#) to see all **Historic Classics'** cars for sale in the **Classic Driver** car database.

For further information on **Historic Classics**, visit www.historicclassics.com.



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