

The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 49

Regtransfers



Jeremy Lynch

Remember the days when football meant *Grandstand* and *World of Sport* on TV, the local stadium at weekends and jumpers for goalposts in the park? Remember the days before imported managers, millionaire players and omnipotent agents? No? Ah, well. Your faithful correspondent sometimes forgets that some of our readers aren't that old...

In all seriousness, the sport has changed almost beyond recognition from what it was in the 1960s and 70s when television first began to spread the seeds of an obsession that would eventually consume this nation and many others. The character of the game has changed as has the scale of everything around it. The amount of money involved is

simply beyond an ordinary mortal's ability to calculate. In short, football is huge.

The media landscape has also changed. Where TV once enjoyed a near-monopoly on delivering sport to the people, on-demand streaming and social media have opened up new channels of communication. The internet bypasses traditional media's



control over what the public sees and makes it possible for a whole community of independent talent to share in the success surrounding the game.

Freestyle football is one of the phenomena that has emerged in the YouTube age. As in many sports, football has always had its repertoire of trickshots and novelty moves:

Pelé and Maradona were famed exponents of the bicycle kick and Colombia's flamboyant goalkeeper, René Higuita, had his scorpion kick. The flashy stuff is not new, but it has certainly taken on a life of its own in freestyle football; so much so that it has grown into a sport in its own right with competitions organised worldwide and an international



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www.thef2.com



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governing body, the World Freestyle Football Association (WFFA) which manages official rankings from competitive events.

Another side to freestyle concentrates more on entertainment than competition and YouTube has become its natural environment. One of the UK's most popular freestyle teams are the F2 Freestylers, also known simply as F2: a duo comprising Jeremy Lynch (right) and Billy Wingrove (left).

In 2008, Jeremy Lynch took part in *Britain's Got Talent*, making it all the way to the semi-finals. In 2011, he and Wingrove started their F2 Freestylers YouTube channel and quickly gained enormous popularity. Although the F2 chose careers in freestyle over conventional match football, Jeremy Lynch's abilities brought him to the attention of Manchester United fans in 2019. Scoring for England at Soccer Aid's match at Stamford Bridge, Lynch had United supporters lobbying for

manager Ole Gunnar Solskjær to sign Jezza for the team, declaring that he played better than many top professionals. While the short-lived campaign was never going to bear fruit, it did underline the serious technical abilities



of freestylers and demonstrate that those skills remain relevant to the competitive game.

With well over 10 million subscribers, F2 Freestylers is a serious enterprise earning big money and the Sunday Times ranked the duo at number four in their list of the UK's top influencers. Their popularity has allowed Lynch and Wingrove to diversify, establishing talent management agencies to help develop aspiring footballers and social media content

creators and presenters. They have also launched a clothing brand, Rascal Clothing. This sartorial diversion was prompted largely by Jeremy and Billy's frustration at poorly fitting and uncomfortable active wear. The emphasis is on both practicality and style. The F2 guys themselves appear on the Rascal website wearing items from the comprehensive range of hoodies, t-shirts, sweatshirts, tracksuits, caps, bags and much more. Rascal Clothing caters for adults,

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www.rascalclothing.com

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juniors and even toddlers. But, despite this branching out, spectacular football skills remain the heart and core of F2 Freestylers.

As a successful sportsman and social media influencer, it is not surprising that Jeremy Lynch's love of flash and flamboyance should extend beyond football. He is also enthusiastic about nice cars.

A while ago, we at Regtransfers got a phone call from our friend Yianni Charalambous at top car-styling studio Yiannimize. Readers may remember we previously featured Yianni's work on the fantastic Mini he customised for actor James Buckley of *The Inbetweeners* fame. Yianni contacted us because he had just finished work on Jeremy Lynch's Lamborghini and he was adamant that the job wouldn't be finished until the car had an excellent private number plate. Of course, we absolutely agreed.

We visited Yiannimize to meet Jeremy, to see the car and to ensure that all the arrangements for the transfer of JEZ 444 had gone smoothly. As you can see from the photos, Yiannimize and Regtransfers delivered for Jezza and he was delighted with the result. In fact, he was so pleased that he came back to Regtransfers for a couple more plates, including JEZ 8000 for himself and one for his mum and dad!

Rick Cadger



We Buy Number Plates



Regtransfers provides the ideal virtual shop window when you want to sell your registration number. Our newspaper and magazine adverts, and our online promotions, drive millions of potential buyers to our website. By listing your number for sale with us you make it available for any of those millions of people to find and purchase. Our online auction offers even more opportunities to sell.

Even with all our resources at your disposal, it can take some time to find the right buyer. You may, however, be able to avoid delays and achieve a quick sale by offering your registration to us for our stock!

We will buy good quality, 'dateless' registrations (pre-2001 plates without a year indicator prefix or suffix).

The prices we pay for stock numbers will necessarily be a bit lower than full market value, as we have to be able to sell for a modest profit later on. However, this option does offer you the benefit of a quick and easy transaction and immediate payment.

Here are some examples of the formats we may be interested in purchasing for our own stock:

A 2	EF 4	NPR 6
B 34	GH 56	STU 78
C 567	JK 789	ABC 923

We will also consider the reverse arrangement, where the numbers precede the letters:

2 A	4 EF	6 NPR
34 B	56 GH	78 STU
267 C	789 JK	923 ABC

We may also buy really good prefix, suffix or current style numbers if they closely resemble words or names, for example:

C4 THY	'Cathy'
BUT 70N	'Button'
PA15 LEY	'Paisley'

If you would like us to consider purchasing your registration for stock, please visit our website page below and provide the details we ask for. We will get back to you as quickly as we can with a decision, usually within a few hours.

www.regtransfers.co.uk/sell

Just What the Doctor Ordered



Dr Brian Baxter, from Winchester in Hampshire, is a proud Celt, brought up in both Eire and Northern Ireland. He then moved to Edinburgh to study and is now a psychologist by profession.

