

The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 39

Regtransfers

In this issue:
an exclusive interview with
high-flying snooker star

Ali Carter





Read All About It!

Vijay Pandya (pictured left, above) grew up in Hinckley, Leicestershire, where his family ran a newsagent. It was on trips to the wholesalers that Vijay first noticed a Jaguar with the registration GJC 1. The car and its plate made quite an impression and Vijay decided that one day it would be nice to have his own personal registration.

When he was 22, Vijay took advantage of a business opportunity in a local shop and became one of the country's youngest sub post-masters. This was the beginning of his career as a retailer and newsagent.

Vijay married his wife, Vishakha, in 1987. He was delighted when his uncle gave him the registration VIJ 95 as a wedding present. Amongst family and friends, Vijay's name is often shortened to Viji.



Much as Vijay loved his VJ number plate, ever since his childhood encounters with the GJC 1 Jaguar, Vijay always dreamed of owning a number 1 registration. Some years later, a customer came into Vijay's shop and told him that his ideal private registration was going to be offered for sale at auction. The customer had seen an advert announcing the impending sale of 1 VJ. Vijay asked Regtransfers to bid on his

behalf and when the hammer came down at £9000, he became the proud owner of the number 1 plate he had always wanted.

In addition to his own registration, Vijay purchased RON 44K as a birthday gift for his son, Ronak (pictured right, above) and P417 DYA for his father.

"It makes me laugh," says Vijay. "People always expect the driver of a car displaying 1 VJ to be some kind of VIP. At a recent

family gathering at the Hilton Hotel in London, a gentleman came up to me after spotting the car and asked what line of business I was in. 'Papers,' I replied. 'Publishing?' enquired the gentleman. 'No,' I said. 'I sell newspapers!'"

Photography: Stan Thompson

Keepsake



Brendan Hughes, from Ayrshire in Scotland, has kindly provided a photograph of the registration, which he first purchased in 1975, pictured on his 1973 Ford Capri. Since then it has been on about twenty other vehicles, including a Ford Escort RS 2000, a Ford Fiesta XR2, a Nissan Bluebird and a Ford Escort Ghia.

"The Escort RS 2000 was the best car I have ever owned," says Brendan. "I was all through Europe with it, through the Alps and down to the South of France.

"I still wish I had kept it. They are worth up to £20,000 at present."



ALI CARTER

Snooker star Ali Carter is just 36 years old, but what he's experienced in those years could already fill a book, or two.

"I turned pro when I was 17 but I started playing at a very young age. When I was six or seven I had a little table at home and then progressed through the amateur ranks, the junior ranks, turning pro when I was 17.

I suppose I started making a good living from the age of about 19 or 20 onwards. Back in 2008 was when I sort of hit it big time. I made a 147 [*the highest possible break in snooker*] at the Crucible and got to the final of the World Championships where I lost to Ronnie O'Sullivan. From there on I started winning events and doing well.

"It was my dad who got me started. He bought a little table for himself, a six-foot by three-foot table, and put it up in the front room for him and his mates really. He was a keen golfer and cricketer and he wanted something to do in the winter. I just picked up a cue and took to it; that was it. My dad saw I had a bit of a talent and he just pushed me into it really.

"I used to watch snooker on telly. I remember the final in 1986 between Steve Davis and Dennis Taylor when Steve missed the black and Dennis came round to pot it. When I was growing up there was Jimmy White, who was a big influence on me. He lost all those finals to Stephen Hendry. Everyone wanted Jimmy to win the World Championships but he just didn't quite get there. Jimmy's a very good friend of mine now, so it's funny how I've gone from watching him on telly at a very young age to now being part of his circle, being able to phone him and he phones me and all that. It is a weird circle of life really."





Ali proudly displays the Paul Hunter Classic Cup. Ali won this ranking snooker tournament in 2015



For Ali, that weird circle of life has delivered hard times as well as high points. He received a diagnosis of testicular cancer in 2013. After successful treatment, Ali returned to snooker but it wasn't long before his illness returned, necessitating another break and more treatment.

"Yes, I've been through a lot over the last couple of years. It certainly puts things in perspective but, you know, it's just one of those things. You've got to battle through and sometimes in life these things come along and only the strongest survive really.

"It does kind of change your outlook. I try not to stress myself out. I have been addicted to stressful situations in the past and I used to bring stress upon myself, whether it was financially or the relationships I chose to be in with women or anything like that. I'm conscious now of de-stressing my life and just enjoying myself. I think that's the key. If anyone's suffered with cancer or anything like that, being able to de-stress is a big part of beating it.

"Everything is hunky dory now, apparently. It's an ongoing process: I have monthly blood tests and that. I actually had a test on Monday and I'm seeing the oncologist on Friday. He'd be on the phone to me straight away if there was anything wrong, so while the phone doesn't ring I know I'm all right."

Ali is keen to share his experiences and what he has taken away from them.

"I've got a book coming out. I was approached to do it, so I'm writing a book to tell my story, like my autobiography, so that should be good. Snooker will be a part of it, of course. That'll be a catalyst that I can use to promote it, but it'll be more than that. The Big C obviously affects a lot of people and I've had Crohn's disease quite badly as well in the past and had to

live with that. I hope I can try to give people a bit of inspiration, if you know what I mean.

"I won the Paul Hunter trophy a couple of weeks ago. You probably know that Paul died from cancer, so winning that meant a lot to me. I just hope my book can help a few people going forward."

