

Rare birds

The Swallow Doretti had a brief, and not particularly glorious, life between 1954 and 1955. About 100 were built by the Swallow Coach-building Co. (1935) Ltd of Walsall, a company better known for their sidecars, and was partially named after the daughter of the American importer, whose first name was Dorothy.

One of the marque's main claims to fame (or infamy!) was that Sir John Black, then head of Triumph, was seriously injured in one, which did not dispose him kindly to Swallow: this was unfortunate as the Doretti was based on TR2 mechanical components, but with its own tubular chassis to which were attached steel panels, forming a shell on which alumi-

nium outer panels were bolted. It was intended as a fast comfortable roadster: at a basic price of £777 against the TR2's £625, it did not compete head-on.

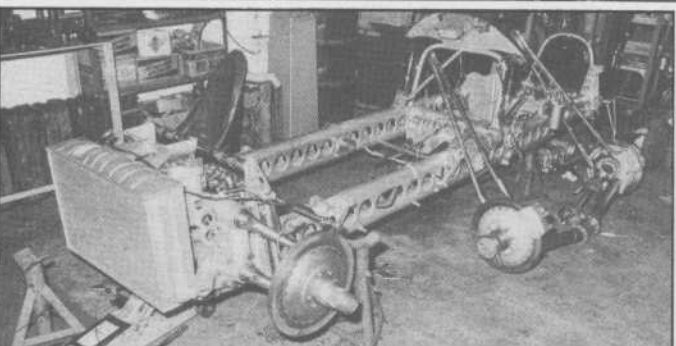
However we recently came across these two pictures of particularly rare Doretis. The stylish coupe, photographed in Esher in 1958 by Anthony Pritchard and bearing the registration number 60 HRF, is a prototype built in late 1955. In his note to the picture Anthony says 'apart from this prototype, at least one other fixed head coupé, and apparently a saloon, were built'. No sooner had we read this than we delved into our files and came up with the picture of the (by the look of it) partially finished other coupé. Can any reader supply any more information?



Could this be one of the prototype Swallow Doretti coupés?



The Doretti coupé photographed by Anthony Pritchard in 1958



Look closely, for what you can see here is a rare sight indeed — it is the chassis for the Mk 1 BRM which was sold by Christie's recently: it is undergoing restoration in Tony Merrick's workshops. Would it be too much to hope that we'll see the car being used in anger on the tracks this year . . . ?

What's On

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
February		
12/21	'Retromobile' extravaganza. Europe's largest and best 'classic' and historic car show. Highly recommended! Details—Paris 562 8662/19 60 (Marc Nicolosi)	Porte de Versailles, Paris, France
13	Autojumble; details—Wilberfoss 341	York Racecourse
21	Autojumble (from 10am-5pm); details—Nottingham 752412	Festival Hall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield
27	Autojumble (from 10am-4pm); details—Lichfield 23922	The Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, Derby
27	Motorcycle autojumble; details—Bristol 731610	Bristol Exhibition Centre
27	Model toy and train collector's fair; details—Maidstone 53783	Agricultural Hall, Maidstone Market
March		
6	Vintage Sports Car Club Pomeroy Trophy meeting; an absorbing series of timed trials and tests to find the perfect touring car; details—Newbury 44411	Silverstone, Northants
7	Autojumble (doors open 10am); details—01 669 7008	Bossard Hall, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
13	Autojumble; details—048 67 4841	Youth Centre, Windor Road, Chobham North Weald, nr Epping
14	Alfa Romeo Owners Club autotest; details—0223 355252	Dorking Halls, Dorking
14	Autojumble; details—Reigate 48202	Borough Hall, Hartlepool
20	Autojumble; details—Hartlepool 66720	Ernulf Community School, nr St. Neots, Cambs.
27	MG Car Club 'Rebuild 1982'; an MGCC T Register one-day seminar on all aspects of restoration; details—01 997 0118	Ascot racecourse
27	Motorcycle autojumble; details—01 570 1133	Tackley, Nr. Oxford
27	Autojumble; details—0869 40606	YMCA, Taunton
28	Autojumble; details—Taunton 74667	

Catch a camera

Once again it's win-a-camera time. All you have to do is write a suitable caption to the picture of Messrs Moss and Secombe astride the scooter. Keep it clean, witty and brief and you could be the proud owner of one of Kodak's excellent Ektra 250 outfits. All suggestions (preferably on a post-card) to reach us by Monday February 22 — and don't forget to put your own name and address on as well.

As promised last month, we are announcing two winners here. The first, for the picture of the young lady peering from the bonnet of a



February's picture — the winner was Clive Berry

Bond, goes to Shaun Byrne of Didcot who came up with 'After this Bond I think I'll feel a little Frisky' (Micro-car addicts should get that one!) and the second, for the shot of the two gents racing up the pits carrying batons, went to Clive Berry of Lewisham for 'Due to the Suez crisis, this year's 750 Motor Club's 6-hour relay race was run without cars'.



"After this I'll feel a little Frisky"



Write a caption, win a camera