"I travel all over the world," he tells us, "helping boards of companies become more

effective in their business strategies and improve the leadership of their organisations. I also help them, as individuals, to be more capable in their team and personal capacities.

"I am the founding chairman of the Association for Business Psychology in the

UK, which is now the premier professional body in my field. It is a tremendous association for young, aspiring psychologists to learn from each other. Something which was previously missing in my field."

As Brian's consultancy work took off, he decided to look for an interesting BB plate.



Luckily BB 10 became available. “I put it on my Range Rover,” he says, “and it’s been on all my Range Rovers since.”

More recently, Brian’s interest has turned to Bentleys. Brian felt that such nice cars deserved nice number plates so he turned to Regtransfers for advice a couple of years

ago. “Fantastically helpful,” he enthuses. “I found BB 25 and I bought it. Great service. The Bentley in the picture is the new shape Centenary Edition, Black Line GTC. I get loads of lovely comments about the car and its plate.”

When he’s not working, Brian now enjoys a relatively simple lifestyle, deriving pleasure

from socialising and from his hobby of restoring old clocks.

“They take me ages, but it’s excellent therapy to contrast my intense dealings with people all the time. I also enjoy landscaping

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the garden, as I have 28 acres to play with, creating interesting vistas and views.”

After 35 years of marriage, Brian’s dear wife, Judith, passed away a couple of years ago following an illness but Brian has two lovely daughters who are both married. Brian describes their husbands as “charming” so we infer that he approves of the matches!

“My eldest, Katharine, is a veterinary surgeon and lives on a farm in Northampton with her

husband, Tris. My younger daughter, Claire, is a freelance marketing manager, recently married to Matt with whom she lives in London.”

Claire has her own special number plate, 101 BB, that Brian bought for her black Audi A1.

“Before I got married,” Claire says, “my mates teased me, saying it stood for ‘LOL

Baxter Babe’. We call the car ‘Black Beauty’, which gives the BB a new twist.

“Dad gave me the number plate as he just couldn’t resist buying it,” she continues, “and probably because he wanted me to join the BB gang. I love it, and it’s great seeing them all parked in the drive when I go to visit.”





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:

Crowne Plaza Hotel Reading 15th, 16th & 17th May 2019

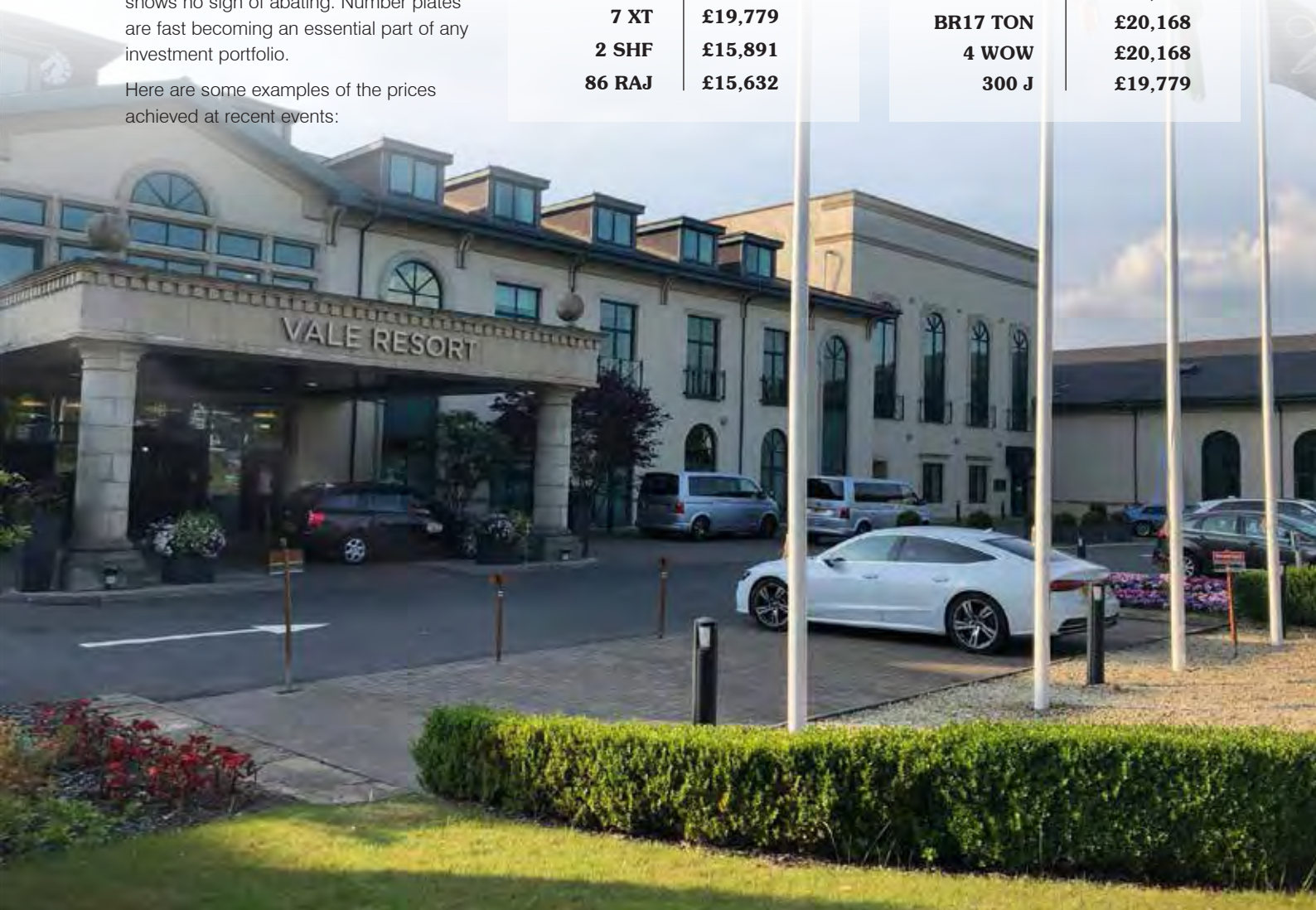
Top prices achieved (including estimated fees and taxes):