His snooker and the bouts of illness that have interrupted it would probably have provided enough challenges to last most people a lifetime but Ali finds time for additional demanding interests.

"I play golf quite a bit. I've just started playing again with my dad. I used to play a lot, years ago but then my son, Max, came along. I'm quite competitive so if I played sh*t then I didn't really enjoy it but now I play to de-stress rather than trying so hard to win or to be a professional golfer. I still try to do things right and play well but I try to take in what's around me rather than stressing out over hitting a sh*t shot. If you're not careful, before you know it you find that everything you do you want to do to perfection, but you can't always. Life's not like that, is it?"

Ali doesn't feel inclined to mould his son into an image of himself. His aspirations for Max don't include the green baize.

"I'll keep him away from snooker, I think. It's too hard to make a living playing snooker. I'm getting him into a bit of golf and I would like to push him into aviation really. I've got a private pilot's licence and I'd love him to be a professional pilot when he's older, but that's probably living my dream through him, which I don't want to do. I'll sort of nudge him in that direction and see if he takes to it and we'll go from there."

From snooker to flying is quite a leap: certainly a different skill set must be required. But when one thinks about it,

a person who has fought his way to a high level in his sport and overcome several significant health issues is unlikely to be intimidated by learning new things.

"I was skint when I got into it and I thought to myself, I've got to go and get a job. I didn't fancy stacking the shelves at Tesco's or Sainsbury's or anything like that, or being a car salesman, and I've always loved aeroplanes. I bumped into a guy at the snooker club who was a captain for Thomas Cook; he's retired now but he was



CARTER

a 767 captain. He had a light aeroplane and he said to come up the airfield and have a little go, so that's what I did. Before I knew it I was doing all the flying and the take-offs and the landings and this pilot said he thought I should go and get my licence.

"There were eight exams that I had to pass, and I'd never passed an exam in my life so I thought, *Oh, God*. I really don't fancy doing this. To me, reading the books was like reading a phone book really, but I did it and I've got my PPL, so that's how

it happened. It was a goal to become a professional pilot and to do that for a living because at the time my snooker wasn't going as well as I wanted it to. I'd almost had enough of it about seven or eight years ago, but as soon as I realised I could do something else it lifted the pressure off me, the snooker clicked and the pilot thing went on the shelf."

That someone could take so many steps along the road to a career as an airline pilot and then simply abandon all aeronautic ambition is difficult to believe.

"Well it's still there. I do want to do it so I am thinking about doing a commercial licence at the moment. It's a kind of personal goal of mine to do it just to prove that someone who's come from nothing can become a top sportsman and a professional pilot. You know, just to prove that you can be whatever you want to be if you put your mind to it. I've got the right people around me who will help me do it so it'd be silly not to draw on those resources.





"I fly quite a lot and I own a share in an aeroplane. I took my dad flying on Sunday: took him up and flew him over his house and all around, so that was good. The plane's on a privately owned airfield, along with 10 or 12 others, so if I wanted to go flying now I could go and get in the plane and go wherever we want really. If you're going through controlled airspace then you have to file a flight plan but not for just a pleasure flight. I can fly over this house or wherever, as long as it's uncontrolled airspace."

At this point, we ask the first of several fairly inane questions. How does Ali know where this controlled airspace is?

"Well, you look at a map and it tells you. *[Of course you do.]* All the controlled airspace areas are marked on the map, so you know that you can't go in that airspace from surface to 3,000 feet and you can't go in another airspace from 1,500 feet to 2,500 feet. You know you can go above two and a half, or below the 1,500, but you can't go through there at 2,000 feet."

"It's complicated at the start but aviation has a lot of complicated terms for things

that aren't complicated at all. Once you know it's like anything. You know, these words scare you to death at the start but then you realise that it means something really simple. They just dress it up and put a fancy word on it. And airline pilots are weird. Some of them will tell you that they're the nearest thing to an astronaut while others will say, 'Well, if I can do it then anyone can'. Fortunately, I met a guy who was like that and who had been a captain for 40 years earning a hundred-odd grand a year. But then you'll get one who's come out of the RAF or something like that and they talk all posh and want to put you off doing it. They elevate themselves and say, 'This job's not for people like you,' when in reality it is, because I'm just from the street really and I could do it."

"Max is a bit young for the flying at the moment. I've taken him up a few times but he doesn't like the noise when you start the engine. He is a bit sensitive to noise: fireworks and all that, but I'll get him into it."

So, Ali does still have aspirations to reach for the skies, but for the moment, his main focus requires that his feet be firmly planted on the ground, beside a snooker table.

"I'm one of the fortunate ones: I've made a good living from the game and I've still got a few more years left in me. Hopefully, the health issues are behind me and I can kick on and win some more tournaments."

His personal registration is a memento of one such victory.

"I bought 86 AC when I won the Shanghai Masters. Generally, when I win a tournament, I tend to buy something for myself that I try and keep. I bought a nice watch and I bought my number plate. I'd always wanted a private number plate but I could never afford one when there was always something better to spend five or ten grand on. But then, when I bought the number I just loved it so much and it looks good on any car, you know? If you've got a nice car then a nice number plate really does look good. I've got a Mercedes now and 86 AC is on that. I think it looks really good."

CARTER

Other players have also personalised their cars with private registrations.

