

Legendary Test Driver Would Have Been 100 This Year

Jaguar's legendary test driver would have turned 100 in August.

Norman Dewis spent much of his career as a Jaguar test driver and engineer, pretty much flat out. Literally, Jaguar tells us he completed more than one million

miles of testing at average speeds of over 100mph.

And as befits a man who spent his life going very fast indeed, he wanted to spend his 100th birthday driving a Jaguar at 100mph once more.

Sadly, Dewis passed away in June 2019 at the age of 98, but leaves behind him an incredible legacy that helped shape Jaguar's biggest moments.

Acknowledgement to BBC Top Gear Magazine for the information in this story. ■

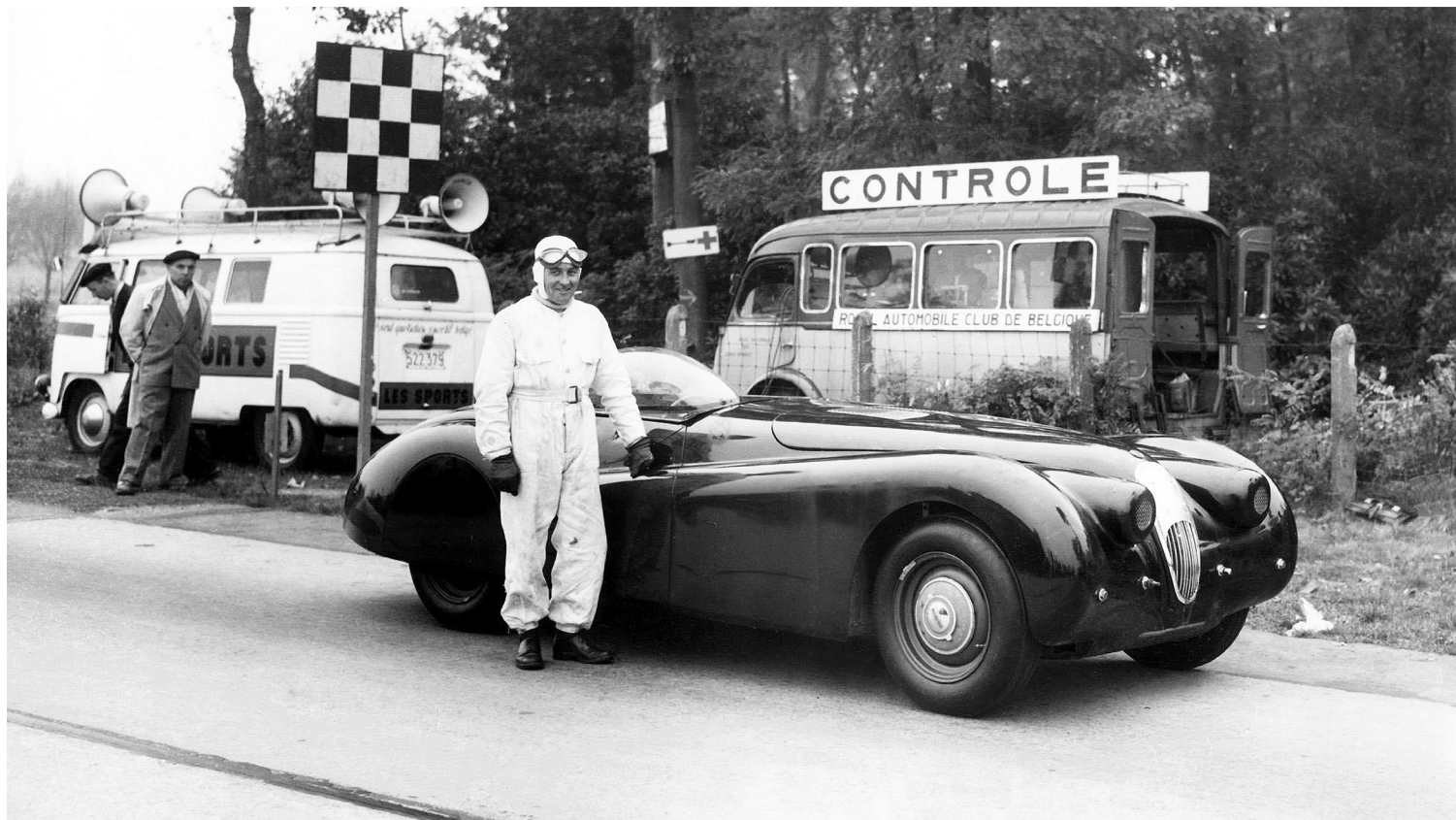


Norman Dewis birthday celebration in 2010. Seen here behind the wheel of a C-Type Jaguar