911 CM	£32,739
IG 9	£32,480
1 VJM	£26,648
3 XP	£22,371
31 LLY	£21,853
2 KSN	£21,334
70 AKS	£21,075
222 G	£19,779
7 NAV	£19,779
7 XT	£19,779
2 SHF	£15,891
86 RAJ	£15,632

The Vale Resort Hensol Park, Cardiff 17th, 18th & 19th July 2019

Top prices achieved (including estimated fees and taxes):

IG 1	£287,792
202 O	£68,768
HSK 1	£44,144
1 LJT	£36,368
170 Y	£30,536
USB 1	£29,888
RIG 1	£28,333
1 MVL	£22,760
1 HVM	£21,464
1 NVB	£21,464
BR17 TON	£20,168
4 WOW	£20,168
300 J	£19,779



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



Torn Between Two Numbers

Paul Weller (“No, not that one!” Paul interjects) lives in Stevenage, Hertfordshire and has one of the best possible personal numbers for one of the UK’s 180,000 people with the initials PW. Amongst that happy company, of course, are plenty of celebrities, such as Paul’s namesake, the other Paul Weller (you know, the rock star chap) and record producer Pete Waterman.

“I acquired PW 5 around 2010,” he tells us. “The 5 is for my birth date.” The initials, as well as obviously being Paul’s own, are also perfect for his company, Property Wealth. This, Paul assures us, is simply a happy coincidence.

At the time of purchase, Paul was torn between buying PW 3 and PW 5. He gave careful consideration to possible retail values, as any respectable accountant would, and decided that PW 5 had more potential. The 5, he reasoned, is the perfect substitute for a letter S. By choosing PW 5 the resale market would include all those people and businesses whose initials are PW and PWS.

“I attend a few Aston Martin collectors’ events,” Paul says, “and the plate always attracts interest.”

www.propertywealthgroup.co.uk





The Sound of Music

Devon pianist Anthony Powell has been entertaining audiences with his keyboard skills for more than 20 years. He is regularly found playing in one of the area's top hotels providing suitable music for functions, weddings and special occasions. He is equally at home playing evocative classical pieces, jazz, swing and ragtime, rousing Latin beats, 'Songs from the Shows', and romantic ballads.

Anthony started ACE Music after meeting crooner and saxophonist Kris Green at a jazz improvisation course. The band was initially called ACE Foot-Tappers Ragtime Band, but Anthony shortened the name to match his website and email address at ACE Music.

ACE music operates as a sort of collective, offering various line-ups to suit a variety of functions in the south-west of England.

Popular combinations go out as Louie & The Armstrongs - a 'fun band' featuring Louie Cameron-Fisher; Teign Pan Alley - an impressive four-piece band fronted by the bluesy vocalist Jodie Newton; and Kris & The Charlestoners - an entertaining jazz trio - with whom Anthony is pictured below centre, ably supported by Kris Green [right] and banjo specialist 'Smiler' Bob King.

www.ace-music.co.uk





The Rest is History

The Regtransfers marketing department often sends out postcards featuring a photo of a great car with an equally excellent number plate, specially selected to suit the recipient.

Our campaign certainly struck a chord with Paul Trevor Hampton of Bognor Regis.

"When the postcard with my initials arrived," says Paul, "I showed it to my wife;

she grinned from ear to ear, and the rest is history."

Paul tells us that his Mk2 Range Rover is one of the last ever made. "It is also a rare and lovely colour," he says. We think it looks great displaying Paul's rare and lovely 3 PTH registration!





“That will be £5, please”

Eighty-one year-old Michael Austin, from Pinner in Middlesex, has owned his MA 7 registration for over 60 years.

“It has been on a BMW, a Jaguar 4.2 and a Mercedes,” he tells us. “Now, at my age, it’s on a humble, but comfortable, Hyundai which suits my lifestyle.”

When Michael was 19 years old, he considered that his secondhand Ford Prefect, with the registration TLL 515, needed a bit of a spruce-up in the form of a personal number plate.

He established that ‘MA’ plates were issued by Cheshire County Council and consequently rang their vehicle licensing office.

“A real person answered the phone,” Michael recalls, wistfully, “not a machine. I told them I was looking to buy the registration MA 1 but it had just been taken and they offered me MA 7 instead, saying ‘That will be £5 please!’”

With that, the deal was done, even though the price amounted to almost Michael’s entire weekly wage.

