

# QUAD-CITIES BRITISH AUTO CLUB



2016 Edition / Issue 11

5 December 2016

## CONTENTS

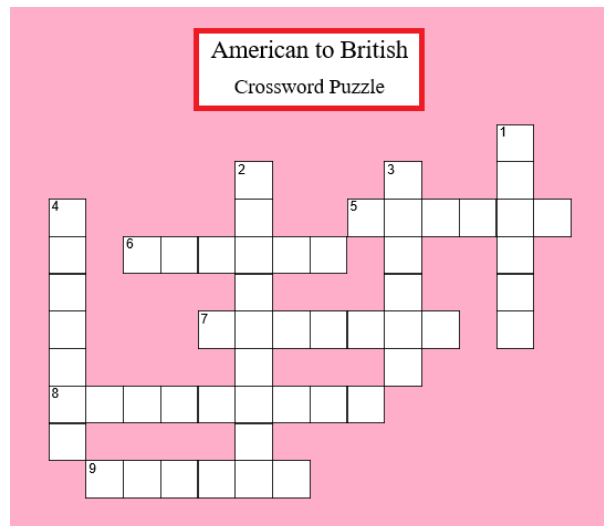
The QCBAC	1
Queen's English	1
QCBAC Contacts	1
Future QCBAC Events	2
Answer & Question	2
Christmas Thoughts	2
Car of the Month	3
British Auto News	8
Crossword Answer	14
Question Answer	14

## CHRISTMAS EDITION

### THE QCBAC

The QCBAC was formed to promote interest and usage of any and all British cars. The QCBAC website is at: <http://www.qcbac.com>

### QUEEN'S ENGLISH



#### ACROSS

- 5 Day after Christmas
- 6 Very cold
- 7 tea cake
- 8 suburbs
- 9 vacuum cleaner

#### DOWN

- 1 package
- 2 motorcycle
- 3 oven
- 4 mailbox

#### Word List:

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Baltic    | Boxing    |
| Bundle    | Cooker    |
| Crumpet   | Hoover    |
| Motorbike | Outskirts |
| Postbox   |           |



2016 British Autofest – Le Claire, IA

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## ANSWER

**It was Madonna (Madge) who said in 2003, "I love my Mini Cooper. I was too scared to drive a big car in London. The roads are so narrow and I'm always afraid I'm going to hit people on both sides."**



*Madonna and her Mini*

## NEXT QUESTION

**The 1974 movie "The Great Gatsby" had two stars (in my opinion). One was Robert Redford. The other was a 1928 automobile which sold in 2009 for \$238,000. What was the car used in that classic movie?**

**(Answer at end of newsletter)**

## FUTURE QCBAC EVENTS

Christmas Dinner	11 December 2016	4:00 pm
Jake-O's Restaurant	2900 Blackhawk Road, Rock Island, IL	
Bring a wrapped gift for the traditional secret gift exchange.		

## CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

I put so much thought into your gift it's now too late to get it.  
(Author unknown)

I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph.  
(Shirley Temple)

When you stop believing in Santa Claus is  
when you start getting clothes for Christmas!  
(Hussein Nishah)

The main reason Santa is so jolly is because  
he knows where all the bad girls live.  
(George Carlin)

Santa Claus wears a Red Suit,  
He must be a communist.  
And a beard and long hair,  
Must be a pacifist.  
What's in that pipe that he's smoking?"  
(Arlo Guthrie)

Anyone who believes that men are the equal  
of women has never seen a man trying to  
wrap a Christmas present.  
(Author unknown)

I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying,  
toys not included.  
(Bernard Manning)



**If automobiles had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls-Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside.**

**Robert Cringely**

**When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.**

**Thomas C Haliburton**

## CAR OF THE MONTH

### THE ROLLS-ROYCE COMPANY

Henry Royce started an electrical and mechanical business in 1884. He made his first car, a two-cylinder Royce 10, in his Manchester factory in 1904, and met Charles Rolls on 4 May of that year. Rolls was proprietor of an early motor car dealership, C. S. Rolls & Co. in Fulham. The cars would be badged as Rolls-Royces, and be sold exclusively by Rolls. The first Rolls-Royce car, the Rolls-Royce 10 hp, was unveiled at the Paris Salon in December 1904.

