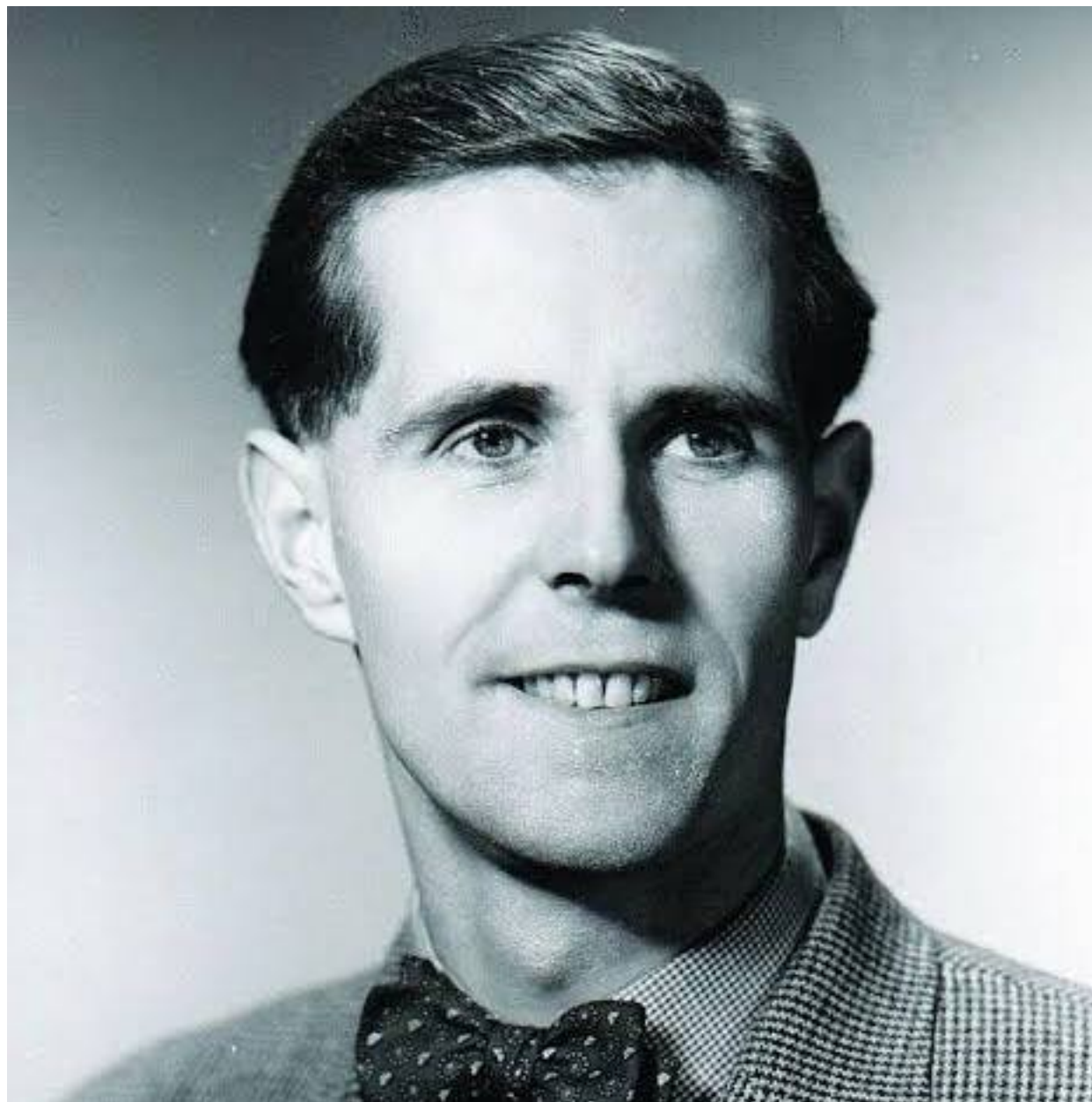


British Car Personalities

Jeremy George Weston “Jem” Marsh

by Bob Vitrikas



In my last article (you did read it didn't you?) we discussed the “Cos” in Marcos, Frank Costin. Let's now turn our attention to the “Mar” in Marcos, Jem Marsh.

Jem was born on April 15, 1930 near Bristol, England. After a short stint in the Royal Navy, he worked as a car salesman. In 1953 Jem acquired an Austin Seven special

and one year later began his racing career. Jem started his motor manufacturing career with Firestone Tyres, departing in 1958 to manage a specialist manufacturer supplying tuning parts for Austin 7 based cars. In April 1958 Jem started up his own company SPEEDEX Castings and Accessories Ltd. He quickly expanded his business to include an aluminum body called the Speedex 750 which was followed by the Sirocco GT Coupe.



From humble beginnings, the 1960 Speedex 750.

A chance meeting with Frank Costin at a 750 Motor Club event resulted in the establishment of the Marcos Cars in 1959. A lightweight sports car featuring a unique plywood monocoque construction, powered by a Ford 1172 cc four cylinder engine and a Speedex suspension, the Marcos was off to the races! Their first customer was Bill Moss who bought his Marcos in May 1960 and proceeded to win 9 out of 10 races! Jem joined in the fun and raced successfully at tracks in England winning his first race in 1964. In 1967 Jem paired with racer Chris Lawrence in a Mini Marcos GT at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Unfortunately an oil pump failure forced them to drop out after just three hours. Jackie Stewart and Jackie Oliver also raced Marcos race cars. That is quite a pedigree!

Marcos ceased production in the early 1970s but in the 1980s the irrepressible Jem resurrected the Marcos name and produced a series of spectacular 'aspirational' street cars, the Mantula and Mantara. Starting in the early 1990s, Jem continued racing,

winning three Historic Sports Car Club titles driving the ex-Jackie Stewart “Ugly Duckling” Marcos GT.



Now this folks is one ugly race car, but it worked! Dearie me!

Jem's son, Chris, continued the Marcos line until it closed its doors in 2008. Jem Marsh crossed the finish line on March 2, 2015. The car world was a better and much more interesting place for Jem having been here with us for those 84 years!

Here's a short video that chronicles Jem's car life. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suVeaYEkrV8>