“It’s fascinating to me that, although MA 7 was ‘born’ in 1919 and so is 100 years old this year, it lay unused and unloved for 40 years between 1919 and 1959, waiting for someone to adopt it,” says Michael.

At that time, Michael was a trainee for his father’s company, Grange Furnishing in Kilburn, which was a successful nationwide chain of upmarket stores.

“Most of the directors had much better cars than my little Prefect,” says Michael. “Some also had their own cherished number plates but none as good as mine.”

In fact, Michael was told to remove his new number plate or face the sack. However, he stood his ground and the threat was eventually withdrawn. Some years later Michael also became a director of the company.

Michael and his wife, Tricia, have just celebrated 53 years of marriage. “We have two grown-up children and three lovely but demanding, grandkids,” he proudly says. “MA 7 is very much part of my life,” Michael concludes. As, of course, are his grandchildren, two of whom, Isabella (11) and Matthew (8), are pictured with him here.





Tanfastic!

The Talbot family from Tamworth in Staffordshire have always been interested in number plates. For 21 years, dad Jason Francis Talbot has owned M3 JFT, which is currently on his BMW X5 M Sport. "Years ago," he tells us, "I also bought R2 OEY but sold it on with the car I had, not realising how much it was worth."

Six years ago, mum Zoe was looking for a plate for herself and thought she would also check out possible numbers for the children. "MIA 8674 was available," she recalls, "and I made an offer which was accepted. There's no relevance to the numbers, but I think the fact it spells her first name is fantastic."

Now, the thing is that Mia was only nine years old at that time, so Zoe has been "looking after it," ever since. "I knew it would be a fantastic present and a long-term investment," Zoe says. "She's still only 15, but it won't be long before I have to hand it over!"

The plate is currently on Zoe's Range Rover Velar having previously been on both her BMW 3 Series M Sport Convertible and an X6.

Mia has just finished her GCSEs and will be studying A-Levels from September. The delightful photograph shows her about to attend her school prom.

Not to be left out, Mia's 13-year-old sibling, Mason, is set to get his own plate soon. "I've started looking already," says mum, "and I want to purchase his initials, MT. They don't come up that often but I'll get one when Mason is 17."

Zoe, who runs her own highly successful local spray tan business, Tanfastic, concludes, "I think a personalised registration on a car makes it look more individual and sets it apart from other cars."



www.facebook.com/tamworthtans

Diver Driver

Kevin John Fisher is a semi-retired gardener from Suffolk. His surname certainly suggests a connection with the sea and, indeed, he served in the Royal Navy as a diver from 1972 until 1979 when he left to work in the offshore industry. His job took him to many exotic locations, such as Norway, West Africa, India, Brazil and, of course, the good old North Sea, diving to depths up to 210 metres (690 ft).

"I originally enquired about the registration F15 HER," says Kevin, "which somebody already had. So, when KF15 HER became available in 2014, I snapped it up."

But Kevin's first personal number plate was the splendid KJF 11, which he purchased over 35 years ago. "I travelled down to Portsmouth to get the plate," he recalls, "which was on a green Morris van on the back of a trailer."

In 1999, Kevin purchased S200 OKF (S2000 KF) from Regtransfers to adorn his Honda S2000. Kevin's two grandchildren, 10-year-old identical twins Harry and Freddie, are pictured here with the car and plate.



Ghosts in the Machine





Nick Leviton from South Croydon in Surrey is the Commercial and Operations Director of the Red Box Group, who create inspirational office spaces and craft remarkable creative, digital design and print.

When he was just 10 years old, Nick accompanied his much-loved Uncle Peter on a mission to buy a Lancia Montecarlo. Their search took them all the way to Devon to find a car that was rare even when it was new – a car that nearly 40 years later is a virtual treasure chest of precious memories. Memories of being dropped off at school in what all his friends thought was a Ferrari, of blasts along the Military Road on the Isle of Wight, of road trips to car shows, of cleaning and polishing, and of a larger-than-life uncle who bequeathed the car to the one person he believed would cherish the Lancia as much as he did.

Nick, now 48, has more than fulfilled his late uncle's wishes, maintaining one of the last Montecarlo Spyders to roll off the production line in astonishingly original condition – only the brake linings, tyres and cam belt have been changed since 1983.

The last word in the story of a car that means so much may well have gone to Uncle Peter himself, at the end of one last journey to his beloved Brooklands.

"I decided to take him for one last drive in the Montecarlo to Brooklands to scatter his ashes," says Nick. "I parked the car in the paddock on a weekday, there was no-one around and left it there while I walked up Test Hill and spread his ashes where a little cafe used to stand in the 1920s. Suddenly, down in the paddock, I could hear the Montecarlo's alarm go off. I walked back down and it just kept going, lights flashing and everything, but as I entered the paddock the alarm shut off. When I opened the door, and this is absolutely true, I went to flick the alarm switch and it was in the off position. Since that day the alarm has never gone off. My uncle was not religious at all, but my mother is and she says that was his spirit saying goodbye. Literally, a ghost in the machine."