### FOUNDATIONS OF ROLLS-ROYCE

During 1906, Royce had been developing an improved six-cylinder model with more power than the Rolls-Royce 30 hp. Initially designated the 40/50 hp, this was the company's first all-new model. In March 1908, Claude Johnson, the Commercial Managing Director for Rolls-Royce, succeeded in persuading Royce and the other directors that Rolls-Royce should concentrate exclusively on the new model, and all the earlier models were discontinued. After the introduction of the Phantom model in 1925 this 40/50 model was referred to as the Silver Ghost.



*1906 Silver Ghost*



1920 Silver Ghost Open Tourer

The Silver Ghost was the origin of Rolls-Royce's claim of making the "Best car in the world" – a phrase coined not by themselves, but by the prestigious publication Autocar in 1907. It was an ultra-luxury car with a 40-50 horse power engine. Production continued into the 1920s when the Silver Ghost was replaced with the Phantom model.

### AIRCRAFT ENGINES

In 1907 Charles Rolls, whose interests had turned increasingly to flying, tried unsuccessfully to persuade Royce and the other directors to design an aero engine. When World War I broke out in August 1914 Rolls-Royce was taken by surprise. As a manufacturer of luxury cars, the company was immediately vulnerable, and Claude Johnson thought the bank would withdraw its overdraft facility on which Rolls-Royce depended at that time.



*Eagle VIII Engine*

Nevertheless, believing that war was likely to be short-lived the directors initially decided not to seek government work making aero engines. However, this position was quickly reversed and the company was persuaded by the War Office to manufacture fifty air-cooled V8 engines under license from Renault. Meanwhile, the Royal Aircraft Factory asked Rolls-Royce to design a new 200 hp (150 kW) engine. Despite initial reluctance they agreed, and during 1915 developed their own aero engine, the twelve-cylinder Eagle. This was quickly followed by the smaller six-cylinder Hawk, the 190 hp (140 kW) Falcon and, just before the end of the war, the larger 675 hp (503 kW) Condor.

Throughout World War I, Rolls-Royce struggled to build aero engines in the quantities required by the War Office. However, except for Brazil Straker in Bristol the company resisted pressure to license production to other manufacturers, fearing that the engines' much admired quality and reliability would risk being compromised. Instead the Derby factory was extended to enable Rolls-Royce to increase its own production rates. By the late 1920s, aero engines made up most of Rolls-Royce's business.



*1922 Rolls-Royce Twenty*

Meanwhile, the new 40/50 was responsible for the company's early reputation with over 6,000 built. Its chassis was used as a basis for the first British armored car used in both world wars. In 1921, the company opened a second factory in Springfield, Massachusetts in the United States (to help meet demand), where a further 1,701 "Springfield Ghosts" were built. This factory operated for 10 years, closing in 1931.

Rolls-Royce of America Inc. was formed by Rolls-Royce to meet the massive and growing US car market by building a plant in Springfield, Massachusetts. Their first chassis was completed in 1921. Coachbuilding was provided by Rolls-Royce Custom Coachwork, and later by Brewster & Co. at the Brewster Building in Long Island City, New York.

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*1923 Rolls-Royce Springfield  
Silver Ghost Oxford Tourer*

## EARLY FINANCIAL PRESSURES

After the First World War, Rolls-Royce successfully avoided merging with other car manufacturers. Faced with falling sales of the 40/50 (later known as Silver Ghost) the company introduced the smaller, cheaper Twenty in 1922, effectively ending the one-model policy followed since 1908.

In 1931 Rolls-Royce acquired the much smaller rival car maker Bentley after the latter's finances failed to weather the onset of the Great Depression. From soon after World War II until 2002 standard Bentley and Rolls-Royce cars were often identical apart from the radiator grille and minor details.



In 1933, the color of the Rolls-Royce radiator monogram was changed from red to black because the red sometimes clashed with the coachwork color selected by clients, and not as a mark of respect for the passing of Royce as is commonly stated.

Henry Royce's last aircraft engine design was the Merlin aero engine, which was first flown in prototype form in 1935, although he had died in 1933. The Merlin was a powerful supercharged V12 engine and was fitted into many World War II aircraft: the British Hawker Hurricane, Supermarine Spitfire, de Havilland Mosquito (twin-engine), Avro Lancaster (four-engine), Vickers Wellington (twin-engine). It also transformed the American North American P-51 Mustang into a competitor for the best fighter of its time (the Merlin engine was built by Packard under license). Over 160,000 Merlin engines were produced, including over 30,000 by the Ford Motor Company at Trafford Park, Manchester. The Merlin crossed over into military land-vehicle use as the Meteor powering the Centurion tank among others.

