

HISTORY

BENTLEY 3 / 4 ½ ltr. - "SYD LAWRENCE SPECIAL"

REG. NO. : VMF 944

B.D.C. CLASSIFIED : CRICKLEWOOD VINTAGE BENTLEY

CHASSIS NO. : 102/50 ML

ENGINE NO. : 102/50 ML

DATE OF FIRST REGISTRATION: 1926 / 8

Syd Lawrence, according to the "Bentley Drivers Club Review" No. 122, was well known as a knowledgeable Bentley Mechanic, having worked at the Bentley Factory Service Department in Kingsbury under Nobby Clarke in the 1920s, and he was therefore very familiar with most of the "Racing Bentleys" of this period on which he had worked.

Syd Lawrence opened his own workshop at the end of the war in 1946 called "Southgate Motors" where he built a series of MK VI and "R" type specials.

From 1948 up to 1950 he also converted the above vintage Bentley in his workshop into a 2-seater racing car and re-registered same on 01.05.1950, Reg. No. VMF 944.

The 1950s saw this Bentley very active in club racing at Brooklands and Silverstone with excellent results, as well as at Snetterton Race Circuit in the 1950s where he won the first B.D.C. Vintage Bentley Race and the car was clocked at 135 mph.

Syd Lawrence sold the car in 1968 to John Bertram Vickery, London, for £5,000.00. During his ownership, in particular during the period from 30. November 1988 up to 30. April 1990, Mr. Vickery spent more than £46,000.00 on overhaul and improvements on this car.

The car was then sold to Mr. Brian Cook, Caldey, on 08.07.1998, and he raced this Bentley again at Brooklands, Silverstone and Montlhery, where in 2000 he finished in 3rd position. In August 2003 he was awarded the "Con Martens Trophy" for the fastest lap at the B.D.C. event at Silverstone in 2003 for a non-hybrid Vintage Bentley.

Brian Cook sold the car on 18. March 2005 to Joanna Vassey, Huntonbridge, and again the car was raced in club events, driven by Neil Davis, even beating the "8 ltr. Stanley-MANN Bentley" at the Fox and Nichols-Trophy Race in Silverstone on 23.04.2005.

Joanna Vassey sold the car to David Dunn, Dublin, Ireland on 02.02.2006 for and after further improvements on the car, in particular the lightening of some body parts, it was raced at Silverstone, Mondello Park (IRL) and Phoenix Park (IRL).

David Dunn sold the car to Detlef Heyer, Dublin, on 24.02.2010 for the sum of This deal also included a James Young "2-seater plus dicki" body ex Bentley AX 1672, Reg. No. TU 5823, incl. two leather seats, two original Bentley chrome headlights, five 19" vintage wheels with new tyres, one lightweight drive shaft and all other body parts exchanged by him in order to improve the weight of the car.

RACE RESULTS FOR BENTLEY "SYD LAWRENCE SPECIAL" REG. NO. VMF 944



YEAR / DATE POSITION	RACE	DRIVER	
1951 16.06.	National Goodwood (Handicap)	S. Lawrence	3 rd
1951 28.07.	National Silverstone (Handicap)	S. Lawrence	3 rd
1952 01.06.	National Silverstone (Relay Handicap)	S. Lawrence	3 rd
1953 20.06.	National Silverstone (Handicap)	S. Lawrence	4 th
1953 12.09.	National Goodwood (Handicap)	S. Lawrence	4 th
1954 21.08.	National Goodwood (Handicap)	S. Lawrence	6 th
1954 18.09.	National Silverstone (Handicap)	S. Lawrence	2 nd
1956 15.09.	National Silverstone (Handicap)	S. Lawrence	1 st
2000	Montlhery	B. Cook	3 rd
2003 lap	Silverstone	B. Cook	fastest
2004 05./06.06.	Bill Phillips Trophy, Silverstone	B. Cook	?

This document was sent by Detlef Heyer to Robert McLellan / Mona Nath of www.VintageBentleys.org. on February 25, 2016.