"Yeah, Jimmy's got Cue Boy (CUE 80Y), Selby's got one on a Range Rover and Murphy had one on an Aston Martin DBS. I've also got 79 MAX. I think that'd look nice on the Mercedes too. I decided to buy that because I looked for a MAX number plate for my son. I thought to myself it would be a nice thing for him to have and it could be a good investment. I wanted 79 AC but at the time, I couldn't secure it. So then I saw 79 MAX and as it was my son's name I thought it would be a good one. I thought if I could get it for a decent price I'd have it."

Ali is happy enough to display his number on his Mercedes but he does have his eye on something just a little fancier.

"A Ferrari California, that's what I'd like. Although I'll probably go for the new C63 next, the new coupe. I'll have one of those but at some point I'm going to have a Ferrari California, I think. Maybe after a win or if the book does well I might treat myself out of that. I don't know, I'll see. I've always wanted a Ferrari and when I was ill I very nearly bought one. It was when I was going through the chemo and all that. At the time, I thought, 'Just have what you want'. I went and test drove one and absolutely loved it but then I thought about

whether it was the right thing to do.

I mean, you're doing twenty-five grand as soon as you drive it away. I decided it wouldn't be the right thing. I thought that, if I got back to health and started winning again, I would have one then. So, that could be my next car."

When a top sports person who has beaten serious illness, and got himself a pilot's licence along the way, tells you he's going to buy a Ferrari we can think of no reason to doubt it.

Interview: Angela Banh

Story: Rick Cadger

Photography: Stan Thompson

We visited Ali Carter in October 2015.



Social Media GALLERY

Here is a selection of some great number plates that have been spotted by our followers.

To see more pictures, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and now Instagram.





Verity Norton, is based in Cheltenham as the area rep for the AMOC (Aston Martin Owners Club). A self-confessed petrol head, she worked in Formula 1 before she had her son. Now divorced, Verity has commenced a career in property development.

The reason that the registration VER 177Y is so appropriate is not only the

fact that it spells her name but also that the Aston Martin One-77 is the fastest and most expensive model produced to date.

Verity's plate is shown here on her DB9 Volante which she bought from the Aston Martin dealership in Mayfair. The plate was supplied by - who else? - Regtransfers.

www.amoc.org



Jerry James Nolan left school with no qualifications and joined the motor trade on a Youth Training Scheme for two years. To subsidise his salary of around £27 per week, Jerry would buy and sell, work as a labourer on building sites or undertake any other jobs he could find. He eventually qualified as a vehicle components person, working for a large parts distributor. Jerry soon became aware of the most common faults on various cars. This insight allowed him to cherry-pick cars with obvious faults, buy them at a reduced price and fully repair them himself in order to sell them at a profit. Later he advertised in the Watford Observer and began to buy at auction in Enfield, North London.

Now 44 years of age, Jerry lives in St Albans and has two children, Charlie 5 and Luke 20. "My business is very much family and friends and has grown purely on recommendation," he says. "To this day, I still haven't any business cards printed. I have a passion for branding and marketing in general and a real love of cars."

Jerry founded Nolan Prestige in 2013 with his brother, Stephen, who is also an avid car enthusiast, buying and selling cars from a very young age. The business model came from Jerry, who had previously owned and operated an established sports and prestige car showroom in Hertfordshire. Jerry found that customers would ask him to sell their sports or prestige vehicles on their behalf, as they did not want the hassle and stress that goes with selling privately. It also made good commercial sense to the customer as they achieved a higher return than they would have under part exchange.

"On average, car buying companies will offer less than 70% of the vehicle's current value," says Jerry. "Our business model takes all the best aspects of selling cars, leaving the bad bits such as large premises with huge rent and rates. This way I could pass on the savings and give a more personal bespoke service."