Rolls-Royce came into jet turbines through an exchange of assets with Rover and in the post-World War II period Rolls-Royce made significant advances in gas turbine engine design and manufacture. The *Dart* and *Tyne* turboprop engines were particularly important, enabling airlines to cut times for shorter journeys whilst jet airliners were introduced on longer services. Many of these turboprops are still in service.

During the Second World War the British government had asked Rolls-Royce to open a "shadow factory" in Crewe to manufacture aircraft parts. After the war, in 1946, Rolls-Royce and Bentley car production moved to Crewe where they began to assemble complete cars with bodies from the Pressed Steel Company (the new standard steel models) for the first time. Previously they had built only the chassis, leaving the bodies to specialist coach-builders.



1947 Silver Wraith Cabriolet

## CHANGES IN OWNERSHIP

In 1973 the motor car business was spun off as a separate entity, Rolls-Royce Motors. The main business of aircraft and marine engines remained in public ownership until 1987, when it was privatized as Rolls-Royce plc, one of many privatizations of the Thatcher government.

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited was created as a wholly owned subsidiary of BMW in 1998 after BMW licensed the rights to the Rolls-Royce brand name and logo from Rolls-Royce PLC and acquired the rights to the Spirit of Ecstasy and Rolls-Royce grill shape trademarks from Volkswagen AG. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited has been manufacturing Rolls-Royce branded cars since 2003.

Although the Rolls-Royce brand has been in use on vehicles since 1906, the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars subsidiary of BMW AG has no direct relationship to Rolls-Royce branded vehicles produced prior to 2003. The Bentley subsidiary of Volkswagen AG is the direct successor to

Rolls-Royce Motors and the other various predecessor entities that produced Rolls-Royce and Bentley branded cars between the foundation of each company and 2003.

Current chief executive Torsten Müller-Ötvös joined the company in January 2010, with a pledge to regain the quality standards that made Rolls Royce famous in the 1980s. That year, the company's sales in China increased by 600%, meaning that it is now Rolls Royce's second largest market after the US.

In 1998, Vickers plc decided to sell Rolls-Royce Motors. The most likely buyer was BMW, who already supplied engines and other components for Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, but BMW's final offer of £340 million was beaten by Volkswagen's £430 million.

A stipulation in the ownership documents of Rolls-Royce dictated that Rolls-Royce plc, the aero-engine maker, would retain certain essential trademarks, including the Rolls-Royce name and logo if the automotive division was sold. Although Vickers plc sold the vehicle designs, nameplates, administrative headquarters, production facilities, Spirit of Ecstasy and Rolls-Royce grill shape trademarks to Volkswagen AG, Rolls-Royce plc chose to license the Rolls-Royce name and logo to BMW AG for £40 million, because Rolls-Royce plc had recently had joint business ventures with BMW.

BMW's contract to supply engines and components to Rolls-Royce Motors allowed BMW to cancel the contract with 12 months' notice. Volkswagen would be unable to re-engineer the Rolls-Royce and Bentley vehicles to use other engines within that time frame. With the Rolls-Royce brand identification marks split between the two companies and Volkswagen's engine supply in jeopardy, the two companies began negotiations.

Volkswagen agreed to sell BMW the Spirit of Ecstasy and grill shape trademarks and BMW agreed to continue supplying engines and components until 2003. Volkswagen continued to produce Rolls-Royce branded vehicles between 1998 and 2003, giving BMW time to build a new Rolls-Royce administrative headquarters and production facility on the Goodwood Estate near Chichester, West Sussex, and develop the Phantom, the first Rolls-Royce from the new company. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited became the exclusive manufacturer of Rolls-Royce branded cars in 2003. Rolls-Royce announced in September 2014 that a new technology and logistics center will be built, due to open in 2016, 8 miles away from the main headquarters, in the seaside resort town of Bognor Regis.

