

# Natal Diecast Model Collectors

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## Newsletter March 2015

Hi Folks,

Our January meeting was well attended, and there were several lots of models for sale - with some model lots sold by closed auction.

Richard Hebbbron is planning to hold another two Hobbies Fairs - on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2015 - and another Fair again later in the year on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015. His contact Nos are at the end of this newsletter, and once arrangements are confirmed and finalised, he will try and keep the costs the same as previously - i.e. tables are free if you display, and R100.00 for sellers.

I suggest that members should try and make every effort to support Richard and attend the Hobbies Fair - which as the name suggests, has many different and interesting hobbies displayed. Also, if you want a table, suggest you book one now.

In this newsletter, we look at the model of the McLaren F1 Supercar made by Autoart – and also Mr. Bean (Rowan Atkinson's) real McLaren F1 Supercar which he crashed a few times during the time he owned it. After the last crash there was a record insurance claim pay-out, and earlier this year he put the supercar up for sale, at what was expected to be a huge sale profit.

See you at the next meeting,

Keep collecting,

*Philip*

### PRODUCT NEWS

#### **McLaren F1 die-cast model from Autoart**

*By Mark Savage*



Product: McLaren has been a pre-eminent name in motorsports since the 1960s when its namesake, Bruce McLaren, raced in Formula 1 and created his own McLaren Racing Team. That team went on to dominate Can-Am racing and since the New Zealander's racing death in 1970, Team McLaren has won eight F1 titles.

From that background sprung McLaren Automotive, based in England, that has created a variety of cars, most famously, the McLaren F1 supercar, sometimes called the Short Tail Road Car. That's what Autoart has so beautifully sculpted in 1:18 scale here in its highly detailed Signature Series.

The real McLaren F1 was a spectacularly designed supercar, and the fastest car in the world from 1994–1998, and still the fastest normally aspirated car in the world. A slightly altered version even won the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1995.

The McLaren cranked 627 horses from its BMW-built 6.1-litre V12 engine, with a torque rating of 479. Top speed was 240 mph and it did 0–60 mph in just 3.2 seconds. The Bugatti Veyron supercar unseated the McLaren as fastest production car.

Another thing that makes supercars super is their price and availability. The McLaren sold for \$970,000 and just more than 100 were ever made.

Performance: Enough about numbers, the McLaren is nothing, if not gorgeous to look at with its butterfly doors being a styling signature. These are hinged from inside, just like the real deal, so the doors close with authority and with minimal seams.

Like other supercars, the McLaren is a glassy, low-slung racer with a wide stance and short overhangs front and rear. Unusual though, it has three seats, the driver's mounted dead centre as in a racer, but with two passenger seats offset behind it.

Autoart's version is flawless. Highlights include beautifully sculpted side panels and doors, two hinged rear bonnets that open to reveal a giant 12-cylinder BMW engine. One bonnet is the glass rear window, the other a finely screened and vented cover just in front of a small rear spoiler that is also adjustable.

The engine has McLaren and BMW M Power stencilled on the headers and the electrical wiring and hoses look authentic. In front is another small compartment that opens to show a labelled Kenwood CD system. Headlight lenses are realistic looking too, with a giant clear lens over the quad lights up front and detailed red rear lenses.

On the car's sides, just behind the doors, are flip-out storage areas that include removable luggage in each compartment. The compartments are finished to resemble carbon fibre too, adding to the car's exotic look and feel. The real car's chassis was made of carbon-fibre reinforced plastic.

Other nice touches include little amber reflectors just in front of each door and McLaren badging on the hood and tail.

The 5-spoked wheels are finely finished with copper-coloured lugs securing them and exquisitely detailed gold cross-drilled disc brakes behind the wheels, with red script Brembo labels on the calipers. The McLaren also features working suspension front and rear, a rarity in die-cast of a lesser quality.

Steering is directly linked to the steering wheel for a realistic feel, while the tires have no branding on them, but do feature an aggressive tread pattern.

