

Letter of the month

Letter of the month wins a fabulous Italian-made Caracalla Bagaglio Monza leather bag worth £140 (www.cbfil.co.uk, tel: 08709 040250).



Swallows make a salesman's summer

Many moons ago, when I was a young struggling salesman at Welbeck Motors in London, my boss used to send me all over the country to buy Jowett Javelins and Armstrong Siddleys. Among my many interesting trips I had to collect the remaining 11 Swallow Doretts when the factory went out of business.

There was one prototype four-seater and I remember my boss (Michael Gotla, also founder of the Welbeck minicabs) saying how worried he was with this 'one-off' car. Eventually we sold it for less than the others at £645.

I would love to know if this car still exists. It was black with black

leather and wire wheels – a heater was extras in those days. Having started life in the motor trade as a car cleaner, I eventually ended up by owning a huge motor trade business with two sleeping partners, John Boileau and Colin Hart, employing 70 people. We sold out years ago for a vulgar sum of money and now I work for the Chernobyl Children Life Line charity – so much more rewarding.

I remember an old report one year at Kings Canterbury. It said 'the boy sets himself low standards, which he then fails to achieve.' I hope that teacher has eaten a lot of humble pie!

Hugh Ruding-Bryan

Esher, Surrey



TR2-based Swallows outside Welbeck; fourth car back in line-up is unique four-seater