## CURRENT ROLL-ROYCE PRODUCTS



*Rolls-Royce Ghost*

From 2010 – Ghost 4-door sedan. Rolls Royce announced in September 2006 that it would develop a new four-door model named Ghost. The Ghost will be smaller than the previous Rolls Royce automobile launched, the Phantom. Only 20% of the components would be sourced from BMW F01 7 Series, and it will be positioned below the Phantom. On 4 March 2014, a Ghost Series II was revealed to the public at the Geneva Motor Show with a facelift front and new LED headlights.

From 2013 – Rolls-Royce Wraith coupé. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars launched a new car at the Geneva Motor Show on 5 March 2013. The new car, named the Rolls-Royce Wraith was a luxury coupe, with a long bonnet and a sleek roof line, and was a coupe version of the Ghost. It was powered by a 623 bhp, twin-turbocharged V12 engine connected to an 8-speed gearbox.



*Rolls-Royce Wraith*



*Rolls-Royce Dawn*

From 2015 – Rolls-Royce Dawn. In 2015 Rolls-Royce announced the production of a two door, four-seat convertible for the very first time in the company history. According to Rolls Royce, "the car sports a direct-injection twin-turbo 6.6-litre V12 with power of 563 bhp or 420 kW or 570 PS @ 5,250 rpm and torque of 820 NM or 605 lb-ft @ 1,500 rpm.

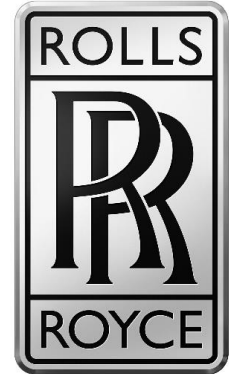
From 2003 – Roll-Royce Phantom. The 7th generation of Rolls-Royce Phantom is a luxury sedan made in the United Kingdom by Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. It was launched in 2003 and is the first model introduced during the BMW era. The Rolls-Royce Phantom Drophead Coupé, and the Rolls-Royce Phantom Coupé, are both based on the 2003 Phantom. It also won the Top Gear Car of the Year Award for 2003.



*Rolls-Royce Phantom*

## ROLLS-ROYCE PERSPECTIVE

The all-time high record of sales was achieved in 2014, at 4,063 cars, beating 2013 sales by 433 cars. In 2011, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited sold 3,538 cars, an increase of 31 percent compared to 2010, beating the previous sales record from 1978. The strong sales growth occurred in the Asia Pacific region, Britain and the Middle East with sales increases of 47 percent, 30 percent and 23 percent respectively.



**NOW YOU KNOW WHAT TO GET ME FOR CHRISTMAS!**

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**The supreme court has ruled that they cannot have a nativity scene in Washington, DC. This wasn't for any religious reasons. They couldn't find three wise men and a virgin. (Jay Leno)**

## BRITISH AUTO NEWS

**Aston Martin:** (11/1) Aston Martin is the latest to launch its own certified pre-owned program, which it has labeled Timeless. The program will be offered in most of Aston Martin's markets, including here in the United States from the first quarter of 2017. It replaces any previous certified pre-owned programs run by the automaker and covers all Aston Martin models 10 years old or younger. Crucially, the technical inspection will cover an extensive list of checks including software systems. (11/3) Leading luxury car dealership Knowl Hill Performance & Luxury has welcomed one of the rarest cars in the world to its Berkshire showroom, the Aston Martin Vulcan. Penned by Aston's Chief Creative Officer Marek Reichmann, the Vulcan is the most exclusive car ever made by the British brand, with just 24 examples being crafted upon its 2015 release. And Knowl Hill is one of the only locations around where you can come and sample the scintillating supercar in all its glory by looking in and around the display model. The track-only, rear-wheel-drive Vulcan is made purely from carbon fiber and is said to be Aston Martin's most exhilarating and intense creation to date, and the figures are there to back that up. With a 7.0-litre V12 engine producing 820bhp and 575lb-ft of torque, this is one Aston Martin that certainly doesn't need a second introduction. (11/7) Aston Martin Racing has secured a third consecutive GTE Am victory in the FIA World Endurance Championship, as the team's #98 V8 Vantage GTE stormed to the checkered flag at the 6 Hours of Shanghai. After securing pole position in yesterday's qualifying session, the trio of Paul Dalla Lana (C), Pedro Lamy (P) and Mathias Lauda (A) performed yet another faultless display to take their fifth victory of the season. (11/15) A new generation of Aston Martin's Vanquish supercar is in the offing but before it arrives the British automaker will introduce a more potent version of the current, second-generation model that's been on sale since the 2014 model year. It's called the Vanquish S, and it was shown to the world for the first on Wednesday at the 2016 Los Angeles auto show. Thanks to a less restrictive intake, power from the venerable 5.9-liter V-12 has been