The Lancia Montecarlo [styled as one word] was produced between 1963 and 1981 and Nick's splendid example is from the final year of production. It would, therefore, have had an 'X' suffix in its original registration. Its present 2 FLH number plate has been in Nick's family since the 1930s and it is thought to have been issued originally to the Armstrong Siddeley motor car company. This superb cherished number has been assigned to the Montecarlo since 1987.



www.redbox.co.uk

A Clever Combination

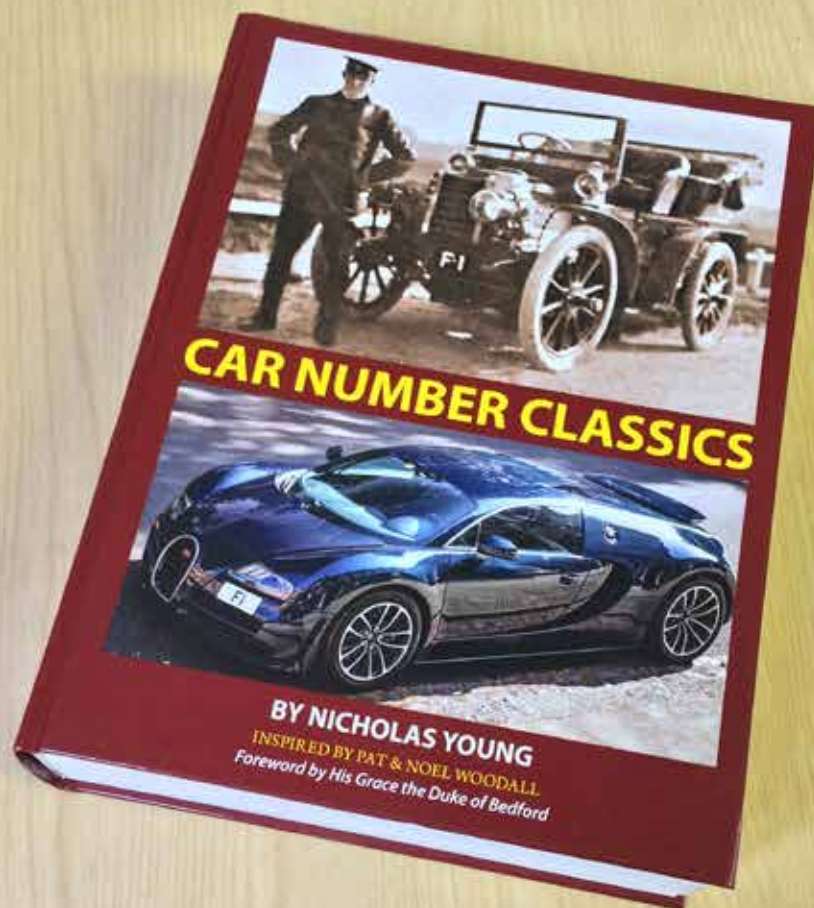
21-year-old Ali Safdari was born in Iran but moved to this country with his family in 2004 and now lives in Surrey.

Ali, who was named after his grandfather who sadly passed away recently, spent many months searching for the perfect plate to grace his splendid white Mercedes. As you can see, AL11 RAN (Ali, Iran) cleverly combines both his name and country of birth.

"I really like the fact that it doesn't look like numbers," Ali says. "It's all just words which makes it stand out. No matter how much money I am offered, this plate will not be sold," he continues, "it's something to treasure and pass it down the line of the family."



Car Number Classics



With approximately 800 illustrations of cars, ancient and modern; and with over 1,300 pages of information on the subject of number plates in the UK, this book contains detailed biographies of the original owners of the first numbers issued by each authority in the UK as of 1st January 1904 and for which records have survived.

Despite the violent deaths, suicides, attempted murders, infidelities, bankruptcies and mysterious disappearances, the book is entertaining as well as informative. The second section of the book includes images of present-day cars bearing classic numbers.

Dedicated to the late Noel Woodall (affectionately known as 'The Father of Autonumerology') and written with the approval and active support of his wife, Mrs Pat Woodall, this book is a must for car and number plate enthusiasts. The names of the 1904 entries are indexed and you might well find an ancestor who was a pioneer motorist or motorcyclist rider.

Even those with no particular interest in number plates will enjoy this book as a piece of social or local history.

Car Number Classics by Nicholas Young is published by Crawford's of London and is currently available by mail order through ny@nicholasyoung.com

£50 plus £8.50 postage and packing

1312 pages • 4.75 KG • ISBN: 9781527230460

About the Author

Some of our more mature readers may remember actor Nicholas Young from the 1970s children's TV show *The Tomorrow People*.

Away from the screen, Nick is something of a private number plates fanatic who has owned personal numbers since the mid-1960s. "I have always been fascinated by car numbers," he says, "and I remember gazing out of the classroom window as a ten-year-old schoolboy and doodling in my exercise book the number NJY 1. As soon as I was old enough to drive, I scoured the listings in *Exchange & Mart* to see if I could find something that would appeal and was within my budget.

"I became aware of Noel Woodall through his newly published, *Car Numbers* book. I read it avidly from yellow cover to yellow cover and was hooked. So I decided that a visit to Blackpool (where Noel lived) was called for. Imagine my disappointment when we were met by Noel in a car bearing a completely nondescript seven-digit registration number. This was the man who had W 3 in his stable. And so a life-long friendship began. Noel and I kept in touch over the years and kept each other informed of our various acquisitions.

"As my collection grew, I gradually became interested in the history of the numbers I had acquired over the years. Noel Woodall, I know, shared my interest in the history of number plates as well as their present-day owners, and when Pat

Woodall told me that Noel and she had been working on a book reflecting some of this history, I was happy to advise. In no time, we found we were communicating as much as ten times a day excitedly exchanging snippets we had discovered."

Noel passed away in 2013 but Pat and Nick decided to continue with work on the new book. Even though Noel is no longer present in person, his thoughts and inspiration still guide the project.