The interior is sharp, with the main racer seat and belts, detailed dash and steering wheel along with a console that includes a variety of buttons and again, a carbon-fibre look. But this is a model you'll mainly want to display for its body and engine.

Marketing: Let's be honest, this model is not for everyone. You'll want this for your high-end customer who is serious about his collection and has some coin to drop on a premium quality die-cast - possibly a special order for a special customer.

But if you're looking for a grabber for a store window or main display case, this is a winner. To generate sales off of it though, load up on some 1:43 Autoart models to surround it (Autoart has plenty of supercar models) and count on those to be your main movers. Don't forget to sell individual display cases, a great add-on, for all your die-cast models. No collector wants a dusty model!

#### VITAL STATS

Product: McLaren F1 Short Tail Road Car  
Maker: Autoart  
Scale: 1:18  
Stock No.: 76001  
MSRP: \$259.99

#### BOTTOM LINE

Fantastic detail  
Rare exotic car  
An eye-catcher in a display



## **Mr Bean's £7.4m McLaren F1 supercar sale profit**

Mr Bean star Rowan Atkinson, who is going through a divorce, is to sell his McLaren F1 supercar for a multimillion pound profit.

The actor has twice crashed the car spectacularly and has put 60000km on the clock, but the McLaren - which can do 386 km/h - has risen in value in the 18 years since he bought it for £540 000 to more than £8 million (R144 million)

Atkinson, a father of two, said he mainly used the sport's car to "do the school run" and for trips to the supermarket.

On the second occasion he crashed it in 2011; he lost control on a slippery bend, and collided with a tree, injuring his shoulder.

It was believed to be the largest single-car insurance pay-out in the UK, involving £910 000 of repairs.

Atkinson, 60, who is reported to be worth up to £70 million, is separated from Sunetra, his wife of 23 years.

He was photographed last week with a rumoured new girlfriend 31 year old actress Louise Ford.

He said this week that "time feels right" to sell the British supercar.

The star of *Blackadder*, *Mr Bean* and *Not the Nine O'Clock News* bought the supercar new in 1997.

The comedian has driven it on a track at 320 km/h, but claimed it was equally pleasurable to "pootle" along ordinary roads.

"What I enjoy most about it when I first drove it was how lovely it was to drive slowly." He said. "To pootle is a pleasure"

## **How to spot a Reproduction Model Box vs a Real Model Box**

Article submitted by Dusan Milanovic.

The printing process of the 1960's were very different to the printing process used today, which makes the spotting of reproduction boxes that much easier than the spotting the original boxes which were produced when these models were first issued.

During the 1960's large lithograph printers were used to print boxes, today the reproduction box is printed using colour laser printers.

1. A real box will have small 'dots' on the printed area - this applies to models of the 1960's and 1970's - the 1950's models used a different system.
2. On a real box the small dots are only noticeable under magnification.
3. A reproduction box will have a white interior.
4. A reproduction box will not always close correctly.

