

AUCTION NEWS

MARKETS EDITOR
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I've seen some real treats going through auctions recently, and there's always the temptation to buy something else, even though space is now at a premium. But if you'd like a classic but are unsure about what you like, have you thought about going to a big classic show? There are plenty up and down the country but the daddy of them all, the NEC's Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show, is on the weekend after this (13-15 November). It's a great way of looking at many different classics and, equally importantly, talking to the owners, which will give you a true insight into what that classic is like today. If you're unsure, I'd definitely recommend a trip to the NEC.

PREVIEW CLASSICS CENTRAL, BEDFORD AUTODROME, MK44 2YP. 8 NOV

CENTRAL BEDS IN

Second sale set to attract larger crowd

New auction house Classics Central sale has assembled a relatively small but interesting line-up, including two 'fintail' Mercedes-Benz saloons and a one-owner Nissan 280ZX for its second ever sale.

Other Mercedes-Benz models (including a fully-restored 450SL) join the fray, along with an early, left-hand drive Jaguar E-type Roadster. Those with an eye on future classics should have a look at the 1998 Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph, which, despite being a recent model, is all but forgotten and represents the last of the pre-Goodwood Royces.

Expect a bigger gathering of punters on Sunday than at the debut sale.

0800 122 3335

www.classicscentral.co.uk



ESTIMATE
**£4k
-6k**

A BIG CHARACTER

1989 Fiat 126 BIS

The 126 had a tough act to follow, following in the wheeltracks of the 500. It successfully assumed the replacement role and low-mileage examples are becoming increasingly prized as their numbers dwindle. This later BIS model, with the larger 700cc two-cylinder engine, is a two-owner car and has covered 14,200 from new and has plenty of history, the auctioneer says. While it won't be rapid, its character is far bigger than its size, and should petrol prices rise again, it will still be cheap to run.

ONE-OWNER Z-CAR

1980 Datsun 280ZX

Are there any other 280s as good as this one? A one-owner, manual gearbox, 32,000 miles from new example in Rallye Red with same-colour velour interior, it's in remarkably straight order, the engine bay up to the same standard as the bodywork and the interior. With values of same-condition Injection Capris on the hike, this could be a great-value, unusual alternative.



ESTIMATE
**£6k
-8k**



ESTIMATE
**£18.5k
-21k**

A CUT ABOVE

1994 Rolls-Royce Silver Spur

With a trifling 43,000 miles on the clock, this Silver Spur could be a smashing early Christmas present for one lucky punter. The extensive MoT paper trail is good, and a recent service at Royce specialist Hillier Hill adds to its draw. Said to be driving well it's a cut above a 'mere' Silver Spirit, and being both rarer and more spacious for rear seat passengers, it's ideal for getting to the races this winter.



ESTIMATE
**£15k
-18k**

IN VERY FINE ORDER

1992 Jaguar XJS V12 Convertible

Boasting a comprehensive (23 stamps with main dealers and Jaguar specialists) service history and having covered 53,000 warranted miles from new, CC's XJS drop-top has been well looked after all its life and is the ideal example for the punter furiously searching for one of these long-legged drop-tops. In Signal Red with a magnolia interior it looks the part and will come with a fresh MoT. Rarely do XJS Convertibles turn up in such fine order – bidding should be fevered.

| YEAR | MAKE/MODEL | ESTIMATE |
|-------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1989 | BMW M635CSi | £20,000-24,000 |
| 1990 | BMW 325i Convertible | £7500-9500 |
| 2006 | Chevrolet Corvette | £25,000-30,000 |
| 1970 | Citroen DS2.0 | £15,000-20,000 |
| 1980 | Datsun 280ZX | £6000-8000 |
| 1989 | Fiat 126 | £4000-6000 |
| 1948 | Ford F1 pick-up | £17,000-21,000 |
| 1980 | Ford Escort RS2000 | £24,000-28,000 |
| 1988 | Ford Escort 1.3 Popular 5-dr | £4000-5000 |
| 19790 | Gentry TF evoc | £12,000-14,000 |
| 2006 | Honda S2000 | £5000-7000 |
| 1963 | Jaguar E-type Roadster | £100,000-120,000 |
| 1991 | Jaguar XJS 3.6 fhc | £4000-5500 |
| 1992 | Jaguar XJS V12 Convertible | £15,000-18,000 |
| ---- | Lotus Carlton | £19,000-22,000 |
| 1965 | Mercedes-Benz 300SE | £10,000-12,000 |

