

1954 SWALLOW DORETTI 2-LITRE SPORTS TWO-SEATER

Reg. No. PON 419

Chassis No. 1147 Engine No. TS 3035E

Engine, four-cylinder, overhead-valve, monobloc, bore 83mm., stroke 92mm., capacity 1,991 c.c.: coil ignition: four-speed synchromesh gearbox, central change: hypoid final drive: footbrake hydraulic on four wheels, handbrake on rear wheels: suspension independent coil front, semi-elliptic rear: wheelbase 2.416m. (95in.): tyre size 5.90 × 15: price new in England, £1,102.

This rare sports car was marketed only in 1954 and 1955 by the Swallow Coachbuilding Company, the former sidecar side of SS Cars (Jaguar) now under the ownership of Helliwells of Walsaw. Engine, gearbox, brakes and suspension were stock Triumph TR2, but the tubular chassis frame and more comfortable slab-sided bodywork were of Swallow's design and construction. The car cost £115 more than a Triumph (which made sense): unfortunately an extra 204kg. (450lbs.) of weight made the Doretti less potent than a TR, though 160 km/h. (100 m.p.m.) and an 0-80 km/h. (0-50 m.p.h.) acceleration time were within its compass. Less than 500 were made.

This standard example carries the factory-built two-seater coachwork with small rear boot furnishing accommodation for the spare wheel. It has just had a full mechanical and electrical overhaul, and the body has been resprayed.