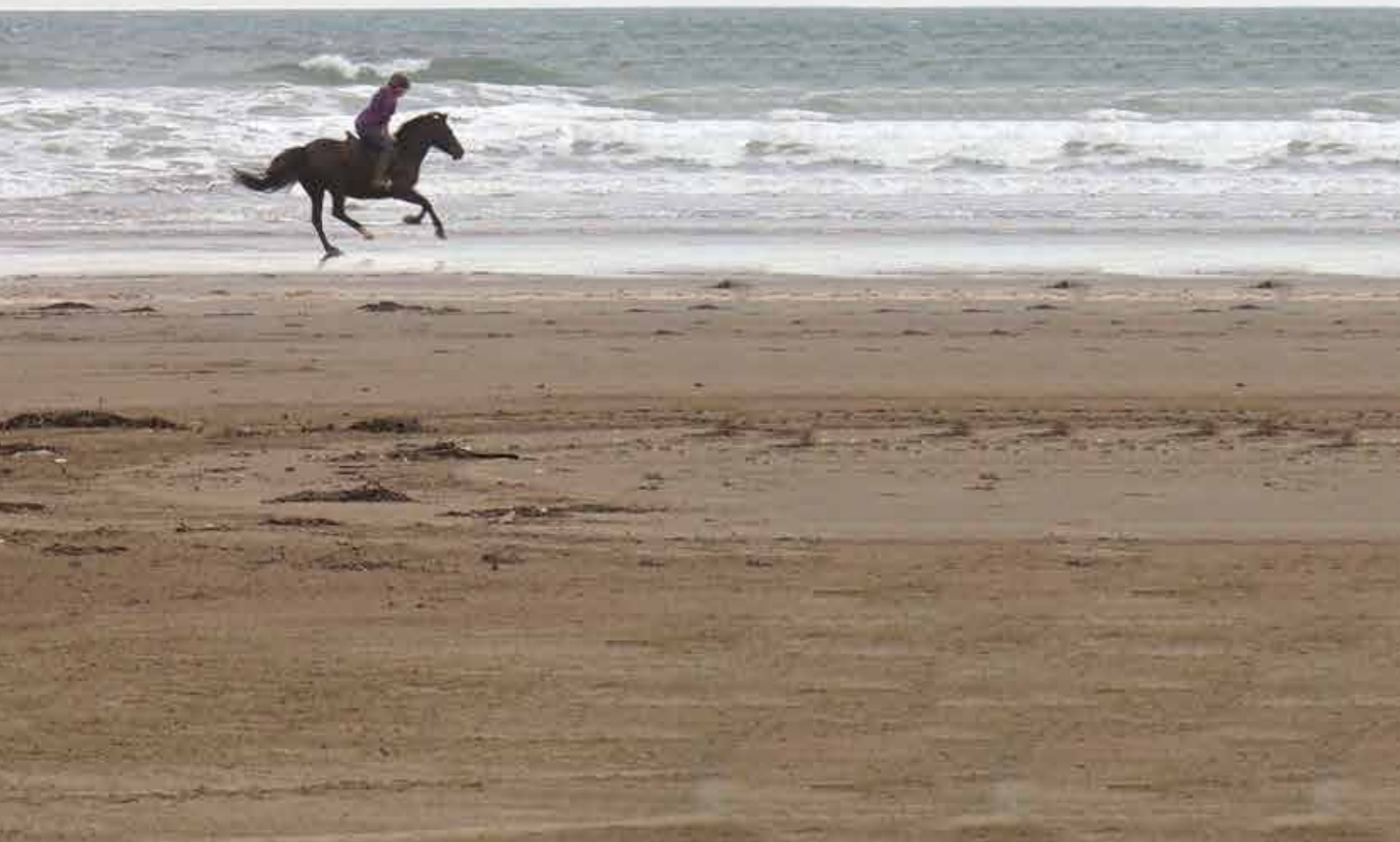
"My first cherished number plate was H11 JEL. I'm known to my friends as 'Jel' and the 11 was both my birth date and the

door number of my first property. I purchased H11 JEL in 1990 and that one went on my beloved Peugeot 205 1.9 GTI, RS Turbo, Sierra Cosworth, Audi UR Quattro and many more.

"Over the years I have bought and sold numerous plates from Regtransfers and they have always given me sound advice. I also bought 2 PLS - purchased on a whim. I was told it was a good number and, sure enough, I more than trebled my money.

"As a boy out in the car with my late dad driving, I would get excited to see which famous person might be driving the cars with the funny, private number plates. I used to tell my dad to hurry and get in front so I could see who it was. I never thought that, one day, I would have my own initials on my car: 2 JJN Jerry James Nolan. Cherished number plates give you a sense of individuality and achievement, as well as being a sound investment."

www.nolanprestige.co.uk



Our **NEW** Website

As you might expect, Regtransfers was one of the first personal number plates dealers to recognise and exploit the benefits of an online presence. Our website made millions of registrations available to millions of people. And what was good for our customers was also good for us. That was nearly 20 years ago and, although our website has changed and evolved over the years, we thought it was time for a substantial upgrade.

Our new website still does the things it used to do but it now does those things better and more quickly. We have also added new features and benefits, all of which are designed to make your experience better.

Our unrivalled and growing selection of numbers for sale, the biggest in the UK, offers even more choice than before. Our search options have been honed and focused to make it easy for you to find your perfect number plate.

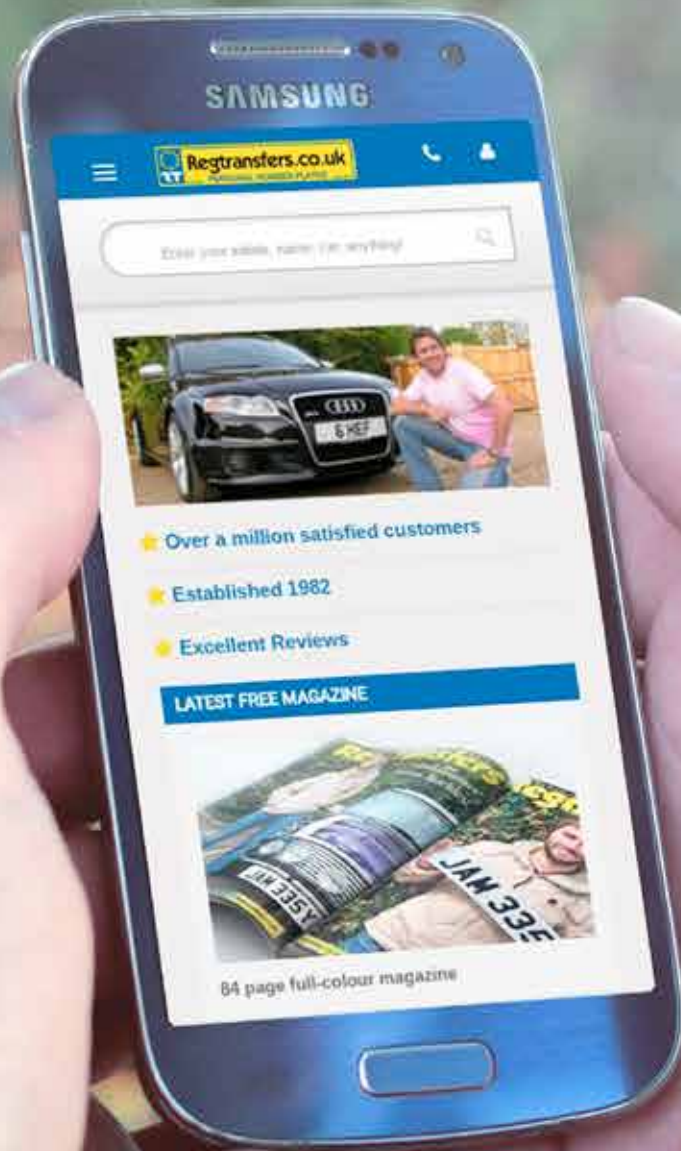
YOUR PERFECT PLATE



Let us find your perfect plate

With a few details we can find you a selection of terrific registrations from the millions that we have available.