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| 1965 | Mercedes-Benz 230SL | £40,000-45,000 |
| 1966 | Mercedes-Benz 230SE | £13,000-17,000 |
| 1977 | Mercedes-Benz 350SL | £9000-11,000 |
| 1979 | Mercedes-Benz 250 | £3000-4000 |
| 1979 | Mercedes-Benz 230C | £4500-5500 |
| 1979 | Mercedes-Benz 450SLC | £10,000-12,000 |
| 1980 | Mercedes-Benz 450SL | £20,000-25,000 |
| 1983 | Ford escort RS1600i | £14,000-16,000 |
| 1984 | Mercedes-Benz 200 | £4000-5000 |
| 1986 | Mercedes-Benz 420SL | £11,000-14,000 |
| 1989 | Mercedes-Benz 300CE Brabus | £12,000-15,000 |
| 1993 | Mercedes-Benz 320E Sportline | £n/r |
| 1993 | Mercedes-Benz 500SL | £6000-7000 |
| 1996 | Mercedes-Benz SL280 | £6000-8000 |
| 1999 | Mercedes-Benz E55 | £6000-8000 |
| 2000 | Mercedes-Benz S55 | £6000-8000 |

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| 1962 | MGB Roadster | £11,000-14,000 |
| 1978 | MGB Roadster | £2800-3800 |
| 2004 | Mini Cooper 5 cvtble | £6500-8500 |
| 1967 | Morris Minor 4-dr | £3000-4000 |
| 1979 | Porsche 911 Targa | £12,000-15,000 |
| 1974 | Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow | £20,000-23,000 |
| ---- | Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit | £5500-7500 |
| 1986 | Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit | £11,000-14,000 |
| 1994 | Rolls-Royce Silver Spur | £18,500-21,000 |
| 1998 | Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph | £35,000-40,000 |
| 1999 | Rover 'Leadbury' Maestro | £2000-3000 |
| 1999 | Rover Sterling | £n/r |
| 1976 | Triumph Stag | £11,000-14,000 |
| 1978 | Triumph Spitfire | £5500-7000 |
| 1982 | Triumph TR7 | £6000-8000 |
| 1988 | VW Scirocco GT | £3500-4500 |

AUCTIONS INSIDER

RICHARD HUDSON-EVANS



Prancing horses still on a charge

Not only has Ferrari digital stock been floated on the New York Stock Exchange, but a stampede of 23 Ferraris in the metal have come to market in two recent major sales – Knokke-Le-Zoute and at Duxford (CCW, 28 October). In the latter, the record breaking headliner was the late Richard Colton's willed 'Lifeboat Ferrari' 250GT SWB in steel sold by H&H for £7.39m to benefit the RNLI.

Indeed, and according to the Historic Automobile Group, the highest profile Italian collector marque continues to out-perform all other alternative investments. The HAGI F Index, which charts high-end Ferrari transactions, has recorded 13.69% growth for the year to date and a 5.30% increase in Ferrari values during last month alone.

While the gavel crashed down on 65% of the Ferraris auctioned (77% selling of them selling at the UK sale and 50% in the Belgian sale), all five of the RHD cars sold out at Duxford and the three cars that didn't were LHD ones, whereas all five unsold Ferraris cars in Zoute were left hookers.

The conclusion for market watchers therefore is that Ferraris are currently selling better here than on the European mainland and, inevitably and always one hopes, RHD cars continue to be much more popular with UK punters than LHD ones. For although a Connolly leather trimmed 1991 F40

'Ferraris are currently selling better here than in mainland Europe'

with catalyst failed to ignite the £750k or more bid required in the Imperial War Museum hangar at Duxford and potential buyers also gave both a Japanese-sourced £30-40k guided 1992 348GTS and a £40-50k 2003 360 Modena F1 a miss, all LHD cars, £150,080 was forthcoming for an ex-Richard Colton 1998 550 Maranello in RHD.

The top sellers at the Bonhams 10 October sale preceding the Zoute GP weekend were also Ferraris with a 2011 599 SA Aperta Spider packing a 661bhp 6.0-litre V12 raising €891,250 (£660,148) and a still matching numbers 1971 365GTB/4 'Daytona' Berlinetta, that had been repainted and treated to a Luppi retrim, €828,000 (£613,299). Both went for comfortably within their pre-sale estimates – 76% of auction cars sold for £5.32m.

And now for something completely different: classic motorbikes. During The Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show at the Staffordshire County Showground (17-18 October), £3.6m worth of classic bikes were hammered away by Bonhams, a record for the annual sale and the highest grossing motorcycle sale ever seen in Europe.

Day one saw the single-owner Tiberio Lonati Collection of 60 rarities achieve £1.3m, with 91% sold and Indians taking 40% of the top 10 spots, led by the 1930 402 'Four-Cylinder' Combination which smashed its pre-sale estimate, soaring to £97,700, a new world record. Incidentally, former Top Gear presenter James May took a break from location shooting for the new Clarkson, Hammond and May motoring show to see several of his bikes cross the Bonhams block, including the 1967 Honda CB450 'Black Bomber', sold for £5980.

Whether two, three or four-wheeled, as long as somebody else out there thinks our old stuff is collectible, then the classic world as we know it should continue to rotate awhile longer.

Richard Hudson-Evans has been reporting on classic car sales for more than 25 years.