bumped to 580 horsepower from the 568 horses in the standard Vanquish. The 8-speed automated manual transmission has also been revised to deliver faster shifts and greater refinement at low speeds. Deliveries will commence in April 2017. An open-top Vanquish S Volante is also in the works and is confirmed to be joining the coupe at the market launch. The starting price is \$294,950.

**Jaguar / Land Rover (TATA):** (11/4) With the release of the XE, Jaguar is trying to elbow its way into one of the most competitive segments in the luxury-car realm. This time Jaguar has its sights set on the titan of the class, the BMW 3-Series. Jaguar offers the XE in a variety of flavors, with rear- or all-wheel drive, turbocharged 4-cylinder gas and diesel engines, and a supercharged V-6. The XE's dynamics are its greatest calling card. Under the aluminum skin, the Jaguar XE rides on a double-wishbone front suspension with a multi-link rear suspension. Its lighter-weight aluminum body and electric power steering all work together to deliver vehicle dynamics on par with the two most agile cars in the class, the 3-Series and the Cadillac ATS. (11/7) Jaguar has picked up two Scottish Car of the Year Awards, with the F-PACE named 'SUV of the Year' and the XF crowned 'Luxury Car of the Year'. The accolades mark a decade of success for Jaguar at the annual awards, with the brand collecting 15 wins since 2006, and every new Jaguar winning an award since 1999. These awards are the latest in a line of major UK industry honors for the XF and F-PACE, with the British-built saloon having won seven accolades since its launch just over a year ago, and the F-PACE named Auto Express 'Car of the Year' and 'Best Premium SUV' by Telegraph Cars since its April introduction. (11/8) From sweltering Hong Kong to the labyrinthine souks of Marrakesh – Panasonic Jaguar Racing's second race in the 2016/17 FIA Formula E Championship will offer a striking contrast thanks to the heady flavors of Morocco, as both the all-electric Jaguar I-TYPE and the series make their first appearances on the African continent on November 12. The British manufacturer made a solid start to its motorsport return in October, but is hoping to use the lessons learned on the Hong Kong harbor-front street circuit for its second race. The 12-round Formula E championship concludes in Montreal in July 2017. (11/9) Jaguar has won Germany's top car award, the Golden Steering Wheel. The Jaguar XF was voted 'Best Saloon' in the Mid-Full-size category, ahead of the Mercedes-Benz E-Class and Volvo S90. Jaguar had further reason to celebrate in the Large SUV category, with the F-PACE taking second place. The Jaguar XF defines the segment with unrivaled design, luxury, technology and efficiency, underpinned by class-leading driving dynamics and refinement. With the recent addition of all-wheel drive, the XF offers greater confidence in its all-weather traction and has exceptional total cost of ownership, with class-leading residual values and running costs. (11/14) Land Rover is ready to bring its all-new Discovery to market, and the first stop for the new SUV here stateside is in Los Angeles ahead of the upcoming auto show. Not only does it mark the Discovery's first arrival in the U.S., the automaker also says that its SUV will sticker from \$50,985—including a mandatory \$995 destination charge. Land Rover will first offer the Discovery here with a high-buck First Edition package, which boosts the price to \$74,945. That's a hefty markup, but your nearly \$25,000 gets you a fully-loaded model with a limited-edition styling package. The 3.0-liter supercharged V-6 sits inside a vehicle constructed heavily from aluminum such that the Land Rover shed 1,000 pounds of weight over the outgoing LR4. (11/18) Just prior to the 2016 Los Angeles auto show, Jaguar unveiled the I-Pace concept, an all-electric crossover SUV that elbows in on Tesla Model