Our website is now fully responsive, adjusting instantly to provide the best user experience on all computers and mobile devices. The site is now even more secure, offering you peace of mind in all your online dealings and transactions with Regtransfers.





Download
the APP!



FREE VALUATION



Sell YOUR number plate with Regtransfers
See what your registration number is worth with
our FREE valuation service.

One of the biggest changes is the option to have your own Regtransfers user account. From your account dashboard you can get valuations, track your orders, set up plate-availability alerts, manage how we contact you, participate in our auction and more. All these benefits with just one login.

But, of course, you don't need to log in to use the website, to search for your number plate, to read our terrific celebrity interviews and number plate articles, or to browse our vast gallery of personal registrations photographs.

GALLERY



Browse our number plates photo gallery.
Celebrities, rare numbers, funny plates, they're all here.

We are delighted with the improvements we have made, and we hope you will be just as pleased. Some things, however, never change and, should you find that you need to speak to us, our advisers are available to take your calls between 8am and 10pm, 7 days a week.



1998



2004



2008



2015

2016





From Barnardo's Boy to Multi-Millionaire

Peter Waddell had a challenging start to life. At times it seemed that everything was stacked against him. Originally from Glasgow, Peter was a Barnardo's boy placed in care at an early age. As he grew up, opportunities were few so he had to create his own. When he left school, Peter worked for a while as a chef before moving to London where he bought his first car, a Nissan Bluebird, for £250 and became a minicab driver.

Peter worked hard. He drove his minicab day and night, earning money that he used to purchase cars at auction. The car dealing was a part-time business, but Peter's stock soon seemed to encroach on every spare metre of space in his street, so he decided it was time to seek appropriate premises from which to

trade. Peter relocated to Kent in 1983 and bought a small car showroom with space for 20 cars. Buying and selling cars had become his full-time occupation and Peter abandoned cab driving in order to focus his attention on the business.

"I loved BMWs, they were my favourite cars," Peter says, "so I specialised in them. By 2005, we were the UK's largest, independent used BMW dealer."

Peter's business prospered and grew to become Big Motoring World Group. He is now a multi-millionaire owning three dealerships stocking up to 2000 cars in total. Rather than driving to auctions, he now flies a helicopter with the registration GP WAD.

"The helicopter is my hobby and I always wanted one since I first started buying cars. There was a car dealer back

then who used to fly to the auction, buy loads of cars and fly away again. I decided that was what I wanted to do too!

"I work 24/7 to make my business successful. Moving forward, I have plans to expand to a 10,000 car site over the next few years. I have had many personalised number plates over the years. I bought BIG 1, BIG 2, BIG 3, BIG 4 and BIG 1234 for some of the company vehicles. I think it's a great way to promote the business and it works well with the advertising campaign we launched in January 2016 called 'Time for a Big 1'."

www.bigmotoringworld.co.uk





The Eye of the Tiger



When Brian Williamson was a young boy at primary school, he was known as Tiger, a name he has since used in the branding of the businesses he has founded and run with the vital support of his wife, Sharon. When he discovered that the private registration T1 GER would be offered for sale at auction, Brian was determined to acquire it. Some years later, at an auction in Leeds town hall, Brian did secure T1 GER, which now adorns his dream car, an Aston Martin DB9 Volante.

"The auction was really exciting," says Brian, "and despite strong interest I walked away the proud owner of the registration."

"My number plate has certainly been noticed when I have travelled through Europe with Sharon, and hotels have always been keen to have the car parked 'out front'."

For Brian, the tiger theme that runs through his life has almost metaphysical significance. He has been impressed by how the reputed properties of the colourful quartz stone known as tiger's eye coincide with values and qualities that resonate with him and his businesses.

"One of the qualities associated with the tiger eye stone is patience," says Brian. "It is also supposed to enhance integrity, willpower, self-confidence, practicality and to encourage the correct use of power. It is a stone that brings good luck and prosperity. Tiger's eye is also a protective stone which is especially significant during travel."

The fit between this striking mineral and Brian's recurring tiger motif is so natural that he decided to rebrand his Tiger Industries business as Tiger Eye.

Brian is a keen golfer and a member at one of the UK's most prestigious clubs, Loch Lomond. Sadly, despite this, he still hasn't quite managed to develop his golfing skills to the level displayed by another famous golfing Tiger.

Brian has been running businesses for 34 years. One of his relatively recent ventures is Jumpstart, a tax advisory business in which he invested. He led the business to become the fastest growing SME in Scotland in the three years to 2013, securing £3.4m investment a year from the Business Growth Fund.

Most journeys have their unexpected diversions and interruptions and Brian and Sharon's is no exception in this respect. Just when it seemed to the couple that things were about as good as they could get, Brian received a diagnosis of serious illness: news that turned their dream on its head. Happily, after an operation and six months of post-operative treatment, Brian has been given the all-clear and life has now switched back from cruise control to sports mode.

