

THE SIMON DIFFEY HERITAGE MOTORSPORT APPRENTICE AWARD

in association with the Heritage Skills Academy & FIA-Motorsport UK, Girls on Track

Driven by THE HISTORIC SPORTS CAR CLUB

Apprentice Application Form 2026



‘Encouraging excellence through the power of opportunity’

Objective:

To continue in perpetuity, a legacy of Simon’s ethos in recognising & encouraging the next generation of young Heritage Apprentice Engineers through opportunity in Motorsport.

Awarded to:

A young individual who dreams of going motor racing and for demonstrating talent in engineering, passion, enthusiasm, and demonstrating exceptional commitment as a team player during their apprenticeship.

The Award:

- Solid silver salver engraved with your name, your company’s name, plus the names of winner’s secondment partner, mentor and award presenter. Passed to the new winner each year.
- One month with a Heritage Motorsport team during the race season in the summer of 2027.
- Attendance at minimum of one international race with Secondment partner
- £3,000 to help with subsistence and travel.
- Motorsport UK will supply a free license race pack which is required to apply for the ARDS test.
- The opportunity to take the ARDS test at Silverstone to gain a racing license.
- Alpinestars will supply the winner with a new race suit and full racing kit, including shoes and gloves.
- Arai will supply a new helmet.
- HSCC will support an opportunity to race subject to T&C’s using the Award’s MGB GT
- Magneto & Octane magazine will follow up with articles through the year.
- A racing mentor to assist during the year.

Rules & Regulations

Apprentices are invited to make their own application which must be authorised and signed off by their employer. All applications will be verified with the employer.

The Apprentice

Must be at least 18 years of age but not exceeding 26 years

- The applicant must be an existing apprentice in full time employment studying automotive heritage engineering or coachbuilding.
- They must have completed a minimum of 1 full year with their employer.
- They must be financially dependent.

i.e. apprentice would not have the finance to go racing without the Award's financial support and you are not already supported to go racing or have raced.

The Employer

- Must be willing to release an apprentice for 1 month from their employ during the summer race season 2027, should their apprentice be fortunate enough to win.
- Dates to be agreed with the Secondment Partner and employer.

The Nomination Criteria

1. The Employers will be asked to sign off their apprentice's application that they believe meets the criteria we are looking for in upholding Simon's legacy and spirit.

2. There will be a shortlist of 3 apprentices selected from the total nominations.

3. The 3 Finalist nominees will then be interviewed in person.

This will be their opportunity to tell the Judges why they believe that they should be the chosen winner.

4. A small judging panel will then select the winner. The Judges' decision is final.

The 2026 Judging Timeline

Applications open Friday 1st May 2026

Applications close Friday 29th May 2026

Friday 29th May 2026 - midday (12pm), Nominees to be considered and paperwork signed off by employer and sent to HSCC@diffsaward.com via email by midday. No candidate will be considered outside of this time, no matter how the dog ate the homework!

Friday 5th June 2026 - Employers of the 3 Finalists will be notified on email and by phone by midday.

Sunday, 19th July 2026 - Final 3 candidates, one to one interview with Judges at the Royal Automobile Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom, KT18 7EH

Friday 24th July 2026- Announcement of winning Apprentice by midday by phone.

Award Presentation Ceremony

Wednesday 30th September 2026, 18.00hrs, Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, Mountbatten Suite.

NB: Finalists must be available to be interviewed by the judges in person at the Royal Automobile Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom, on Sunday July 19th 2026.

Please do not apply if you are unavailable on these dates.

Guidance for apprentices and employers signing off application forms

The nature of the Historic Motorsport sector dictates that candidates will come from a diverse range of eras, vehicle types, race series and marques.

Apprentices are asked to score their ability out of 10 using the following 4 subject lines below.

1. Engineering
2. Passion
3. Enthusiasm
4. Exceptional commitment as a team player

Please type 100 words explaining why you should be considered for this award.

The nomination can be supported by photographs if appropriate.

While the point scoring system will be an indicator for the judges, it will not be the overriding decision maker.

Should the results end in a tie breaker; the decision will be taken by the judges on the apprentice's 100 words, which are marked by the Judges.

The Judges' decision is final. No beer, wine, or offers of engine rebuilds will get you to the chequered flag any sooner.

Any HSA questions please email: john.pitchforth@heritageskillsacademy.co.uk
Any FIA Girls on Track questions please email: jenny.fletcher@motorsportuk.org
Any HSCC questions please email: HSCC@Diffsaward.com

The Award is supported by the following companies and Mentors:

**SILVERSTONE
HISTORIC SPORTS CAR CLUB
MARTIN STRETTON RACING LTD
GOODWOOD
ECURIE BERTELLI
BELL SPORT AND CLASSIC
JIM STOKES WORKSHOP GROUP
GTO ENGINEERING**

**MOTORSPORT (UK)
MAGNETO & OCTANE MAGAZINE
ALPINESTARS
CLASSIC TEAM LOTUS
PANACHE CLASSIC
IN RACING
ARAI
ROAD & COMPETITION ENG.**

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NICK LYFORD	MENTOR 2022-23
WILL NUTHALL	MENTOR 2023-24
MARTIN OVERINGTON	MENTOR 2024-25
JOHN WORTH	MENTOR 2025-26

YOU MUST HOLD A CURRENT PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL AND BE WILLING TO LIVE AND WORK AWAY FROM HOME FOR ONE MONTH WITH THE SECONDMENT PARTNER

THE SIMON DIFFEY HERITAGE MOTORSPORT APPRENTICE AWARD

APPLICATION FORM 2026

PLEASE FILL OUT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Any submissions received before 1st May will be disqualified

Please return this form on email with your 100 words TYPED and saved as a PDF
by midday Friday 29TH May 2026 to HSCC@diffsaward.com

NAME OF EMPLOYER.....BLOCK-CAPS

NAME OF APPRENTICE.....BLOCK-CAPS

EMPLOYER'S ADDRESS:

LINE 1.....

LINE 2.....

LINE 3.....

TOWN.....

COUNTY.....

POST CODE.....

EMPLOYER CONTACT DETAILS

Email.....

Tel.....

APPRENTICE CONTACT DETAILS

Email.....

Mobile No.....

PLEASE MARK YOURSELF IN THE 4 CATEGORIES. 10 IS BEST.

No.	SUBJECT	PLEASE MARK BETWEEN 1 - 10	PLEASE TICK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE ADDED ADDITIONAL NOTES/PHOTOS/EXAMPLES Please feel free to use separate sheets of paper
1	ENGINEERING		
2	PASSION		
3	ENTHUSIASM		
4	EXCEPTIONAL TEAM PLAYER		
5	100 WORDS TO BEST DESCRIBE WHY YOU SHOULD WIN.	JUDGES SCORE ONLY	<i>Please include a separate sheet with the 100 words with your application</i>
-	Total marks		-

EMPLOYERS SIGNATURE.....DATE.....

I hereby agree as the employer, that I will adhere to the terms and conditions of this application submitted by my apprentice.