From the Tom Price Collection

*Historic 1950s Prototype DB2 Added to Aston Martin Showing*

Three rare Aston Martin cars from the Tom Price collection -- including a Zagato-bodied 1961 DB4GT racing coupe – have been added to the field display of featured Aston Martins at the 57th Hillsborough Concourse d’Elegance, Sunday, July 21, at Crystal Springs Golf Course in Burlingame, CA.

Hours of the Hillsborough Concours d’Elegance are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.. Admission is $30 for adults (children 13 and under are free). There is also a special $75 VIP pass that includes parking, access to the VIP tent, meals and a beverage.

The other two models from the venerated 100-year-old British line are a smooth and refined blue 1952 DB2 Drophead Convertible and a 1949 DB2 Prototype coupe that now has an astounding six decade racing history – including Tom Price’s vintage campaigns through the U.S. and twice at the Monaco Historique.

*Tom Price with his rare 1949 Aston Martin DB2 prototype racer.*

*Price's affinity for Aston Martin -- as well as other works in his collection -- are embodied in the motor racing portraits of British painter Tony Upson.*
Price, in his 60s, heads up an auto dealership group headquartered in Marin and has not only assembled a significant collection of historic European and British cars (Alfa Romeo, Ferrari, Jaguar, Maserati), he is an active campaigner in all manner of international vintage racing and motoring events – and with many of these same ready-to-run cars in his collection.

“These cars are built to be driven and used,” says Price, a native of Arizona and graduate of the University of Colorado, he has always been fascinated by cars. He began in the auto industry with Ford in the mid-60s, but it was at a 1963 Spring Break trip to the Sebring endurance race, that his first view of the Ferrari GTO coupes in competition fired his enthusiasm to race these thoroughbred sports cars.

Two of the three Aston Martins reflect Price’s pride in competition – and in the case of the smooth 1952 Drophead, refined motoring.:23

The 1949 DB2, nicknamed “The Sweatbox,” was an early test bed for David Brown’s racing aspirations. Brown owned Aston Martin then and charted a racing future for the marque in the ‘50s and ‘60s. His highly competitive DBR1 won the world sports car championship and the LeMans 24-hour race in 1959, the latter with the late Roy Salvadori and America’s Carroll Shelby splitting driving time.

This early racer was third overall at the 1949 Spa 24 hour race and raced twice (and did not finish) at LeMans.
Equipped with an original overhead valve (OHV) Lagonda in-line six engine (later Aston Martin engines by were lighter double overhead cam (DOHC) engines), it is, when compared to more developed road racers of the later ‘50s, quite primitive.

Price, who admits it’s a tight squeeze in the stark cabin, ran the car hard against more developed C-Type Jaguars and Frazier Nashes in his class at Monaco. “But we finished,” he adds. “This is one of the most important Astons built and one can see design and engineering trends to come – like first touches of the distinctive grillework.”

The 1961 DB4GT is one of 19 Aston Martins bearing Zagato coachwork (nine of which were with left-handed steering). The DOHC in line six engine produces 314 hp and the car can run at about 150 mph. In 1961, this vehicle was running ninth overall and second in class at LeMans when it was forced to retire just one-half hour before the end of the 24-hour race. Price has raced this sleek white coupe in more than 50 vintage events.

Charity beneficiaries of the Hillsborough event are Autism Speaks, North America’s largest autism science and advisory organization, the 49ers Foundation, which provides extensive support for at-risk youth in the Bay Area and the Hillsborough Schools Foundation, which provides support for four public schools in Hillsborough.

For further information, go to www.hillsboroughconcours.org.

###