



ECURIE BERTELLI

BME 119

1933 ASTON MARTIN 12/50 LE MANS

Chassis D3/252/L



OFFERED FOR SALE

£150,000

Finance available — contact Ecurie Bertelli to arrange inspection and test drive

THE CAR

BME 119 – chassis D3/252/L – is one of those pre-war Aston Martins that needs no introduction to those who know the marque.

It is the car on the front cover of the Osprey Automotive book *Aston Martin 1913–1947* by Inman Hunter, photographed in full flight at a race circuit – one of the most recognisable pre-war Aston Martins in existence.

Sold new in 1933, continuously documented from the original Works Record Card through to the present day, and maintained and campaigned by Ecurie Bertelli since 1986, this is a car that arrives with complete confidence in its identity and its story.

A brand new MKII engine, barely run in, means the next custodian inherits a car that is ready to go – to a sprint, a race, a concours, or simply a long drive on a summer morning.



HISTORY & PROVENANCE

The Aston Martin Works Record Card tells the story from the beginning. Finished in two-tone grey and bodied as a four-seat tourer, the car was sold new to Mrs Armstrong of Hethpool in Northumberland – a journey from the works in Feltham of well over 300 miles to its first home. From the outset, D3/252/L was a bespoke commission: specified with twin exhaust pipes, an extra door for the rear seats, an outside hood, and a special 6:1 final drive ratio.

At 2,774 miles, recorded on the Works Card dated 27 August 1934, the rear axle ratio was adjusted and the oil filter cleaned. By October 1948, the card records the car at 21,062 miles, now under the care of A.C.C. Dixon of Pall Mall and later Courtfield Gardens, London.

In the mid-1950s the chassis was shortened to short chassis Le Mans specification and a MKII engine was fitted – a significant and important upgrade. By 1965 the car was owned by John Dunne of West Didsbury, Manchester, who intended to fit Le Mans bodywork but this ambition was not realised during his ownership.

That task fell to Andy Bell and his father Preston Bell, who purchased D3/252/L in 1986. Under Preston's direction, and looked after in-house by Ecurie Bertelli, the car was converted to fully correct Le Mans specification – retaining the MKII engine and benefiting from some characteristically subtle Ecurie Bertelli upgrades. The car was back on the road by 1990.

The car has been maintained without interruption by Ecurie Bertelli ever since, and is intimately known to every member of the team.

OWNERSHIP RECORD

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1933 | Sold new to Mrs Armstrong, Hethpool, Wooler, Northumberland |
| 1933 | Two-tone grey 4-seat tourer with bespoke specification |
| Aug 1934 | Works Card: first service at 2,774 miles — axle ratio adjusted |
| Oct 1948 | 21,062 miles recorded on Works Card |
| pre-1950 | A.C.C. Dixon, Pall Mall then Courtfield Gardens, London |
| Mid-1950s | Chassis shortened to S/C Le Mans spec; MKII engine fitted |
| 1965 | John Dunne, West Didsbury, Manchester |
| 1986 | Andrew Bell / Preston Bell — purchased by Ecurie Bertelli |
| 1986–90 | Full Le Mans bodywork fitted; engine rebuilt |
| 1990 | Back on road in correct Le Mans specification |
| 1990–present | Campaigned & maintained continuously by Ecurie Bertelli |
| Recent | Brand new MKII engine fitted — barely run in |

COMPETITION RECORD

The AMOC Register (2001) documents BME 119's achievements across more than a decade of competition. The Register allowed owners to record a maximum of four events per year – what follows is therefore a curated selection of the highlights. The car continued competing well beyond 2001

| YEAR | EVENT / RESULT |
|-------------|--|
| 1990 | V.S.C.C. Silverstone HST — 1st Class Award |
| | A.D.A.C. Prix-Maritim Rally — 1st Class 2 (A. Bell) |
| | A.D.A.C. Prix-Maritim Race — 1st Class 2 (A. Bell) |
| | Summer Concours Silverstone — 1st in class |
| 1991 | Brands Hatch (P. Bell) — 1st on handicap |
| | Wiscombe Park — 1st class & handicap; Spam Trophy |
| | Louis Vuitton Concours — 1st Class B (P. Bell) |
| 1992 | Silverstone St John Horsfall — 9th & 5th on handicap |
| | B.D.C. Silverstone (P. Bell) — 2nd on handicap |
| 1993 | V.S.C.C. Pomeroy Trophy (P. Bell) — 3rd overall |
| | Goodwood Sprint (P. Bell) — 2nd on handicap |
| | Goodwood Festival of Speed Concours — 2nd |
| 1994 | Brands Hatch (P. Bell) — 1st on handicap |
| | Mallory Park (P. Bell) — 1st in class |
| | Silverstone Pre-War Race — 1st in class |
| | Oulton Park Race (P. Bell) — 1st in class |
| 1995 | Goodwood Sprint (P. Bell) — 1st in class |
| | Silverstone Pre-1945 War Race — 1st in class |
| | Mallory Park (A. Bell) — 1st on handicap |
| 1998 | V.S.C.C. Italia Trophy — High Speed Trial Qualified |
| | Goodwood Sprint — 2nd Class 1A |
| | Silverstone St John Horsfall — 2nd Class 1A |
| 1999 | Silverstone 50th Horsfall — St John Horsfall Trophy Winner |
| | Goodwood Sprint (A. Bell) — 1st Class 1A |
| 2000 | Goodwood Spring Concours — 1st Class J |
| | Goodwood Sprint (A. Bell) — 1st Class 1A |
| | V.S.C.C. Italia Trophy — HST Qualified |
| | Brands Hatch (A. Bell) — 3rd Class E |
| | V.S.C.C. Hawthorn Trophy — 13th Aston Martin race |



SPECIFICATION

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CHASSIS | D3/252/L |
| ENGINE | E4/429/L — MKII (new) |
| REGISTRATION | BME 119 |
| YEAR | 1933 |
| BODY | Short chassis Le Mans specification |
| ORIGINAL COLOUR | Two-tone grey (now red) |
| AXLE RATIO | 6:1 (from new) |
| FIA PAPERS | FIA HTP |
| FIVA | FIVA Card |
| VSCC | Buff Form |
| EXTRAS | Brantz rally meter |
| | Additional driving lights |
| | Race catch tanks |
| HISTORY FILE | Original Works Record Card |
| | AMOC Register |
| PRICE | £150,000 |



EVENT ELIGIBILITY

BME 119 holds a FIVA card and is eligible for a VSCC Buff form and FIA HTP papers, making it eligible for a wide range of prestigious historic motorsport events including the St John Horsfall Trophy, Pre-War Aston Martin races, V.S.C.C. events, historic sprints, hill climbs and concours. The car is ready to use immediately.



ENQUIRIES

BME 119 is available for inspection and test drive at our workshops in Olney, Buckinghamshire. We warmly invite serious enquiries from those who appreciate what this particular car represents.

For further information, to arrange a viewing, or to discuss any aspect of the car's history, please contact Robert Blakemore at Ecurie Bertelli.

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Pre-War Aston Martin Specialists since 1976