

# Singer trophies hit mysterious notes

From **Classic Car Weekly** - Wed 20 March 2018 - Sent in by Peter Watts



**Above:** *Singer Le Mans 1.5, one of several rally regulars. Right: This trophy was awarded at marquee events in the Thirties, and is to be re-used by the Club for its original purpose*

A Singer enthusiasts' club is appealing for help to solve mysteries after acquiring two recently unearthed 'Thirties trophies originally awarded by the British vehicle manufacturer. By coincidence, both cups were offered to the Association of Singer Car Owners (ASCO) by different antiques dealers. ASCO now intends to award them annually to competition winners. The trophies had first been presented via the manufacturer-run Singer Motor Car Club.



ASCO vice-chairman Peter Watts says: 'There are several questions involved with these trophies and we would love to know more.' The first trophy's inscription shows it was the First Class Award presented to one E.G.Mobbs at the 1936 Bullock Cup Trial. WE Bullock was general manager of Singer & Co Ltd. He resigned in May 1936 following criticism from the shareholders at their annual general meeting', Peter says. 'At the moment we have no idea where the Bullock Cup Trial was held, or who who E.G.Mobbs was, though.' The second trophy (*pictured above*) was intended to be for the 1939 National Singer Rally, which was organised by The Singer Motor Car Club and held in Leamington Spa in 1939. 'We don't know whether the cup was actually awarded at the Rally, nor, if it was, to whom it was awarded.' Peter adds. Now known as the 'Singer Cup', this trophy is to be presented annually by ASCO at its annual rally, for the best, pre-1933 Singer car. The 2018 event takes place as part of the Poole Bay Classics Motoring Extravaganza on Sunday 25 July. As for the second cup, Peter says: 'We haven't decided what this will be awarded for yet, but we'll think of something.'

**Nick Larkin. ■ peter135@btinternet.com - asco.org.uk**

\* \* \* \* \*



We are grateful to Nick Larkin for his kind permission to reproduce his article in the Mascot. The article also found its way on to our club Facebook page (nothing to do with me - I am a social media ignoramus!), resulting in 3 comments from David Swann, who posted scans of pages from Popular Motoring - you may know how to find them.

The August 1936 issue of Popular Motoring tells us 'The Bullock (Trophy) Trial was held on 8th August 1936 at Rushmere, with the start at Himley, Staffordshire, by kind permission of The Earl of Dudley.' This issue also tells us it was an annual event, so, as E.G.Mobbs is the only name on the trophy in our possession,

it is possible either the event wasn't held again, or our trophy is a replica given to Mr Mobbs after the main trophy was returned to the organisers.

In the same magazine it is also noted that E.G.Mobbs won a first-class award driving a Singer in the Kentish Border Car Club "50" Trial, but the car model and date of the event are not specified.

A third Popular Motoring page has the results from the 1939 Leamington Spa Rally, but as 6 of the total of 22 categories have prizes listed as 'Silver Cup', we are no nearer knowing who, if anyone, won our cup.

\* \* \* \* \*

Readers may also be interested to know we have a 1934 Le Mans Medal mounted into a trophy, the centrepiece of which is the medal awarded to Singer & Co Ltd, by the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, for participation in the 1934 Le Mans 24 Hour race. It was acquired by ASCO, via Barry Paine, from Norman Riddihough, who was a member of Singer's 1934 Le Mans Team, and as you may recall from Bill's interview in the booklet with the Jan-Feb Mascot, was also Singer's Advertising and PR Manager, and ran 'Popular Motoring' (the Singer house magazine). He was also secretary of The Singer Motor Car Club. The Riddihough Trophy, as it is called, is awarded to the best, or a unique, Singer vehicle at our annual rally (SNCR).

Peter.



The Riddihough Trophy.

