



ECURIE BERTELLI
PRE-WAR ASTON-MARTINS

Price £550,000

The Halford Special

One of the most advanced race cars of the mid-1920s, the Halford Special was built by engine designer Major Frank Halford using Aston Martin chassis, number '1916'. In its original configuration, this chassis was the first Aston Martin built for sale and competed at Brooklands in 1923 before crashing in a race in a Voiturette in Boulogne the following year.

Following the crash, Major Frank Halford purchased the chassis and created a new two-seater body alongside two new engines. Both engines were 1.5-litre, six-cylinder, in-line units with aluminium blocks and crankcases, twin overhead camshafts and twelve inclined valves, very advanced for the time. With experience in aircraft design, Halford attempted to fit a turbocharger to one of the engines. While it proved unreliable in tests, it is believed to have been the first-ever turbocharged road racing car.

It first raced at Brooklands in 1925 sporting a 2.0-litre Roots-type supercharger, the Aston Martin Radiator was not able to dissipate the heat from the more powerful engine, so a bigger engine was fitted with the 'Halford Special' badge fitted, it has been known as the Halford Special ever since. The second engine was further developed with twin magnetos and produced 120 horsepower - the race car's current engine. It raced extensively from 1925-1927, achieving fifth place in the Montlhéry French Grand Prix and a rather unfortunate DNF at the British Grand Prix amongst numerous race wins and top 5 places, see the history timeline for full details.

In the 1928 it was sold to Viscount Ridley who dismantled it fitting one of its engines in a speedboat (which sank shortly thereafter) and the other in a Bugatti Type 35. The late 1970s saw the Halford Special restored with considerable effort by its current owner, who tracked down the original parts including one of the original engines. Its second restoration came in 2008, following a crash at Silverstone during a VSCC race meet. The current owner has enjoyed competing widely in VSCC, Goodwood and AMOC events with considerable success.




The Halford Special has been confirmed as eligible for the 2026 Monaco Historic Grand Prix and would be welcome at the top race events.





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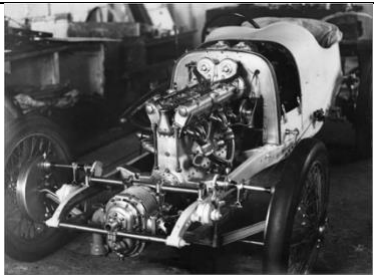

	<p>Aston Martin chassis number 1916, Registration number OR 1 First Aston Martin built for sale</p>		
1923	<p>Aston Hill. Herts County Auto & Aero Club's Open Hillclimb at on 12 May (W. G. Barlow)</p>		
	<p>JCC Spring meeting Brooklands (W. G. Barlow) 4th</p>		
	<p>BARC Whitsun, Brooklands (W. G. Barlow?) Entry number 12</p>	?	
	<p>BARC Autumn, Brooklands (W. G. Barlow) Entry number 9</p>	?	
1924	<p>Voiturette Race, Boulogne (G. E. T. Eyston) Entry number 14</p>	Crashed	
	<p>Rebuilt as the AM Halford by Frank Halford</p>		
1925	<p>August BARC, Brooklands (Halford)</p>	?	
	<p>JCC 200 Mile race, Brooklands (Halford)</p>	5th	





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	Rebuilt again as the Halford Special		
1926	BARC Whitsun Meeting Brooklands (Halford), 90 Short	1st	
	BARC Whitsun Meeting Brooklands (Halford), 90 Long Handicap	3rd	
	BARC Whitsun Meeting Brooklands (Halford), 90 Long	3rd	
	BARC Easter Meeting Brooklands, (Halford), 90 Short	1st	
	BARC Easter Meeting Brooklands, (Halford), 90 Long Handicap	3rd, 107.34 mph (172.75 km/h)	
	BARC Easter Meeting Brooklands, (Halford), 100 mph (160 km/h) Handicap	2nd, 104.91 mph (168.84 km/h)	
	BARC 3 July, Brooklands, (Halford)	?, 102.04 mph (164.22 km/h)	
	BARC Summer Meeting, Brooklands (Halford), 90 Short	2nd, 109.22 mph (175.77 km/h)	
	BARC Summer Meeting, Brooklands (Halford), 100 Long	1st, 109.94 mph (176.93 km/h)	
	BARC Summer Meeting, Brooklands (Halford), 90 Long	2nd, 109.7 mph (176.5 km/h)	
	17 September Meeting, Brooklands (Halford)	?	
	26 September Meeting Brooklands (Halford)	4th	