X territory. The I-Pace concept is a precursor to a production model, which is promised for the second half of 2018, likely as a 2019 model. It all starts with a 90-kilowatt-hour battery—the same size as found in the Model X 90D—that will deliver 220 miles of electric range. A pair of 200-horsepower electric motors, one on each axle, provide 400 horsepower and 516 pound-feet of torque, as well as all-wheel-drive capability. According to Jaguar, the design was inspired by the C-X75 mid-engine supercar concept that never resulted in a production car. Jaguar calls the I-Pace a performance SUV and claims the electric powertrain makes it capable of a 4.0-second 0 to 60 mph run. (11/21) *Road & Track* used some their time at the Los Angeles auto sitting down with Ian Callum led to chat about Jaguar's future. Buried toward the end of the story is an interesting tidbit about the possibility of the F-Type moving to a mid-engine layout down the road. Callum states that an initial design concept saw the F-Type power-plant sitting amidship, and that would certainly have led to a different looking vehicle compared to the one we know today. A mid-engine Jaguar F-Type could lead to the creation of a new rival for cars like the Audi R8, Lamborghini Huracán, Porsche 911 and Chevrolet Corvette.

**Lister Motors:** Finding success in its 60th Anniversary Knobbly continuation back in 2014, Lister Motor Company Ltd. will now replicate its successor, the Costin, for delivery in 2018. The 1959 Lister Costin was named after the successful aerodynamicist who penned its sloping lines, Frank Costin. Replacing the successful Knobbly, the Costin was to be a brand-new car utilizing the Chevrolet Corvette engine with an aerodynamic body and new space frame. It was found that the space frame took longer to develop than planned, so Costin's new aluminum bodywork was added to the existing chassis and Jaguar six-cylinder. The new continuation Costin will be built to 1959 specification and will feature a handmade aluminum body and 337 hp Jaguar 3.8-liter. Lister also proudly claims that three engineers who worked on the original Costin will be present for its construction, beginning in 2017. Lister has not specified how many Costins will be built but has released that each will cost £295,000 (\$367,000) plus tax. Also, those wanting to convert their Costin for road use will need to fork over an extra £12,500 (\$15,620).

**Lotus:** (11/1) The new, class-leading Lotus Evora Sport 410 has been revealed after an intense development program following its Geneva debut. Massively lighter, with more power and huge gains in aerodynamic efficiency, this new generation of Evora is a pure-bred supercar, using Lotus' DNA to deliver a spiritual successor to the marque's most iconic models, including the Esprit Sport 300. From the mass of carbon fiber components covering the car from nose to tail as standard, including a revolutionary one-piece tailgate, to the recalibrated and tuned supercharged V6 engine – every inch has been assessed to provide unrivalled performance. It can sprint from 0-60 mph in just 3.9 secs, and its ballistic pace means that, in the right hands, it's unbeatable. Lowering the center of gravity, has allowed for the recalibration of the suspension – with an improved geometry and revised setup. The re-valved dampers provide an increase in compression and rebound, while the effective rise in spring rate and a reduction in ride height by 5mm provide better body and roll control, yet ride comfort and composure are retained. The Lotus Evora Sport 410 is limited to a global production run of one-hundred and fifty vehicles per year, and is on sale in Europe and rest of world markets now. An adapted version of the Evora Sport 410 for the North American market will follow in summer 2017.

(11/4) Beating the best rival performance cars that Europe can muster, the acclaimed Lotus Evora 400 has seized second in Road & Track's celebrated Performance Car of the Year for 2017. Lighter, faster and drastically more dynamic than its predecessor, the Evora 400 bested the rest of the Europeans to impress the Road & Track judges and force the final decision to the line - just missing out on first place. Reserved for the best of the best, the annual Road & Track fixture sees only the finest cars compete. Be it measured by outright speed, acceleration or handling: each year the specially selected finalists have been genuine driving giants. (11/24) Lotus is in the best financial shape it's been in perhaps in its entirety. Nevertheless, the company is keen to mark the occasion, which it has done so with the launch of the Exige Sport 380. It's the fastest, most powerful Exige road car yet, with its output of 375 horsepower enabling it to hit 60 mph in just 3.5 seconds and top out at 178 mph. The car's mid-mounted engine remains the familiar Toyota-sourced 3.5-liter V-6, which Lotus uprates via a supercharger. Drive is to the rear wheels, via a standard 6-speed manual or available 6-speed automatic with paddle shifters. There have also been some weight-saving mods, which is typical for the Lotus brand. In the case of the Exige Sport 380, some body parts were replaced with lighter carbon fiber pieces and the rear window, which is normally glass, is polycarbonate here. Other savings come from carbon fiber seats, a lithium-ion battery, and forged wheels. The result is a curb weight of just 2,425 pounds. Unfortunately, since the Exige is currently not legal in the United States we won't be seeing the car in local showrooms.