We were pleased to feature Nicholas in Issue 35 of *The World of Number Plates* and you can read the extensive article online at our website.

What they are saying about *Car Number Classics*

"This book could only be the result of a labour of love and the author's enthusiasm for his subject shines through on every page. It is well written and well researched and I feel will appeal not only to owners of old cars or owners of cherished numbers but anyone with even a passing interest in cars in general. A must for the bookshelf."

- *The Veteran Car Club*

"A thrilling insight to the world of the bigamists, the agitators, the gamblers the habitual womanisers and, of course, the scorchers. Although the scandals are perhaps the most amusing side of the story, there is so much more here to enjoy... a highly readable, amusing and frequently fascinating insight into a lost world."

- *The Automobile*

"I must say your book will be of enormous help to us and will be a brilliant addition to the Library."

- *The Royal Automobile Club*

"Written in a lively and often amusing style, Nicholas Young has somehow achieved in five years what would have taken the average person a lifetime. A splendid work, and unquestionably worth every penny of its £50."

- *Vintage Sports-Car Club*

It's a Keeper

Stephen Maskill from Malton in North Yorkshire says he is “happily divorced” and loves spending time with his two children Charlie and Emily. “We enjoy weekends away and generally getting up to all sorts of stuff their mum doesn’t let them do!”

As a sales manager for a large international property development company, he splits his time between the company’s offices in London, Manchester and Hong Kong.

“My passions are cars and watches,” Stephen says, “and I am always swapping and changing both.”

After almost 20 years of buying and selling number plates through Regtransfers, Stephen has finally acquired his perfect plate. “I’ve dabbled with numbers plates that worked at the time,” he explains, “but, for one reason or another, they were never quite right and I always sold them.”

One of Stephen’s earliest number plates was SER 464. The letters represented his first name together with those of both his daughter, Emily and his ex-wife, Rachel, who’s still a good pal. This was fine until young Charlie came along.

The initials theme no longer worked so Stephen bought 393 FEV, a reference to his schooldays nickname, ‘Fev’. Following that, Stephen bought XXX 7S. The last two characters were the only ones of intentional significance, representing his house number and first initial. “The ‘XXX’ did, however, always raise a few questions as to the industry I worked in, so that also had to go!”

More registrations came and went, including S9 YOO and UGO 5M, until Stephen spotted 27 SLM in an upcoming auction. “I planned to attend and bid in person,” he recalls, “but, due to work commitments in Hong Kong, I missed the auction and I missed the plate.”

As his business trip had been successful, Stephen decided to spend some money on another watch to cheer himself up after missing out on the registration he had wanted. “Imagine my surprise when an email from Regtransfers landed in my inbox advertising 27 SLM for sale.” It was now just a few days before Christmas so what else could Stephen possibly ask Santa for? “I quickly called Regtransfers and the plate was finally mine.”

27 SLM combines Stephen’s date of birth with the initials of his full name, Stephen Lee Maskill. Mindful of his previous purchases, Stephen insists that 27 SLM is now a keeper and will always be on his main car.

Using the birthdate and initials format, he intends to look out for 14 COM for his son, Charlie Oliver, and 5 EEM for his daughter, Emily Elizabeth.

“Regtransfers are, and will always be, my go-to dealer,” says Stephen. “The staff are friendly and knowledgeable and will always look to provide the best possible customer experience.”



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Designer Label

This happy chappy is four-year-old Luca Kynaston, from Bolton in Lancashire and the lady pictured below is his mum, Kirsten.

Luca's dad, Phil, wanted to get them their very own personal number plates as both birthday presents and investments.

"Kirsten loves designer labels," says Phil, "and I felt that getting her this registration was almost like a designer label for her car."

The story behind the '99' in Luca's plate is one of striking coincidence. "I was looking for a repeating number," says Phil, "and as it happened, Luca was measured for a ride at Legoland the same day I saw the 99 LK for sale. He was exactly 99cm, which seemed like a good omen."



Facelift

Tony Jason Brown from Coventry - who shares his first and last names with our managing director - has just purchased a brand new Audi TT which he had shipped from Germany to the UK. Tony's car is the new, improved 'Facelift' TTS version and features a number of mechanical and cosmetic refinements. It seems appropriate that Tony should have decided to add the ultimate refinement of his own with a personal number plate combining his initials with his date of birth.



Thrilled

Joella Edge from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was thrilled to bits with the number plate she received from her dad, Andrew, through Regtransfers. But, of course, she then needed a nice car for the plates to go on. So, the 'Bank of Dad' came to the rescue.

"With two daughters aged 10 and 7, a son aged 5 and two dogs, she needed an estate car to fit them all in," Andrew tells us but adds, "I would rather spoil them all whilst I can see the smiles on their faces."



For many years, Paul Edger from Bridgend South Wales was known as 'Pops' by his workmates, friends, family and even the budgie! So, when his wife decided to get him a personal number plate for his 60th birthday, SI7 POP was the obvious choice.

"I'm 74 now," says Paul, and that plate will always be with me. The nickname was handed down to me from an old work colleague and, when he retired, it was passed on to me and the name stuck. I've had it for over 40 years now.

"The 'S' is just the last letter of 'Pops'. And the 17? Well, my wife says there's only one (1) 'Pops', and we live at number seven (7)."



Join the Club

Daniel Thorogood from Thurrock in Essex is a Mercedes-Benz diagnostic technician.

"I started working in the motor trade in 1991," he recalls, "in a prestige independent garage which mainly specialised in Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Jaguar vehicles but also working on just about anything that came through the big roller shutter door."

