

First 'Australian Touring Car Championship' Race (1939)

The 1939 Australian Stock Car Road Championship was a motor race staged at the Lobethal Circuit in S. A. on 2 January 1939. It was contested on a handicap basis over six laps of the 8.6-mile course, a total distance of 50 miles.

The handicap format saw the slowest cars starting first and the fastest cars starting last. The race was open to standard touring and sports cars, fitted with standard equipment and operating on standard first grade fuel.

The only modifications permitted to the cars were the raising of the compression ratio and alterations to the suspension.

The first cars away were a Morris 8/40 and an Austin 8 with a 12-minute start and then Tom Brady who ended up winning the championship in a Singer Bantam after starting with a 11-minute handicap advantage. His actual race time was 54:08.

Near the back of the field with a 3-minute start were three Ford V8's. Two of the

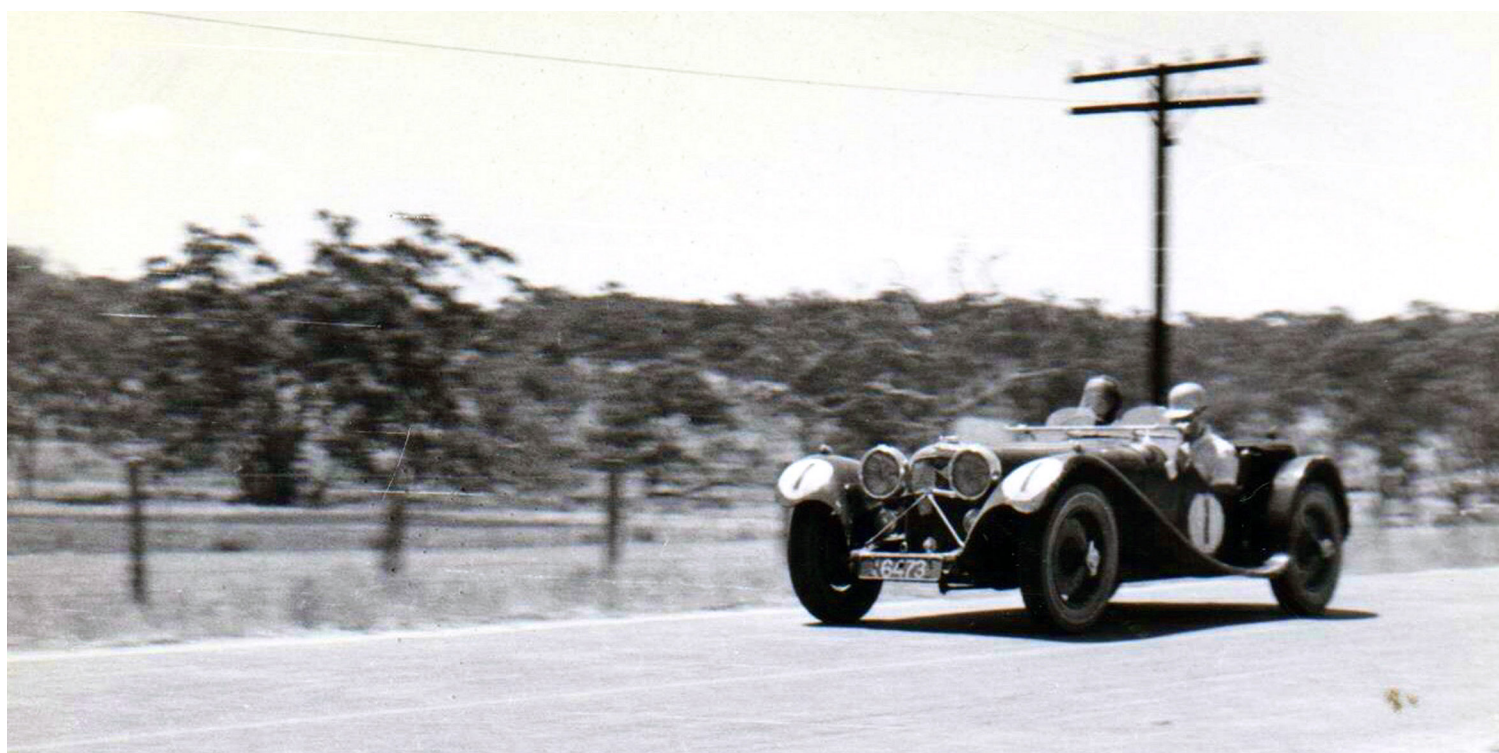
Ford V8's finished second and third with Jack McKinnon and Ted Parsons respectively.