**McLaren:** (11/1) McLaren's 650S has only been with us since 2014 but a replacement is already in the works. This is not a complete surprise as the 650S is actually an update of the 12C, which dates back to 2010. The new model, code-named the P14, will be first of 15 new models under McLaren's Track22 business plan announced at the 2016 Geneva auto show. But it won't be a true next-generation vehicle as it will miss out on the new carbon fiber tub and powertrain hinted at by McLaren CEO Mike Flewitt in May. Instead, the P14 will stick with McLaren's current carbon fiber tub and twin-turbocharged V-8 found in the 650S and most of the automaker's other models. Performance will be improved to further increase the gap between the Super and Sports Series models. In this regard, look for improvements in power and aerodynamics. (11/8) Following the most successful season in GT racing to-date for McLaren, with the 650S GT3 enjoying success across all continents on which it has competed, the customer racing team line-up has been further strengthened by Strakka Racing. The British-based team will field a minimum of four examples of the 650S GT3 in the full 10-round Blancpain GT Series throughout 2017, including the world-famous Total 24 Hours of Spa. The 2016 GT season has proved the most successful to-date for McLaren with the 650S GT3 claiming high profile victories across the globe, and securing championships in Asia, Europe and most recently North America. (11/15) Ron Dennis, the 69-year-old, Chairman, CEO and founder of the McLaren Technology Group, is set to leave the company once his current contract expires at the end of 2016. The McLaren Technology Group is responsible for the McLaren Formula One team, founded by New Zealander Bruce McLaren in the 1960s, as well as McLaren Automotive and numerous other businesses. Dennis' ouster from the head role is due to a disagreement between himself and the other shareholders that even went to court with Dennis ultimately losing last week. (11/15) Rumors suggesting a new McLaren positioned as the ultimate GT, combining hypercar-like performance with long-distance comfort appear to be true. The car was

said to be getting the original F1's famous three-seat layout where the driver sits center and is flanked by a passenger on either side. The modern F1 will be built in a 106-car run, matching the original. It's due for delivery in early 2019. The boss of McLaren's road car division, Mike Flewitt, said in a statement. "We are calling BP23 a 'Hyper-GT' because it's a car designed for longer journeys, but with the high levels of performance and driver engagement expected of any McLaren." (11/22) In September, the Financial Times reported that Apple was in talks with the McLaren Technology Group about a possible takeover. The McLaren Technology Group is a private consortium co-founded by Ron Dennis in the 1980s and responsible for the McLaren Formula One team as well as the McLaren road car business. Speaking with Reuters, Mike Flewitt, who heads the McLaren road car business, confirmed that talks with Apple did take place but said there was no takeover bid. Flewitt also told Reuters that there had been a "number of bids" for the McLaren Technology Group but that the majority of shareholders were against selling. Ron Dennis controls 25 percent of the company, while the Mansour Ojjeh-led TAG Group controls another 25 percent and the Bahrain government's Mumtalakat investment fund the remaining 50 percent. Days after the report was published, the McLaren Technology Group confirmed that Dennis, at the request of the other shareholders, had been placed on leave until his current contract expires at the end of 2016.

**MG (SAIC):** (11/1) Plans to demolish warehouses once used by the Abingdon factory to manufacture MG cars have been defended for plans to build almost 100 homes on the site. Local residents are raising concerns that the buildings are one of the last links to the history of MG car manufacturing which was so important to the town for decades. Tony Lawson, of XLB Property, said companies using the units would have the option of moving to neighboring Abingdon Business Park after concerns were raised that jobs could be lost. And he added that he was "happy to consider" incorporating a memorial to the MG car company in the plans for the 93 flats and houses on the site of the eight warehouses off Colwell Drive – behind a McDonald's restaurant on Marcham Road. The company's proposals for the site include 12 four-bedroom houses, 22 three-bedroom houses, 43 two-bedroom flats and 16 one-bedroom flats. Of these homes, 35 percent would be affordable. (11/1) MG is getting ready to officially launch the MG ZS at the Guangzhou motor show in China next month. With just a few more weeks to go, spy shots of test cars give an overview of how the upcoming baby SUV would look like. Based on information gathered so far, the new model is expected to be powered by a 1.0-liter petrol engine. An optional choice could be the three-cylinder turbo engine which will be part of the MG lineup. The new car which is part of the high-performance sector will use the ZS badge. (11/9) Chinese-Thai joint venture SAIC Motor-CP, which produces and markets MG cars in Thailand, has broken ground on its second assembly plant in the Kingdom, the Bangkok Post reports. The factory is located at the Hemaraj Eastern Seaboard Industrial Estate 2 in Chon Buri province. In May, the company announced plans to build a second 700,000 sqm plant that will handle MG vehicle production processes such as body assembly, vehicle assembly, and painting under one roof. The total investment in this second plant was not disclosed, but the report estimates around 30 to 40 billion baht. The JV was founded in 2012, a marriage between the Chinese carmaker and Thailand's giant Charoen Pokphand Group conglomerate.

