

ALVIS RACE TEAM

Jeff Edwards (letter, Bulletin 587) refers to the Alvis Centenary Race scheduled at Mallory Park on Sunday 22 August. It is generally considered that Alvis as a company stopped their racing activities around 1930. Yet the Company entered and won a race at Mallory Park on 2 consecutive years (1964 and 1965) with a 'special', designed, built and driven by Alvis employees. Furthermore, being the Coventry Apprentice Association's annual bedstead race, it was also powered by a relay of Alvis apprentices. (Yours truly, not being amongst the most spritely, provided grunt on a slower part of the course.) The bedstead (pictured) was later given to the young children of Johnny Williams. He told me that he was the last Pupil Apprentice whose father had to pay for his son's apprenticeship, but after RAF service he returned to Alvis and became the Company's Test Pilot and Publicity Manager. He was widowed in the late 1960s, and the bedstead was seen as a distraction from grief for his children.



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