The job came on the back of two weeks' work experience there whilst at college and earned him the princely sum of £35 a week. "I had a huge interest in cars," he says, "and working on many prestige vehicles gave me the drive and ambition to want to own a Mercedes-Benz one day."

To earn some extra money, Daniel also worked weekends in a small, family-run used car dealership, cleaning cars and carrying out basic maintenance and repairs.

"Knowing about my passion for Mercedes-Benz," he recalls, "the owner decided to bring in his almandine-red 230 coupé, which also displayed a single-number, three-initial registration." At this point, Daniel's ambition immediately extended to include the acquisition of his own personal number plate. Seeing some of his friends acquire cherished numbers like JC 42 and 806 RW only fired this enthusiasm.

In 1999, Daniel landed the job he had been working towards at a Mercedes-Benz Main Dealer and is proud to say he is still there today, after using his experience to work his way up to his role as a master diagnostic technician.

"In 2002," he says, "I managed to purchase my first registration, D4 NRT, combining both my abbreviated first name and full initials [including R for Richard]. This went on my

Ford Focus until I got a motorbike in 2006, my toy for the summer."

Eventually, after a lot of hard work, the day finally came when Daniel's dream was realised and he purchased a black 2003 Mercedes CLK 55 AMG coupé. "It was all finally paying off," he says, "so, now I had the car, I wanted a new registration. I found J55 DRT, which I felt covered the age of the car and gave it the individual look of a private registration."

With two numbers of his own and an ever-growing interest, Daniel helped some of his family to purchase their own private plates. These include his dad's S66 RDT (Richard Dennis Thorogood), his mum's M29 SMT (Susan Mary Thorogood) and his brother's - J80 CST (Colin Stephen Thorogood, born 1980).

But what Daniel really wanted was a 'dateless' registration which would also have some investment potential. "I knew that I would have to look into it in more detail, so I purchased a few well-known books from the number plate world. I started to learn more about the various issues and dates,

along with their value." Daniel discovered that DT plates were first issued in Doncaster in April 1927. They should have been allocated in 1903, however sensitivities of the time meant that the authorities were concerned that the letters may be perceived to allude to 'the DTs' [short for the chronic alcoholic condition delirium tremors], and so the release was withheld until 1927. A single D was, however, allocated to Kent county council in 1903. "With this information in hand," says Daniel, "I took to the internet, and Regtransfers in particular, to start looking into what was available."

Daniel spoke to Alfie Moon at Regtransfers and explained what he was after. "From the outset," says Daniel, "he was very helpful. Alfie really understood what I was looking for, so he called me with 313 D. I couldn't believe it; I finally got what I think is a nice looking dateless registration and it just goes to show that with hard work and ambition you can achieve anything."

Daniel's interest in registrations continued with the purchase of 625 DT, adding yet another dateless plate to the collection with a view to further investment.

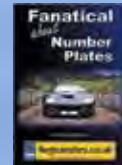




The late 'father of autonumerology', Noel Woodall, published a series of books that have become essential reference works for enthusiasts and professional dealers alike.

Other important figures are John Harrison, whose newsletter, 1903 and All That has been circulated to subscribers for many years, and Rod Lomax, publicity officer for the Registration Numbers Club, whose regular feature, *A Word From The RNC*, appears on page 34. These people have fostered the development of cherished number plates into a genuine interest for many thousands of people.

For full details of the superb range of number plate-related books available, please see our inside front cover and page 25.



He has also become a member of The RNC [Registration Numbers Club] and is looking forward to attending his first RNC Rally.

"Cherished and dateless plates give the car that extra bit of individuality," Daniel says, "and give me that sense of achievement

from fulfilling the dream from all those years ago. It brings a smile to my face every time I look at them."

The photographer here is Daniel's friend Sherrie Envil who, appropriately, displays - S3 NVL on her white MG3.





A Great Asset

David Middleton, from Chesterfield, is the sales manager of Kessler Kitchens, a UK furniture manufacturer based in nearby Mansfield in Nottinghamshire.

"I bought KE55 ELR from Regtransfers two years ago," David recalls. "It has been a great asset to add to my car, as I drive all over the country and all my showroom clients love it whenever I pull into their car park."

www.kessler.co.uk

Kessler



Eco-Friendly

When Simon Weekes, from Bodmin in Cornwall, found W33 KES at Regtransfers, his wife, Lorraine, said, "We have to get it; it's great family number plate."

The couple's son, George, loves the number and wants it for his own car when he is old enough to drive.

"George loves private plates," says Simon, "and he always looks forward to your magazine arriving. He has been doing a school project on our planet and becoming eco-friendly and he was impressed to see your magazine arrive in a recyclable paper cover."



Be YOU

YXRK Clothing is a new British fashion brand founded in 2018 by designer and model Matt York. Matt is ambitious and genuinely believes that YXRK will make a real impact on the industry. "We captured everyone's attention with our first launch, the Classic Collection, which successfully demonstrated the quality of our clothing," he says.

That first collection, as the name suggests, concentrated on perennial favourites: t-shirts, long-sleeved tees and hoodies. Matt remains the company's principal designer and is focused on delivering premium styling, top quality and excellent value to customers worldwide.