Who knows, maybe the luck and protective properties of the tiger's eye stone played some part in guiding Brian and Sharon back to good times.

On a Promise

Twelve years ago, when Paul and Susan Coles from Folkestone sold their car audio and alarm company, they bought a Lamborghini Diablo Roadster. Paul found out more about the car when he attended a supercar show.

“The car is on a 2000 chassis with carbon special extras and full wave dash,” says Paul, “and is one of only five ever built.”

Of course, if one owns a Lamborghini the temptation to add a personalised number plate must be irresistible.

“I was looking online and saw the plate B18 BLO for sale for an excellent price on a competitor website,” says Paul.

Although he first saw the number on another dealer’s website, Paul came to Regtransfers to see if we could beat what he’d found.

“I contacted Regtransfers, asking them to give me a price for the same plate and they offered me a considerably better price. The whole transaction was clean, crisp and well managed,” says Paul, “and I am currently looking for a second plate to suit another car we have just purchased.

“We both enjoy driving the Lamborghini and have had many trips away in the UK and abroad,” says Paul. “The car is at Le Mans most years along with several shows like London to Brighton, Supercar London and others when time allows. The number of trips will be limited now due to our newborn daughter, Isabelle, but we will keep the car and number plate as an investment and for the occasional day of good fun.”

“The whole transaction was clean and crisp and well managed.”

The Regtransfers ‘Price promise’

We will try to match or beat the price quoted by another private dealer advertising an identical or similar registration.

Our philosophy, quite simply is that “We will not be beaten.”







Memory Lane

Ken Barley purchased the registration K 8003 from Regtransfers a few years ago. Subsequently, thanks to Ken spreading the word, various friends and family members have also bought personal number plates from Regtransfers.

"Our friend, Anne Wilson, bought A 1111 a while ago and in the last few weeks my brother-in-law, Allen Brown, has just bought AWB 34 from you and is delighted with it. All negotiations have been faultless."

Ken has other private registrations too. "I have had K 2 (which cost £340 at the time) since 1968 and K 14 since 1970 (£190) both obtained through the late, great autonumerologist Noel Woodall. K 1111 came from Sir Graham Esplem of Barnard Castle, who also had K 1 until he sold it to Noel in the 1960s."

Our late friend, Noel, is not the only acquaintance shared between Ken and Regtransfers. Ken kindly sent us a photo of a wonderful De Dion-Bouton car bearing the number C 5. In 1956, when the photograph was taken, the car

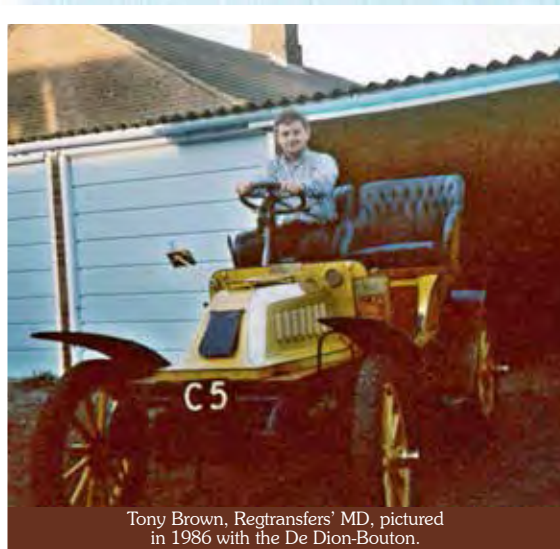
and number plate belonged to a Mr Tony Dunning, a friend of Ken's.

In 1986, Regtransfers purchased that same De Dion-Bouton car with its C 5 registration from Mr Dunning for £25,000.

Later that year, we accepted an offer of £45,000 for the car/plate package. The purchaser was a lady whose main focus was the acquisition of the number plate. The car, handsome though it was, was very much a secondary consideration to that customer. The number is currently advertised for sale at £399,995.

Regtransfers considers this to be the number's current market value, and a striking illustration of the way that desirable registrations appreciate in value with the passage of time.

We are very grateful to Ken Barley for leading us on this enjoyable and nostalgic trip down memory lane.



Tony Brown, Regtransfers' MD, pictured in 1986 with the De Dion-Bouton.





An eye for quality

Tony Singh Bhat and his uncle, Bal Singh Khela, have always had sharp eyes for quality. Be it property, classic cars, fine art or private number plates, Tony and Bal have watched the markets with interest.

“The Indian community is massively involved in the personalised number plates market,” says Tony. “We understand that the value of number plates increases with the number of people they may appeal to. Many of us have the middle name Singh and, as we all know, 51 NGH sold for a record-breaking price in 2006.

“Bal has many Gypsy friends, some of whom own businesses and nice cars.

We noticed that, for some in those communities, GYP 5Y would be an equivalent to 51 NGH. Considering the number of travelling people, Romany people and Gypsies living in Britain today, it could have huge potential.

“As a junior I was an amateur boxer, which brought me into contact with a lot of people from travelling communities, many of whom share the interest. I noticed cultural similarities between the travelling communities and the Asian community: a liking for nice cars, good watches and so on.”

When one considers the wealth accumulated by some entrepreneurs from

the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community, Tony’s point holds up under scrutiny. There is a clear market for prestige items, including private number plates.