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	RAC British Grand Prix (Halford) Number 5	Retired lying 4th	
			
			
	JCC 200-mile race, Brooklands Entry number: 15	10th	
1927	Middlesex County AC, Brooklands (Eyston)	1st	
	AFC French Grand Prix, Monthléry (Eyston)	5th	
	Junior Grand Prix, Brooklands (Eyston)	4th	
1928	Sold to Viscount Ridley. Dismantled		
1971 - 1981	Halford Special re- assembled to original specification. See AM Magazine 1981. Re- registered OR1		





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1981	AMOC Wiscombe hill climb (J Cheyne)	Rex Hardy Spam Trophy	
1982	VSCC Silverstone (J Cheyne) (Number 95) ?	Boulogne Trophy	
	Brooklands (I Cheyne)		
	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne) Number 95 ?		
1983	VSCC Silverstone (J Cheyne) Number 72	Driver of the day award	
1984	VSCC Castle Combe	DNR	
1985	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1986	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1987	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1988	Weston Speed Trials (I Cheyne) Number 67	Vintage record	
	Goodwood sprint	141 seconds	
	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1989	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1990	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1991	VSCC Prescott (I Cheyne)	52.52 seconds	
1992	VSCC Oulton Park (I Cheyne) (Number 144)		





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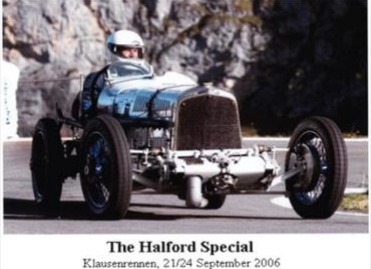
1993	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1995	VSCC Prescott (I Cheyne)	53.49 second	
1994	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1995	VSCC Silverstone (I Cheyne)		
1996			
1997			
1998			
1999			
2000	Car Moved to Brooklands Museum		
2001	VSCC classified: "Standard" (Reference: 5601, 17 August 2001)		
2002	FIA Historic Vehicle Identity Form (Reference 20/3113, 24 January 2002)		
2003			
2004			
2005			





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2006	VSCC Goodwood Sprint		
	Klausenrennen Hillclimb, Switzerland (Number 228)		 <p>The Halford Special Klausenrennen, 21/24 September 2006</p>
	Morges British Car Meeting, CH		
2007	Goodwood Festival of Speed (I & J Cheyne) (Number 61)		
	Brooklands Double 12		
	VSCC Goodwood Sprint (Number 84)	1st Handicap, 133.69 secs.	
2008	VSCC Silverstone (Number 164)	DNF	
2009	Montée Historique du Marchairuz, CH (Number 1)		
	VSCC Goodwood Sprint (Number 80)		





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2010	Featured in June Octane magazine "The world's first turbocharged car"		
	Festival of Speed (Number 63)		
2011	Wiscombe Park Hillclimb (Number 161)		
	Festival of Speed (Number ?)		
	VSCC Goodwood Sprint		
2012	Brooklands Double 12 (Number 101)		
	VSCC Goodwood Sprint		
2013	VSCC Prescott hill climb (Number 280) + AM 100th Anniversary parade		
	Brooklands Double 12 (Number 91)	1st Vintage Class	
	Exhibited at Goodwood Revival for AM 100th anniversary		
2014	Silverstone 50th Grand Prix Parade	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEWlow6f87A (at 54 Seconds)	
	Brooklands Double 12 (Number 131)	-	
	VSCC Goodwood sprint (Number 79)	1st Standard Vintage class	
2015	Brooklands Double 12 (Number 112)	55.75 seconds	





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	Festival of Speed (Number 15)	3rd Pre-war Power class. 84.31 secs.	
	VSCC Goodwood Sprint (Number 77)	DNR	
	Featured on Brooklands Museum Christmas card		
2016			
	Brooklands Double 12 (Number 131)	DNR	
	Display 40th anniversary Ecurie Bertelli		
	Display 90th anniversary of 1926 British Grand Prix		
	Display Windsor Great Park		
	VSCC Goodwood sprint		
2017	Brooklands Double 12 and finishing straight demonstration (121)	1st handicap Pre-1941 Racing Cars 1101cc - 1500 cc. 53.87 Secs	
	Shelsley Walsh hill climb (Number 141)	49.57 secs	





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2018	Head rebuild		
			
	Goodwood Members Meeting		
			
2019	Goodwood Festival of Speed. Aston Martin celebration year.		
2021	1st standard vintage	Class 14 I.D. Cheyne	
	Goodwood Festival of Speed (Number 3)		





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