Matt's personal number plate, Y20 RKX, combines his company name with his own. "It definitely makes my car more special and personal to me and it turns heads. Anything that grabs attention is great for promotion."

www.yxrkclothing.com



Knockout Plate

India 'Thunderfoot' Mae Thompson, from Oxfordshire, is not your average 17-year-old. In just six years, the England international kickboxer has become ten-time World Kickboxing Champion, five-time European Champion and five-time British Champion. In 2017, India Mae undertook an inspiring challenge - three world championships in three countries in 30 days. Her father, Marc, offered her an additional incentive to do well: he told her that, if she should she win gold at all three events, he would buy her the Fiat 500 she wanted.

India countered his offer, raising the stakes and demanding even more of herself. They agreed that, if she won more than the three golds, her dad would also buy her the number plate K80 XYN. The challenge was accepted and the game was on.

India finished the championships with an astonishing seven gold, six silver and five bronze medals to her name. To cap this remarkable achievement, she was crowned British Martial Arts Young Female Martial Artist Of The Year 2018.

www.imkickboxing.co.uk



The Registration Numbers Club is the only traditional UK based club catering for enthusiasts of personalised vehicle registration numbers. Joining

us costs very little and the benefits could be substantial. We were originally founded in 1977 and currently produce a quarterly newsletter, RNC News, which is the original independent club publication and is available free to subscribing members.

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Rare Aston Martin DB5

An ultra-rare Aston Martin DB5 sold this August at the RM Sotheby's Monterey, California auction for a cool £5.26M ... a record for a 'Bond' car being just one of three survivors from the iconic cars commissioned by Eon Productions for the James Bond series of spy thrillers.

Originally two were made for *Goldfinger* in 1964 complete with machine guns, tyre slashers, bullet-proof screen, radar tracking, an ejector seat and revolving number plate featuring UK plate BMT 216A, French plate 4711-EA-62 and Swiss plate LU 6789, ideal for a spy travelling across Europe. One of these two was stolen in 1997 and remains lost. Two more identical cars were commissioned for the 1965 film *Thunderball* and it is one of these that is being sold. It didn't appear on screen but was used extensively throughout the USA to promote the series of films.

It was eventually bought by a private collector before being sold to a Tennessee, USA car museum where it remained for 35 years. It was then sold through RM Sotheby's in an unrestored condition before being painstakingly restored to its original condition by Swiss company Roos Engineering, an Aston Martin heritage specialist.

A word from the RNC

by Rod Lomax

RNC Rally 2019

Our new Membership Secretary Dominic Chandler organised an excellent rally at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire on Sunday 30th June 2019. Thankfully the weather was kind to us meaning the event was well attended with over 40 vehicles on site by lunchtime, it being deemed a success by everyone. Many old faces joined the group and it was also pleasing to see some new members too. There was no judging or prize-giving this year, just a discounted entry to the wonderful exhibits in the museum and the Collections Centre which most members took advantage of.

Later in the day, our archivist and advisor John Harrison organised a tour of the exhibits pointing out the many varied and interesting registrations on the vehicles displayed. Pat Woodall had come down to once again provide the Noël Woodall award and this year the trophy went to a very deserving Colin Cowperthwaite (7777 CC) from Sedbergh in Cumbria.

Dominic is working on a venue for 2020 and further announcements will be made on the club website at www.TheRNC.co.uk and in the club magazine *RNC News*.

Erratum

The situation concerning the use of traditional black and white/silver number plates on classic cars was reported in the last issue. Unfortunately, the paragraph contained an error so to put matters right the situation confirmed by the DVLA is as follows:

The actual date before which traditional black and white/silver number plates can be used on a vehicle regardless of the tax class they are registered in is for those registered before 1 January 1973.

This date and the 40-year exemption rule do not align. Under the 40-year exemption rule vehicles which are eligible to display black and white/silver number plates must be registered in the historic class. This date rolls forward automatically each year on 1 April.

To summarise: A vehicle first registered, for example, on 1 March 1976 - and therefore being over 40 years old, can display black and white plates provided it is registered in the Historic Vehicle tax class. A vehicle first registered on 1 July 1972 (ie before 1 January 1973) can display black and white plates irrespective of which taxation class it is registered in.

We hope this clarifies the situation and apologise for any problems the incorrect information might have created.



Kevin Jones gave his new Ford Focus Estate its inaugural run.



It was good to see new member Ralph Rowlands come down from Deeside.



Brian Bates from Devon and his dog 'Cash' are regular attendees.



Membership Secretary Dominic Chandler with Pat Woodall and Dom's appropriately registered S-type Jaguar.



*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 Instagram.*







Equal Measures

Michael and Christine Craig, from Rhyl in Clwyd, wanted a personalised number plate that would celebrate their love for their youngest grandchild, Skylia.

“We were able to obtain a plate that combines her name and her birthday [4th] with each of our first initials,” Michael says. “Skyla is very special to us. She is Christine’s only grandchild and, as such, is very much spoilt.”

Michael has four more grandchildren from a previous marriage. “They all lived a great distance from me when they were young,” he explains. “Skyla has shown me what I missed all those years ago. Looking after her is both tiring and rewarding in equal measures.”

Just Right

“I got the magazine today,” says Steve Close, “and thought I would send you this.”

Steve’s company, Just Blinds of Harlepool, has been supplying window blinds to the domestic market for 38 years and Steve bought the JU57 TTT plate in the picture from Regtransfers about three years ago. “The transfer was completed within a week,” he recalls approvingly.

As well as representing his company admirably, Steve points out that JU57 TTT would also be a great registration for a Justin, a Justine, or any other person or company with the word ‘Just’ in their name.

www.justblinds.co



The World of Personal Number Plates Regtransfers

Issue 49