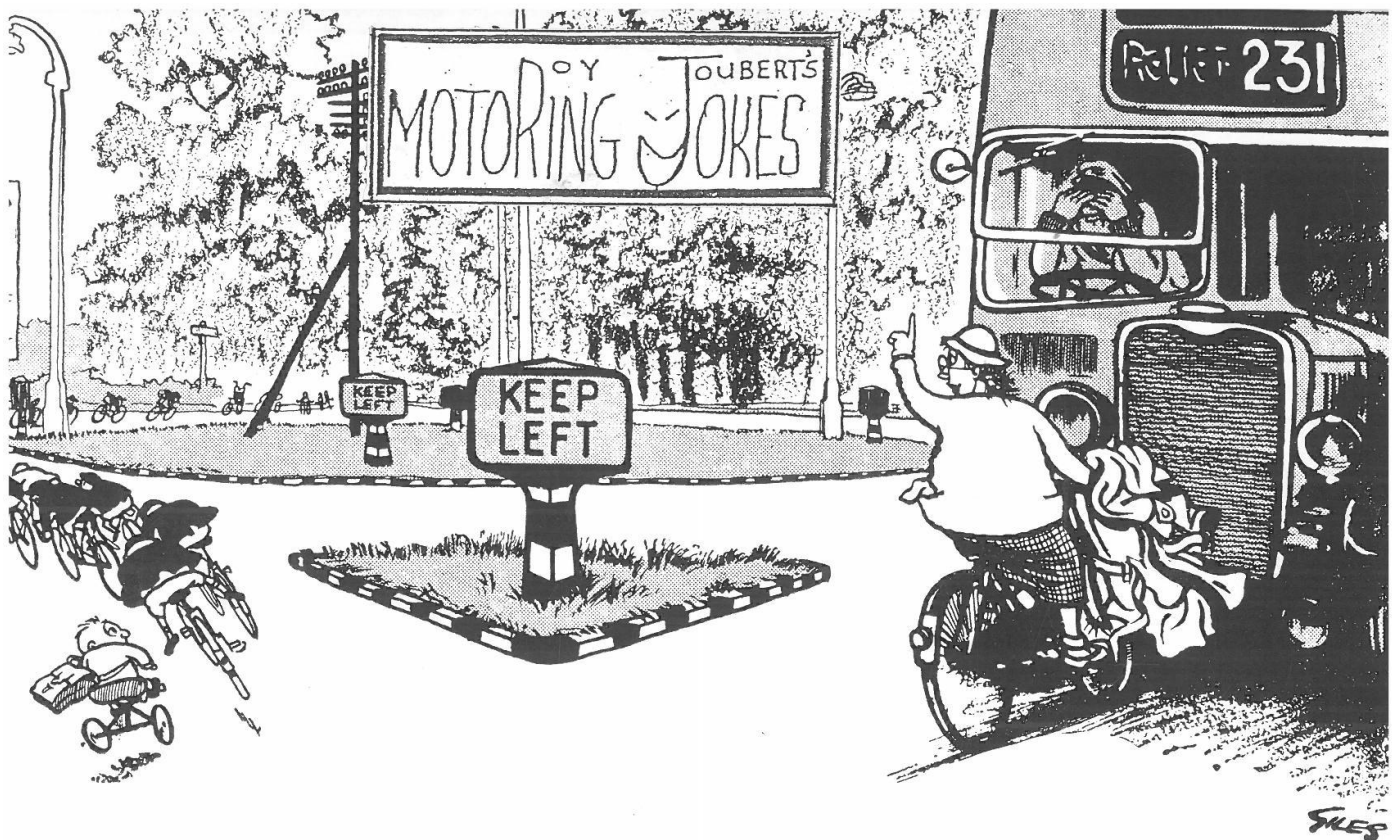
## Upcoming events

Date	Event / Function	Venue	Comments
30 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	NDMC Meeting	VCC - Kloof	Time: 17:30 for 18:00 'till we end. Cost: R25.00 for non-members Subs due: R110.00 / year. R70.00 Country Members
30 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Theme		McLaren models - and McLaren F1 Supercar
4 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Annual Hobbies Fair	Moth Hall, Malvern	9am to 3pm - See directions and flyer on Website
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	Annual Hobbies Fair	Moth Hall, Malvern	9am to 3pm

## Committee 2015

Portfolio	Incumbent	Tel Home	Cell	E-Mail
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Treasurer	Colleen Ellis	031 266-3138		<a href="mailto:ellispc@telkomsa.net">ellispc@telkomsa.net</a>
Exhibition Co-ordinator	Richard Hebbon	031 464-8428	083 533-5492	<a href="mailto:hebbon@telkomsa.net">hebbon@telkomsa.net</a>

## On the lighter side



“Careful, boys—look where you’re going.”