



Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT – SUPPORT FOR THE HARRINGTON ALPINE ASSOCIATION

RELEASE DATE – IMMEDIATE

The Harrington community has been saddened by the passing of Jan Iggbom the founder of the Harrington Society. Jan was the primary archivist and maintainer of the Harrington.org website and Sunbeam Harrington Facebook Group. The loss of Jan has presented some difficulties which may serve as a warning to other car clubs in that without access to the domain name, website and FB Group credentials, the Harrington community no longer had the necessary administrative access to maintain the previous organization and structure. A group of Sunbeam Harrington owners from the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club (SAOC) and the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club of America (SAOCA) has therefore jointly formed a new Association with a new website and Facebook Group to ensure the future of the community.

The group is taking steps to recover the physical archive of Harrington material and memorabilia and wants to assure all past and present Harrington owners that the future of all matters Harrington is in the best possible hands and with measures to ensure future stability. The Association will continue to maintain the vehicle registry and provide restoration guidance for the many owners whose cars are yet to be restored. The Association is a free entity for past and previous owners and is supported by the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club (SAOC) and the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club of America (SAOCA) who

both provide a Harrington section in their online Forums. A new ***Sunbeam Harrington Association*** Facebook Group has been created and an updated website built at ***www.harringtonalpine.org*** is hosted within the umbrella of the SAOC web space.

The group would also like to make an appeal to all current and previous owners to provide the Association with photographs and other documents so that they can be scanned and help build a more complete and permanent record of the history of Thomas Harrington Ltd and the beautiful Sunbeam cars they created.

The new Harrington initiative has also helped identify the earliest known Alpine with a Harrington conversion and the new owner, Jon Dowsett, has decided to proceed with a full restoration now that the significance of the car has been recognized.



PBW262 The Earliest Sunbeam Alpine with a Harrington Conversion

In recent years two more Harrington Alpines have come out of full restoration, each winning the SAOC National Concours in 2020 and 2021 respectively bringing the total number of surviving and driveable Harringtons up to around 50 cars worldwide. Oliver Bridgeman's Lake Blue Harrington Alpine is an example of the early Harrington Alpine design and Andrew Yates's Harrington Le Mans is an example of the celebratory design which was commissioned by Sunbeam after the 1961 Le Mans race where a Harrington bodied Alpine won the Index of Thermal Efficiency, regarded as the premier prize for the smaller engined entrants.



Oliver Bridgeman's 1961 Harrington Alpine retaining the Alpine fins



Andrew Yates 1961 Harrington Le Mans with the wrap-around tail design

Thomas Harrington Ltd of Hove, Sussex, UK, were specialists in the moulding of glass fibre, and built a range of passenger coaches and coupe versions of Sunbeam Alpine and Triumph TR4 cars. They gave approximately 400 Sunbeam Alpines a coachbuilt coupe roof in the years 1961 through 1964. Harringtons were authorized by Rootes and the finished cars were offered through Rootes dealerships. Rootes asked Harringtons to prepare 3 cars for the 1961 Le Mans race and one of these cars won the coveted "Index of Thermal Efficiency", normally a reserve of the French manufacturers. In celebration of the victory Rootes asked Harringtons to develop a special model, called the Harrington Le Mans. This

resulted in two distinct Harrington variations, one with the regular Alpine fins and then the Le Mans model with its wrap-around rear end without fins.



3000RW, Winner of the Index of Thermal Efficiency at Le Mans in 1961

The Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club (SAOC) was founded in 1977 to help support and preserve the Sunbeam Alpine 'Series' cars built between 1959 and 1967 and maintains close links with all the other worldwide Sunbeam clubs including the Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club of America (SAOCA)

Further information:

Harrington Alpine Website: www.sunbeamharrington.org

Facebook Group: Sunbeam Harrington Association

SAOC Website: [Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club](http://SunbeamAlpineOwnersClub)

SAOCA Website: [The Sunbeam Alpine Owners of America – For the promotion and preservation of Sunbeams](http://TheSunbeamAlpineOwnersofAmerica)

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