

BARGE-ING BACK IN!

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REFRESHED -
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NEW CAMRY AND
IT'S HERE!



COMPAROS, TESTS & DRIVES!

- RENAULT DUSTER vs MAHINDRA XUV500
- KTM 200 DUKE vs HONDA CBR 250R
- BAJAJ PULSAR 200NS
- NEW TOYOTA CAMRY
- 2012 KAWASAKI NINJA 650
- NEW BMW 3 SERIES
- HERO IGNITOR
- MARUTI SUZUKI ERTIGA
- NISSAN EVALIA
- MITSUBISHI PAJERO SPORT
- PREMIER RIO MULTIJET
- NEW MAHINDRA VERITO



MAHARAJA MAGNIFICENCE

UDAIPUR ROLLS-ROYCE TWENTY JOINS OTHERS FROM ITS ILK IN A GLORIOUS DISPLAY AT THE 2012 PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE



MAHARAJAS MAKE THEIR MARK

While the 18 or 20 odd Maharaja cars at Pebble Beach might have whipped up a load of enthusiasm within classic car circles in India and elsewhere, the two which stood out for me personally had to be the ones with their all-Indian crews. We have already spoken quite at length in our last issue about GLK 21, the 1924 Rolls-Royce 20 H.P. of the Maharana of Udaipur but what was impressive was that Maharana Arvind Singh Mewar or Shriji as he is better known did impress one and all with the rich culture of Rajasthan and Indian royalty. That he did it with élan and polish plus with humility and charm thrown into the heady mix indicated that glorious era where it was not only about cars and a way of life but also about people with similar interests who could

yet be banked upon to share their prized possessions and experiences with the rest of the world.

It was also fitting that Shriji's efforts with his car and his people and his attitude were recognised and all of them played a role in the Lucius Beebe Trophy being awarded to him and GLK 21, a first time debutant from India coming home with prized silverware from Pebble Beach.

It was impressive enough that Shriji had his daughter and son-in-law with him, and that they did not bow to international convention but came out in their traditional attire. Shriji was as impressive as ever, be it charmingly acknowledging the never-say-die spirit of 102-year-old Margaret Dunning (the oldest entrant in the event driving her

1930 Packard 740 Custom Eight roadster that she has owned for the last 60 years!) or for that matter handling the hordes of media personnel who had never seen an Indian royal at Pebble Beach before!

And as if to underline the Indian theme even more strongly, it was terrific to have the young Yuvraj Saheb Mandhata Singh Jadeja of Rajkot and his wife in attendance at the event as well. What is impressive about this royal family is the fact that Rajkot also had some of the finest cars in its royal fleet during the halcyon first half of the last century. Not just the obvious Star of India but also many other Bentleys, Rolls-Royces, etc. In fact, at Pebble 2012 the Star of India joined the mighty 1935 Hispano-Suiza J12 after maybe over half a century of separation! But it is the Star of India saga

for which the likes of a new breed of young Indian royals we have to praise. This 1934 Rolls-Royce Phantom II was taken away from India some time in the 1960s and for a long time it was in the Stratford-upon-Avon motor museum until it closed and the car sold off. In many years it was in a German enthusiast's Rolls-Royce collection and when the entire collection came up for auction a couple of years ago, the Yuvraj Saheb went out and acquired it. There were always plans to bring it to India but the red tape-ism in our land plus a couple of spirited away have been dampeners but according to Nitin Dossa of the VCCCI, there is a good chance the Star of India will roll on Indian soil again.

ADIL JAL DARUKHANAWALA



ROYAL HONOUR! The Udaipur royals with Maharana Arvind Singh Mewar along with his daughter Princess Padmaja Kumariji Mewar and his son-in-law Rajkumar Sahib Dr Kush Singhji Parmar of Santrampur at Pebble Beach with GLK21. Both gentlemen are wearing the royal coat of arms insignia on their collars.



