

## The first complete 1:43rd Le Mans collection?

Those readers who visited us in our old premises in St Albans will no doubt remember the four long, multi shelf display cases which housed part of the amazing collection of Ron Peggs. At various times we had selections of Le Mans cars taken from specific periods or particular marques such as Porsche or Ferrari. What started as an innocent little collection 30 or so years ago has become a consuming passion and Ron is just weeks away from achieving his goal of having a model of every car that has raced at Le Mans since the inception of the race in 1923.

During March, Ron popped in to see us and brought with him the handful of models that he is still working on to complete the post-war runners in the race. These he says will be completed before he takes a holiday next month and this will mean that he has a total of 3039 subjects modelled from the race from its resumption in 1949 through to 2007. That's not all though, there are also over 150 cars which appeared at the practice weekend and either didn't start the race or were significantly different to those that did and of course, Ron is adding the 2008 cars as fast as we can get them for him.

The past few years' subjects have been predominantly ready made models from Spark, but Ron is also a prolific kit builder with his record standing at 258 models built in one year (2002)! The bulk of the models in the collection are ones that Ron has built himself, either straight from kits by Provence Moulage, Starter, Renaissance, JPS, AMR and many others. Many of the Ferraris were obtained hand built by BBR and there are also a number of Marsh Models hand built and the odd DVA here and there, particularly the Ferrari 333SPs.

Many of the models have needed significant modifications from existing kits, in some cases almost total scratch building, and Ron says that sourcing and completing many of these models would have been even more of a challenge without the invaluable help of a few other individuals,

most notably Barry Dickens (Ron introduced us to Barry's Echoes range), Michel Elkoubi (MRE) and Bruno Allinand.

The models that Ron brought with him are in various stages of completion and we'll start with the most straightforward. The pale blue AC Ace from 1961 in the centre of the group photo is a straight build from a Renaissance kit (REN4364). The other models are all ones that have not otherwise been produced and so the kit bashing starts...

The Andre Wicky entered Ace from 1960 is based on the same Renaissance kit but the nose of the car has had to be significantly modified, as have a few other parts.



Next we have two modified 'Frogeye' Sprites, both from 1961. The darker blue Ecurie Ecosse car started life as a Detail Cars die-cast of a standard road car and Ron has extended and reprofiled the nose and is in the process of finishing the roof which started out as one from another Renaissance AC Ace.



The lighter coloured car was a Mikansue kit of a Sprite road car and again the nose has been re-profiled, as has the swage line along the side.



The last eight subjects under constructions to complete Ron Peggs' post-war Le Mans collection.

Moving on to the more involved stuff! You may recognise the profile of the 1937 Le Mans winning Bugatti under a bit of filler. Once this Sibur die-cast has been cut in half, shortened, and had more filling and sculpting done, it will represent the unique Alvis TA14 which ran in 1949.



Another missing 1949 subject is the #48 Simca Huit coupe. For this Ron's starting point is a Dagu die-cast of a Cisitalia 202 coupe and looking at the race photos of the real car, the grille is certainly going to be an interesting piece to create!



The 1952 Talbot T26 is based on a pattern made by Michel Elkoubi for another Talbot of the period, but significant work has already gone on to re-profile it and there's more to do.



Finally we have the most adventurous of the lot, the 1951 Panhard X87 coupe. For this Ron has started with one of Bizarre's Fiat 8Vs, cut the roof off and was about to graft on the roof of a Top Model Alpine A210! On his visit to GPM Ron then saw ABC Brianza's kit of the same Fiat and felt that the proportions of that particular model would suit his purposes slightly better and wondered off clutching a kit to start again!



With the necessary modification of other subjects, it is inevitable that a few of these models may be slightly out of scale. Although in a perfect world Ron would be able to have 100% accuracy throughout, sometimes compromises have to be made and the target is a complete collection with a representation of every subject.

With this little lot out of the way and rested after a holiday, Ron hasn't finished. This is just the post war collection! Between 1923 and 1939, a total of 577 runners took the start. Ron is still short of a dozen or so of these and they will be the summer project, some of them again needing very serious surgery.

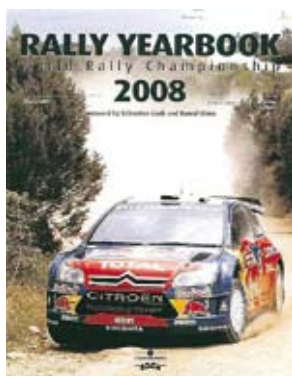
A fantastic effort we're sure you'll all agree and proof that anything is possible if you can make a little time and have the commitment.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**ISBN9782847071566 Rally Yearbook 2008/2009**  
weight 2kg by Jerome Bourret & Phillippe Joubin

£16.99

There are several annuals covering the World Rally Championship and this one is easily the most colourful. Each event is well covered with a wide selection of images that capture both the action and atmosphere of the event. The original text was in French, so the translation is a little charismatic in places, but it all makes sense. For each event we have full entry lists, top 10 stage times and then top 15 results. In addition to the WRC events, there are profiles of the teams, works cars and drivers and an overview of the ever growing Intercontinental Rally Challenge.



**ISBN9782847071559 Motorcycle Yearbook 2008/2009**  
weight 2kg by Jean-Claude Schertenleib

£16.99

After a couple of difficult years, Valentino Rossi returned to the top of the World Championship standings in 2008 and this detailed report of top flight motorcycle racing tells the story of the Moto GP races and the supporting 125 & 250cc categories which are the training ground for the stars of the future. There is plenty of colour and action in all categories and it is very well captured here. The race reports are clearly written and there are detailed race results sections. If you follow motorcycle racing, this is a must.