“With traveller heritage very much in the media eye,” says Tony, “and the number plate market booming, we knew this was the perfect time and the perfect plate for that market. Who could resist flaunting GYP 5Y somewhere like at the Appleby Horse Fair or at an elaborate Gypsy wedding?”



How Lucky Can You Be?

Melvyn Cousins from Hertfordshire bought W11 MJC from Regtransfers in 2009.

The 2576 MC plate was acquired in the late 70s when he was looking for a secondhand JPS Capri. "They were black with gold stripes," recalls Melvyn, "and were like gold dust to find."

Having searched for several months, he finally came across one for sale in a Ford main agent's showroom. Checking the number to establish the car's age, he saw his initials. "Not only was it the model I was looking for," he says, "but it came with my perfect number plate!" Melvyn went back the following day and bought it.

"How lucky can you be?" he asks. "It has now been transferred six times between successive vehicles before its current home on Melvyn's Kia Sportage."

"I believe," he concludes, "that the number plate is now worth as much as I paid for the car and plate then."



Marvelous



Marston Tyler has quite a collection of interesting number plates.

"I'm not as famous as some of your recent, exclusive interviewees, but I do have some famous name cherished registrations."

One of the best of Marston's private plates is M412 VEL (Marvel). With the current popularity of the superhero genre in cinema, and the iconic status of certain comic book brands, Marston is surprised that no-one has yet made a "mega offer" for M412 VEL.

Another nice registration from Marston's collection is SYM 5. Clearly this number may appeal to people with names such as Sym or Symmons but, as Marston points out, it can also represent Beethoven's Symphony No. 5: surely tempting for any Ludwig-loving classical musician.

Marston also owns C8 THT (Cath T) and CE04 MEX (CEO Amex) - perhaps destined for the head of American Express.

Not all of Marston's plates are fame-themed however. His collection is completed by two truly personal plates: MAR 573N and T122 YER.





Here is our daughter, Daisy Leese, standing proudly beside her car sporting her personal number plate LDA 15Y purchased from Regtransfers.

She bought the registration in May last year before even having a car or passing her test, but it was perfect and she did not want to miss it.

We bought her the car in August, she passed her test in November and now we would like to say congratulations to Daisy on her 18th birthday and all she has achieved. And thank you to Regtransfers for all your help with the purchase. You were great.

Jackie and John Thirlwell
South Yorkshire

“Thank you for all your help with the purchase. You were great.”



I saw this number plate and had to have it as I'm getting married next year and my new surname will be 'Davey'.

Karen Leech
Essex



I purchased the index HOT 5N in 1991 when a friend exported a motorcycle and decided to sell the index before the bike was moved abroad.

I placed this number plate on my Ford Sierra Cosworth. I owned another four Cosworths over the next 13 years and HOT 5N was proudly placed on each of these.

In 2004 I sold my last classic Ford, an Escort Cosworth and HOT 5N was placed on retention. I moved house and needed the funds so it remained on retention until 2011 when for my 50th birthday, I purchased a 1989 BMW E30 325i Motorsport and HOT 5N was placed on this car.

I still missed owning a Ford Cosworth so, for my 52nd birthday, I purchased a 1990 Sierra Sapphire. I decided to see if I could buy a similar plate from Regtransfers. I spoke to a very helpful guy and asked if he could find me a number plate as close to mine as possible. He got back to me with the number plate HOT 3N. I could not believe it was the one I would have chosen if given the chance.

The service I received was first class and within three weeks HOT 3N was on the car. I just hope that Regtransfers never offer me HOT 4N as I would have to have it and another car.

Bob Clark
Lancashire

“The service I received was first class.”

mail



It was three days before Christmas and I was starting to panic. I wanted to get my fiancée something special. I went to the Regtransfers site and entered her first name, Xiuju (she is Chinese) into the search box. I couldn't believe it. X1 UJU was available. A perfect match.

It was late evening and outside office hours. That night I couldn't sleep a wink. At two minutes past 8 o'clock the following day, I rang Dunstable. Noah Wyatt answered the phone. He quickly confirmed that X1 UJU was still available.

Your sales advisor, Noah, started taking my details. "I will need your fiancée's exact name," he said. "X-I-U-J-U," I responded. "Noooo!" was Noah's reaction, "Never!"

I assured him it was. "That slipped through the DVLA's computer" he added. "It's never been issued. If they had known that this was a perfect match to a name, it would have been auctioned and commanded a huge premium." We quickly completed the deal. I mocked up a dummy plate and stuck it in a card.

Thanks for making our Christmas so memorable. Xiuju was over the moon. Her own very unique personal plate. All her Chinese friends now want one.

Simon Russell
Aberdeen

“Thanks for making our Christmas so memorable.”

mail



I've always been fascinated with number plates and how cleverly some are put together and wanted one of my own. I happened upon your site a while ago and checked in now and again to see what was available.

All of a sudden, one that leapt out at me which was more in my price range. It was on an auction site and I didn't quite understand how that worked, but the person at the end of the line said they would call the owner to confirm whether they would accept my offer. That was a Friday, and on the Monday they called back to say my offer was accepted. Within the week I received my new plates and when the transfer documents came through I was able to change mine over and couldn't be more pleased. It has certainly aroused some interest.

You could say RE12 HOT (Red Hot) is a bit of a reflection of myself these days. My husband died just over three years ago and, after having five or six years of worry and looking after him, my life has changed almost beyond recognition. I get out and about a lot more and entertain my friends and work colleagues with tales of dating escapades! I even get called "Mrs Red Hot".