The ex-Keith Taylor 2½ litre S.S.100, then owned and driven by Graham.F. Brownsworth (#18044), started from scratch and finished a credible fourth. In doing so he set the fastest race time (45:27) and the fastest lap (7:27) averaging 71 mph.

Information for this story from Web Blog PRIMOTIPO



The 'Lobethal crowd taking in the championship race in 1939. The S.S.100 (#18044) in front of a Hudson 4.1 litre V8. Photo: S.A. Library



Starting from scratch, Graham Brownsworth's S.S.100 finished 4th, set the fastest race time and set the fastest lap. Needless to say - if it wasn't a handicap race, the S.S 100 would have won the First 'Australian Touring Car Championship' Race. Photo: S.A. Library.

Ex-Keith Taylor 2½ litre Jaguar S.S.100 (#18044)

History - 18044 Location: Nordrhein-Westfalen, GERMANY

18044 was the first of only three S.S.100's delivered new to Australia. The 1936 2½ litre car was registered in Adelaide by Keith Taylor who worked at the London Stock Exchange and on Wall Street. Keith had not sighted the car before he arrived back in Adelaide.

In 1938 Keith hill-climbed the S.S.100 at Lobethal and raced it at Sellicks Beach. It is believed that **18044** was the first S.S.100 ever raced in Australia.

The car was sold to another S.A. Sporting Car club member, Graham Fowler-Brownsworth, (an old Adelaide family) whose father was a WW1 Army Colonel, and mother heir to the huge Birks department store that was later sold to David Jones.

After racing at Lobethal and other venues the car turned up in Sydney in 1943, where it passed through several hands and then to a Gordon Nicol in 1947, who painted it black and white.

It continued to be used in competition, passed hands again to a G. Brakwell in 1952 and by December 1956 it was in Melbourne in the possession of Don Brown where it sat derelict for a number of years.

In 1972 Noel Robson bought and restored the car and sold it at auction in 1980 for \$74,000. Over the next few years, it moved between Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, ACT and Queensland.

In 1998 it competed in its last race in Australia in the Targa Tasmania and left our shores in 2001 going to Rotterdam where it was restored (once again).

Since 2006, the vehicle has been in the hands of a German collector. In 2017, **18044** won the Concours at Classic Days Schloss Dyck.

#18044 is now painted Black with olive-green interior and is for sale. POA. (Movendi. Contact person: Bernhard Kerkloh Harffstraße 110 Düsseldorf, Germany, 40591)



Mr. Keith Taylor competing in the Lobethal Hill Climb of 1938. This car is now driven by another member of the Club, Mr. Graham Brownsworth. The Lobethal Hill Climb is another fixture which is arranged annually by the Sporting Car Club.

Photo provided by Tony Bishop. Tony took Keith Taylor for a drive in his car (#39102). It was not long before Keith's death in April 2006 (aged 93). Although Keith very much enjoyed the drive, Tony regretted that he did not have his camera with him on that day.



#18044 was the first of three S.S.100's delivered new to Australia. From Keith Taylor in Adelaide, the car passed to a number of owners throughout Australia. Unfortunately, it left Australia in 2001 for Holland. In 2006 it passed to a German collector and is now for sale.