Dewis began his career with Jaguar on 1 January 1952, and alongside his job as helping develop the cars we all now consider iconic, he also played a "pivotal role" in the development of the Jaguar/Dunlop disc braking system. Here he is navigating with Sir Stirling Moss in a C-Type (with disc brakes) at the 1952 Mille Miglia.

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A year after navigating for Sir Stirling at the Mille, Dewis was doing what he did best. In 1953 he set a production car speed record of 172.412 mph in a modified XK120, on a closed section of the Jabbeke highway in Belgium.



You may know of Dewis's overnight heroics, driving a new E-Type 700 miles from Coventry to Geneva in one hit for its reveal at the 1961 motor show. As Jaguar said, "there was only one man for the job". Indeed, he helped develop the very car that has become a cornerstone of what Jaguar stands for today.

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Dewis also played a hand in developing the heart-stoppingly gorgeous, mid-engined XJ13 which launched in 1966. However, later in 1971, Dewis drove the XJ13 at the MIRA test track for a film celebrating the launch of the V12 E-Type. A punctured tyre resulted in a crash, flipping the only prototype over. Dewis, thankfully, emerged unscathed, and the XJ13 was later rebuilt.



Dewis seen here driving a lightweight E-Type that he helped to develop back in the 1960's. He retired in 1985, but continued to represent Jaguar, and helped the Classic team on the launch of the 'missing six' Lightweight E-Types in 2014.

The Racers That Stopped The World

Apart from Norman Dewis' 100th birthday, a milestone the former Jaguar test driver never got to reach, the world has also lost Sir Stirling Moss. However, a new documentary has been made that celebrates one of the achievements they're known best for: pioneering the disc brake.

Called 'The Racers That Stopped The World', the documentary cast includes Derek Bell, Sir Jackie Stewart and Murray Walker alongside Moss and Dewis discussing the impact the Jaguar C-Type and its disc brakes made on motorsport.

It was back in 1952 that disc brakes were first used in a C-Type, Dewis testing incessantly with Dunlop over the winter and getting a car on the Goodwood grid that spring, with Moss using it to set the fastest lap - making it clear Jaguar was onto something.

In 1953 came the C-Type's crowning moment; with further Dunlop-Dewis testing, the team went to Le Mans. Not only were the C-Types lighter than '52, they had improved discs brakes. The result was a one-two for Jaguar, with

Tony Rolt and Duncan Hamilton taking the victory and the second placed car piloted by Moss and Peter Walker. It was also the first time that Le Mans had been won with an average speed of more than 100mph.

This short trailer previews the documentary that is available on Sky. It, certainly looks worth a watch.

Go to [Racers that stopped the world.](#) ■



Lister Stealth Claims to Be Fastest SUV In the World

Lister became world-famous in the racing world in the 20th century, it reinvigorated the continuation car market and has made a new name for itself with its highly tuned versions of current Jaguar models in the 21st.

The Lister Motor Company is now about to launch its take on the Jaguar F-Pace SVR – the 675 hp Lister Stealth.

The Lister SUV boasts a top speed in excess of 200 mph, which Lister claims makes it the fastest SUV in the world.

If the 200-mph figure proves correct, the Stealth would indeed be faster than the Bentley Bentayga Speed, which has a top speed of 190 mph, and the Lamborghini Urus, which maxes out at 189.5 mph.

The car follows on from the one based on the F-Type, "F-Type Thunder" that saw three years of development. There wasn't a budget for a big launch and so they simply sent out a press release – and sold 14 cars on the day at £155,000 each,

which was a £65,000 increase on the production F-Type.

The Stealth has a full carbon-fibre body kit, new suspension, new wheels, new interior, a significant 20% power upgrade and a new exhaust set to loud. The model is being produced in limited

quantities, with only 250 making their way to customers, starting at £110,000.

Compared to a new Range Rover SVR at £150,000 or a Lamborghini at £200,000, it's possible that they may achieve their 250 sales target. Only time will tell. ■