Anne Spiers
Gwent

"Within the week I received my new plates. I couldn't be more pleased."



Fantastic service. All changed within the week. It's a luxury car which looks like it cost me a fortune so, when I saw the plate I had to buy it as it's a play on words. It reads 'why fortune' and everyone loves it.

My car is a real head-turner and so is the plate. Some people don't get what it says, so it's funny telling them the story behind it and guessing why I bought it.

Michael McKenzie
Southsea

"Fantastic service. All changed within the week."



My partner and I always call each other 'babe' and I was so grateful and pleased to not only get a private registration for Christmas but also for it to say 'Babe X' too.

The service was not only fast but dealt with in a friendly personal manner.

Natalie Overton
Tyne and Wear

"The service was not only fast but dealt with in a friendly personal manner."



We just wanted to drop you a line to show you the number plate we bought from you a couple of years ago. My wife and I were married in September 2013 and we purchased TAM 512S soon after.

We had seen the number plate on the Regtransfers website some 18 months before. After several looks and many months with our fingers crossed and contributions from our wedding guests, we purchased the number plate as a wedding gift from all our family and friends

It truly is a gift that keeps on giving. We still look at it every day and it reminds us both of our wedding day.

Once again we would like to thank Regtransfers for such a smooth transfer and their help in making our dream of owning our own number plate a reality.

Craig and Lesley Tams
Leicester

"Thank you for making our dream a reality."



For my 55th birthday, I treated myself to my dream car. Shortly afterwards the 'F' plates were released. I did not hesitate to explore Regtransfers, and my plate was the first one I saw. I purchased it immediately as the price was affordable.

Since then I have had my plate valued and it has doubled in worth. I'm the happiest and most big-headed person alive right now.

Floyd Rowe
Essex

Under the Hammer

It is now common practice to apply the word 'antique' to a collectible object at least 100 years old. By that definition, many vehicle registrations easily fall into that category.

Whether they qualify or are simply of great potential value because of their inherent desirability, their value on the open market continues to increase year upon year.

Both private and government-sponsored auctions have yielded spectacular prices

over the last few years and the trend shows no sign of abating. Number plates are fast becoming an essential part of any investment portfolio.

Here are some examples of the prices achieved at recent events:

60 O	£123,200
918 S	£85,616
124 J	£42,200
56 A	£36,368
LEA IH	£35,072
110 W	£27,944
488 T	£25,352
I FRN	£24,704
101 X	£23,408
750 SV	£21,853

Belfry Hotel, Oxford
18 May 2016

675 LTS	£60,344
I SUV	£59,955
40 000	£54,512
SH11 AUN	£27,814
I OUD	£26,648
DEV IIS	£23,538
1001 M	£21,464
488 GTS	£19,909
4321 O	£18,872
I XJC	£18,483

Tankersley Manor Hotel, Barnsley
24 February 2016

S 5	£270,300
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Bonhams Auction House, London
20 March 2016



Prices shown include fees and taxes



The Regtransfers Auction

Not to be outdone, we have successfully hosted our own online auction for many years.

It works just like a conventional auction, allowing you to bid on registrations or sell your own with the assurance of having us oversee the whole transaction.

It's a great alternative for buyers and sellers alike. So, why not take a look?

www.regtransfers.co.uk/auction



Photograph: courtesy of Tom Hartley Jnr Ltd Archive

Regwise newsletter

For the latest news and articles
and to subscribe to our online
newsletter, please visit
www.regtransfers.co.uk/news

The Only Way

There is no denying that the reality show *The Only Way Is Essex* has had an enormous impact on UK television. Millions have followed the ups and downs of the couples' romantic adventures since it began in 2010.

Now the phenomenon has celebrated its 200th episode with a documentary



examining the show and the people behind it. This was narrated by leading man Mark Wright and, of course, featured his co-star, Amy Childs.

We discussed Amy's fantastic AMY 22Y plate in an exclusive interview for Issue 30 of this magazine. This and all our other celebrity stories are available online.

On the Road

For the past 20 years, celebrity chef James Martin has been a permanent fixture on our Saturday morning TV screens. But now the gourmet presenter has decided to take the show on the road. *Plates, Mates and Automobiles* kicked off at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall in February and toured the length and breadth of the UK before concluding at Portsmouth Guildhall at the end of March.

The show has been described as a 'post-watershed' version of his *Saturday Kitchen* programme. It included cookery demonstrations, of course, but also featured James' childhood reminiscences and stories from his long career in cooking. For good measure, there were some celebrity friends and a few car stories.

Regtransfers were delighted to have presented James with his iconic 6 HEF (Chef) number plates back in 2008.



Ancient and Modern

A number of Irish newspapers have spotted the registration IT 1, which is up for sale on the Regtransfers.co.uk website. Why should this be of interest to readers in Eire? Well, the number was originally issued in County Leitrim back in 1903 and is one of the earliest ever number plates. Furthermore, Irish registrations have always held a special attraction for private number plate enthusiasts because they can use the letters 'I' and 'Z'. They are also dateless.

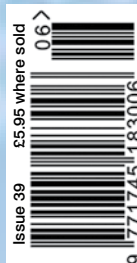
IT 1 is a particularly interesting number for several reasons: as mentioned above, it has a long history; it is an attractive 'number 1' registration and, of course, it has an obvious relevance to the field of information technology.





TOM HARTLEY JR.

PROHIBIT-CHALLENGE • TEST-HOM-ESTICE FARE



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