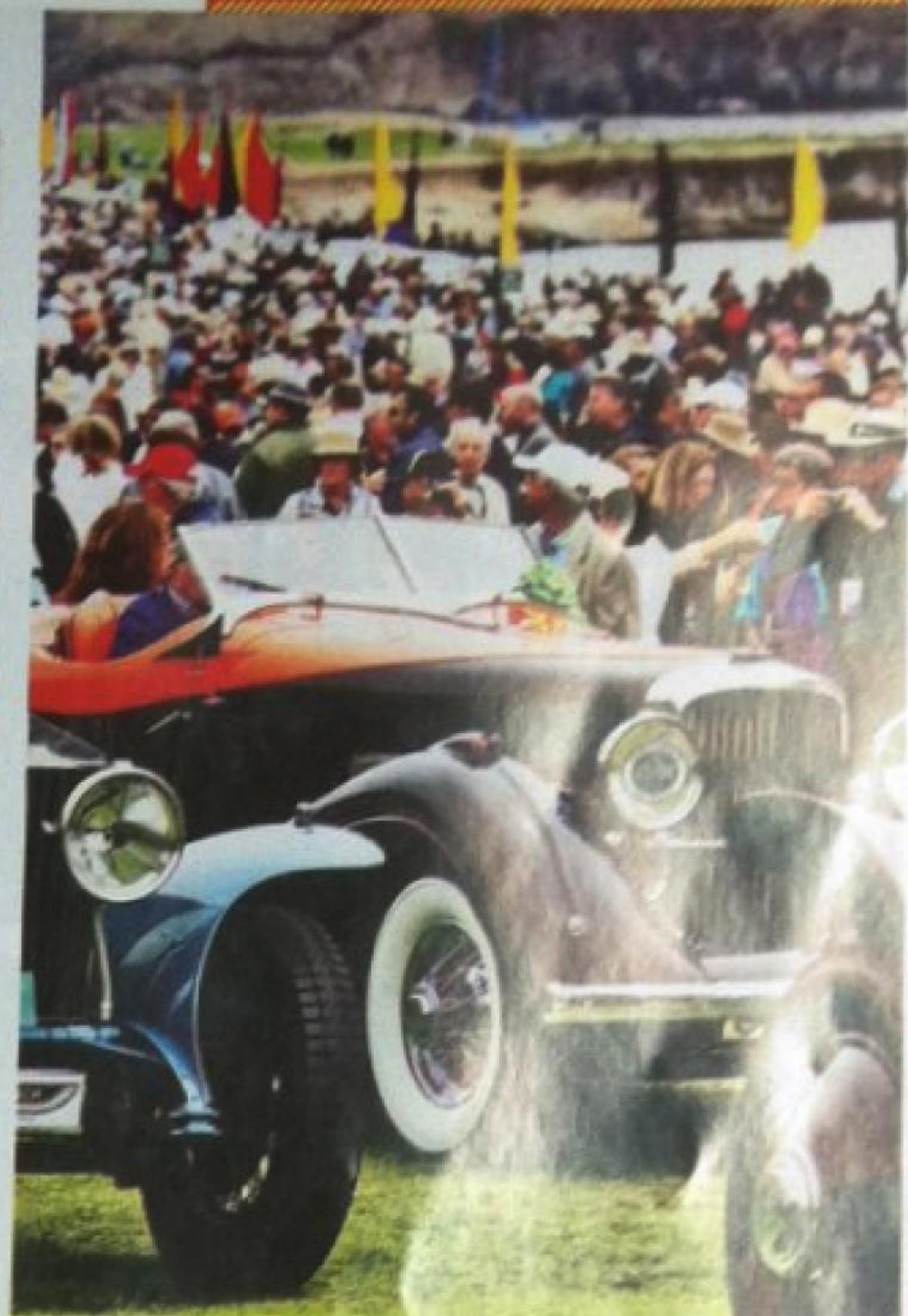
INDIANS ON THE GO! It was without an iota of doubt that India and Indian participants made their mark at Pebble Beach for the first time in a most elegant manner. Seen at the de rigueur tete a tete are (from left), the Princess of Rajkot, Maharaja Manvendra Singh of Barwani who planted the idea for Pebble to feature Maharaja machines, noted Bangalore-based classic car collector Dr Ravi Prakash, Yuvraj Mandhata Singh of Rajkot, H H Maharana Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur and Nitin Dossa of the VCCCI.



FROM A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM! Fantastic shot of the 1910 Brooke Swan car as she purrs her way on the greens in the early hours of judging day. Pebble Beach doesn't repeat cars and if so in exceptional cases only. This was the Swan's second coming at this event, the first being in 1993 when she took the Lord Montagu Award.



MAHARAJA MAGNIFICENCE ON THE MOVE! Not since the Delhi Durbar could one have seen so many exotic high brow vehicles with strong Indian provenance ever got together in their original finery as they did at Pebble Beach 2012. The pic shows three of the top runners rolling down the greens with the ex-Maharaja of Alwar's 1925 Hispano-Suiza H6B with Kellner cabriolet coachwork leading the ex-Maharaja of Jaipur's 1930 Bentley Speed Six Mulliner saloon with the ex-Maharaja Holkar of Indore's Duesenberg Model J Gurney Nutting Speedster next up.



CROWD PULLERS PAR EXCELLENCE! Classic exotica dominates this mood shot from Pebble Beach with the 1928 RR EX17 Phantom Sports and the 1925 RR Phantom I Barker Sports Torpedo just about leaving enough room to glimpse the 1935 Holkar Duesenberg.



NIGHTY PHANTOM! There were no less than three Maharaja-owned Rolls-Royce Phantom IIIs at Pebble Beach. This is the ex-Maharaja of Rewa's 1937 Thrupp & Maberly bodied convertible.



ANOTHER HOLKAR GEM! Noted classic car collector from Bangalore Dr Ravi Prakash flew in his ex-Holkar 1930 Delage D8 with sports tourer coachwork by Figoni.



EXPERIMENTAL ROLLER! This is the famous 17 EX Phantom formerly the pride and joy of the Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir. Present owner Alexander Schaulfer of Austria drove this beauty at the event.



HEAVY HITTER! If ever there was a car fit for royalty with pomp, prestige, presence and performance to spare, then it had to be the Hispano-Suiza J12 made in an exceedingly small series in the mid-1930s. This particular example is the ex-Maharaja of Rajkot royal cabriolet with de Villars coachwork. It is now in the Robert M Lee collection in the US.



ECCENTRIC ENTITIES! The 1910 Brooke Swan car with the electrically-propelled 1919 Cygnet which once graced the Maharaja of Nabha's fleet. Both cars are now in the Louman Museum in Holland.