



THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB MOTORING BOOK OF THE YEARS AWARDS 2026

Now in their thirteenth consecutive year, the Motoring Book of the Year Awards are the most prestigious in the automotive publishing industry.

The Club's motoring literature trophies recognise and celebrate the greatest books, authors and publishers of automotive-focused titles, and their importance in exploring and documenting the key events, vehicles and individuals who have helped shape the industry.

For 2026, the awards will now feature eight categories:

- 1. Books about motor cars and motoring, costing no more than £30**
- 2. Books about motor cars and motoring, costing no more than £100**
- 3. Books about motor cars and motoring, with no price limit**

- 4. Books on a motorsport subject, costing no more than £30**
- 5. Books on a motorsport subject, costing no more than £100**
- 6. Books on a motorsport subject with no price limit**

- 7. Books of exceptional design merit**
Awarded to a book which has been entered in any one of the six main categories whose visual concept, design and presentation are of an exceptionally high standard.

- 8. Best debut author**
Awarded to a previously unpublished author of a book entered in any one of the six main categories. The book may be written by a writer who has been published in magazines, newspapers and on-line, but not in book form.

Lifetime Achievement

A special award may be presented at the Club's discretion to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to motoring literature. The Lifetime Achievement award is chosen by the Club and is not open to entries, but suggestions are encouraged for consideration.

JUDGES

The judging process is carried out by a panel from Britain's most experienced motoring book reviewers and buyers, including Mick Walsh of Classic & Sports Car, Wayne Batty of Octane and Magneto, Damien Smith formerly of Motor Sport, Ian Titchmarsh of the BRDC and, representing the book retail sector, Ben Horton of specialist bookseller Horton's Books and Christian Whitehead of famous Oxford bookstore Blackwells. The six expert judges are led by non-voting chairman Simon Taylor.

The fully independent judges are to nominate books that have impressed with their depth of the research, originality of subject, exceptional quality of writing and pictures or outstanding entertainment value.



The judges will nominate up to three finalists in each of the eight categories, all of which will be featured in the awards ceremony, when the overall winner of the category will be announced.

One of the shortlisted nominees from the six main categories will win the overall Book of the Year. That book will appear as one of the three finalists in its category but will not win its category.

RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The award is open for books first published in the English language and first physically (i.e., not digitally) in the UK between **1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026** (12 months). These should be first editions, not reprints or re-issues.

Entrants have the option to enter their titles into one of the four categories. There is no limit on the number of entries (books) submitted.

Entries must be in book form. Seven copies of each book, accompanied by a completed entry form, must be submitted to the Chairman and judges as soon as practicable after publication date, and in any case no later than **Thursday 30 July**. All books supplied are not returnable. To ensure books are given the fullest consideration in every detail, the Club urges all automotive authors and publishers to submit an eligible title as soon as it is published.

However, if a judge has already received a copy of that book for review in his magazine, the publisher will not be expected to supply a further copy to him.

The publisher should enter a book in the category he thinks is most relevant to his book. If the judges feel a book has been entered in the wrong category, they have the right to move it into the appropriate category.

In very exceptional circumstances, if the cover price of a book is so high as to render it totally unviable for the publisher to supply copies to the judges, they may inform the chairman of the judges, via Rebecca Leppard, that they would like to submit the book in pdf form. It will be at the chairman's discretion to permit the entry to be made in this way. Please kindly note that PDFs may prevent the judges from being able to assess fully the book's quality and presentation which may put it at a disadvantage. If permission is granted, it will be on proviso that the publisher ensures that an actual copy of the book is made available on the day of the final judging meeting for consideration. This may take the form of the publisher supplying a copy to the Royal Automobile Club library.

Judges may consider a book not submitted but reviewed during the judging period provided it conforms with the qualifications cited in these rules, and subject to the publisher's agreement (which will be taken to include that of the author/s) to submit copies on request.

A book will not be eligible to be entered if its author is a member of the judging panel.

SHORTLISTS AND WINNERS

Shortlists for the Royal Automobile Club Motoring Book of the Year contenders will be announced in September with the overall winners announced on Wednesday 28 October 2026.



The publishers of all shortlisted and winning books will be provided with an award logo which they are encouraged to use to promote the titles' success.

It is requested that the publishers and authors of all shortlisted and winning books cooperate with the Royal Automobile Club regarding publicity surrounding the Motoring Book of the Year Awards by providing a JPEG book jacket cover and picture of the author.

It is understood that the winners may be required to assist with the media after the announcement.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Royal Automobile Club Motoring Book of the Year Awards will take place on Wednesday 28 October 2026 at the Club's Pall Mall Clubhouse.

All award contenders, both authors and publishers, will be invited to attend/join a presentation ceremony. If they are unable to attend, a representative can attend in his/her place and the organisers informed.

For all queries, including those relating to eligibility, please contact Event Manager Rebecca Leppard email: rebecca.leppard@royalautomobileclub.co.uk

ENTRY FORM

Please complete in block capitals and return by **Thursday 30 July 2026** The form can be submitted via email to: R rebecca.leppard@royalautomobileclub.co.uk

Once received, you will be supplied with the judge's postal addresses.

Author Name **Email address**

Book Title

Are you a Debut Author?

Date of UK Publication **UK Price**

Award Category

Declaration to be signed by the author or representative of the publishing company.

I agree to abide by the rules of the Royal Automobile Club. I undertake that the submitted work fulfils the Conditions of Entry. I hereby submit seven copies for consideration.

Name **Position**

Name of Publishing Company

Address

.....



Signature **Date**

Contact name (for enquiries and correspondence)

Tel **Email**

The Awards Management reserves the right to either include or refuse any entry for any reason considered justifiable and reserves the right to vary the Rules and Conditions of Entry and alter the published programme, as may be deemed necessary. The decisions of the judges are final. Neither discuss on nor correspondence concerning any decision can be entered.