

This month The Editor previews this issue

THIS MONTH we preview the Speed stamps to be issued on 29 September. A Speed Records prestige book – to be issued in October – will be described next month.

Our main feature this month looks at the pre-decimal stamps of Northern Ireland, reminding us that it is 40 years since the introduction of 'regional' stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, also for Guernsey, Jersey, and the Isle of Man. The islands, of course, now run their own postal services and issue their own stamps, but country issues for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are still with us.

We are pleased, for the fourth year running, to include a souvenir sheet reproducing the winning designs from the Design a Comedy Stamp Competition held at the Stamp '98 exhibition at Wembley in April. We are obliged to the House of Questa for making the sheets available.

Once again Dr Jean Alexander provides a useful index as we complete Volume 35. Next month's issue marks the *Bulletin's* 35th anniversary: it started as a newsletter for the newly-established Philatelic Bureau in September 1963. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Royal Mail news Speed stamps • Exhibits at the NPM • Scottish definitives next year

Speed Five colourful stamps to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Sir Malcolm Campbell – Britain's most prolific speed record breaker – go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 29 September. The stamps show classic wheel-driven cars that broke the world land speed record for Britain, from Malcolm Campbell, to his son Donald.

The **20p** and **26p** stamps (basic inland 2nd and 1st class letter rates) show Campbell's *Bluebird* and Sir Henry Segrave's red Sunbeam which respectively reached 151 and 152 mph in 1925 and 1926. The **30p** (European basic letter rate) features John G Parry Thomas's *Babs* which reached 171mph in 1926. The **43p** and **63p** stamps (airmail basic letter rates) feature John R Cobb's *Railton Mobil Special* and Donald Campbell's *Bluebird* CN7 which reached speeds of 394 and 403 mph in 1947 and 1964.

The Campbells' *Bluebird* and *Bluebird* CN7 can be seen at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hants; Parry Thomas's *Babs* is on display this summer at the Museum of Speed, Pendine, Wales; and Cobb's *Railton Mobil Special* is at the Brooklands Museum, Brooklands, Surrey.

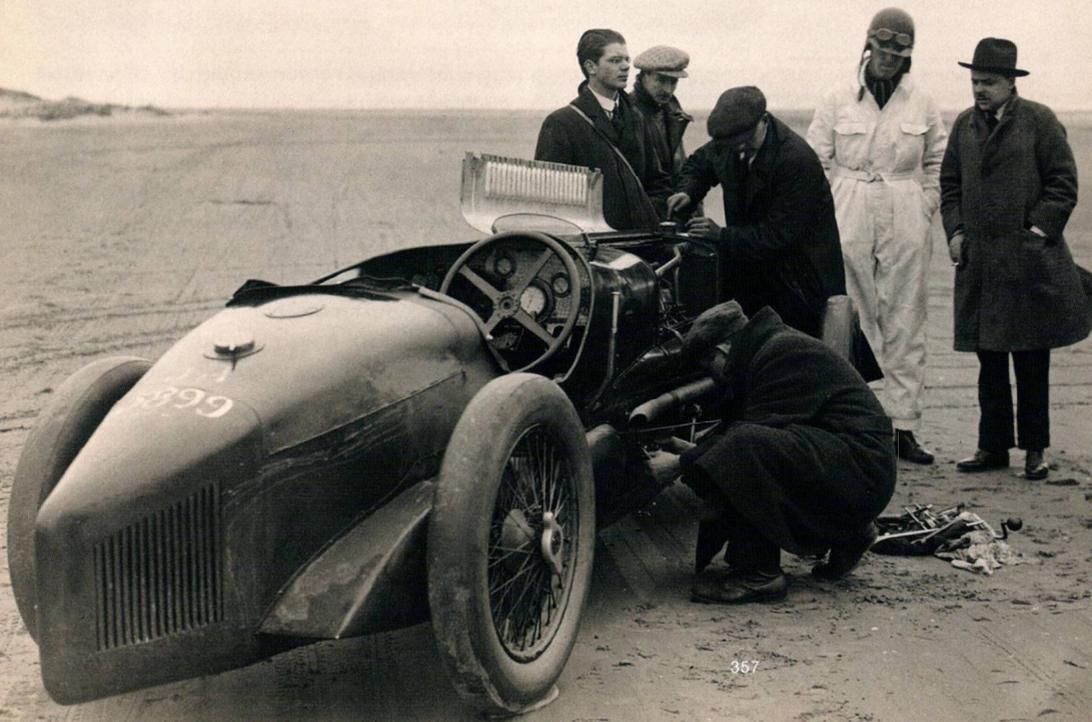
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 29 September, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or Pendine, Carmarthen must reach the Bureau by 29 September.



First day cover prices £2.56
UK (including VAT), or £2.18
overseas (no VAT)

The stamps were designed by Roundel design group, their first for Royal Mail.

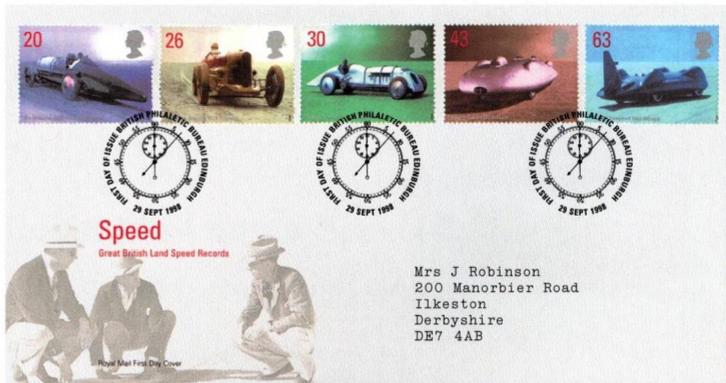
Below, Major Henry Segrave (in white) looks on as his Sunbeam is prepared for his Land Speed Record attempt at Southport, March 1926.





Presentation pack A well-illustrated pack (price £2.15) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets.

The pack has been written by Neil Carr-Jones, a speed record historian and membership secretary of the '750 Motor Club' which holds race meetings throughout the year. He has been closely involved in the development of the electric land speed record attempt in the new *Bluebird* to be driven by Donald Wales, grandson of Malcolm Campbell.



Technical details

Printers De La Rue Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 41 x 30mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor One band 20p ●
two bands others

Gum PVA

Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (Pendine postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9815' (Bureau), or 'FD9816' (Pendine). Collectors can post or hand in covers at main post offices for local (mostly non-pictorial) first day handstamps. Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may be posted bearing just the 20p Speed stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 29 September; the normal 1st class rule is waived for the day ●

RelayOne service Royal Mail has launched a new high tech service, bridging the gap between e-mail and traditional mail. With Microsoft Network, the new Royal Mail RelayOne service allows anyone with access to the Internet and a RelayOne compatible web browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator) to send letters and documents by post. Documents sent using RelayOne are received at the Electronic Services Centre at Mount Pleasant, London where they are printed, put in distinctive envelopes and despatched by 1st class mail. RelayOne rates range from £1.50 to £10 ●