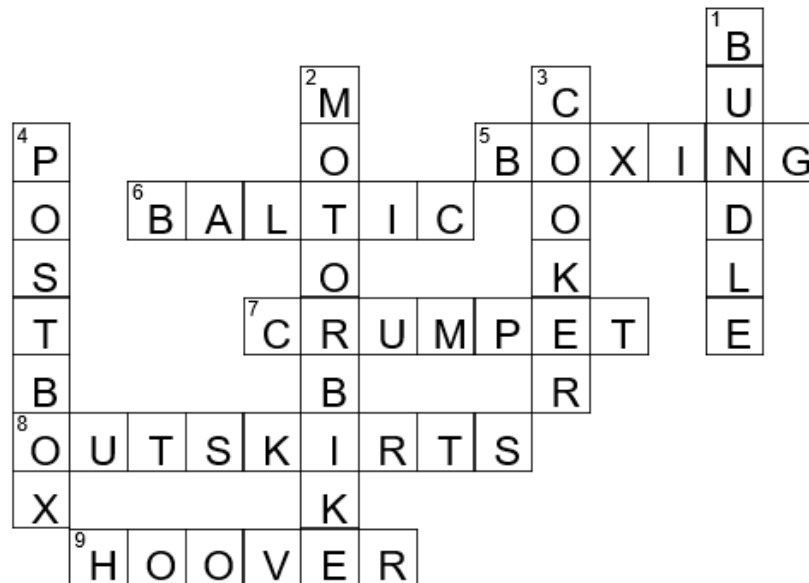


**Mini (BMW):** (11/3) The launch of the new generation MINI Connected app takes the intelligent link-up between the vehicle and driver beyond in-car infotainment functions which are already familiar to many MINI drivers. Based on a flexible platform – the Open Mobility Cloud – the upgraded MINI Connected technology now includes a personal mobility assistant which can help with journey planning and traffic alerts on the driver's Apple iPhone. Android-based smartphone compatibility is in development for the future. As with BMW Connected, MINI Connected can now automatically access addresses and appointments which the driver has stored in their iPhone calendar and uses this information to plan journeys. (11/9) MINI and its motorsport partner X-raid are pleased to reveal eight crews to participate in the 2017 Dakar Rally at the controls of MINI rally cars. Three of these crews will compete under the banner of X-raid Team. Spearheading the X-raid assault to gain MINI its fifth Dakar title are three crews made up of varying Dakar experience but all with excellent rallying pedigrees. Mikko Hirvonen (FIN) and Michel Périn (FRA); Bryce Menzies (USA) and fellow American Peter Mortensen; Yazeed Al-Rajhi (KSA) and co-driver Timo Gottschalk (GER). (11/15) Mini has revealed a bigger, more sophisticated Countryman SUV for the nameplate's second iteration. And this time there's a plug-in hybrid model, representing the first hybrid from the brand. The new Countryman made its world debut on Wednesday at the 2016 Los Angeles auto show and goes on sale in March 2017, arriving as a 2017 model. Only the Cooper and Cooper S models will be available at launch, with the plug-in hybrid, known as the Cooper S E ALL4, to arrive in June. The engines in the Cooper and Cooper S will be familiar to Mini fans. The Cooper sports a turbocharged 1.5-liter inline-3 delivering 134 horsepower and 162 pound-feet of torque, and either a 6-speed manual or 6-speed automatic. The Cooper S gets a turbocharged 2.0-liter inline-4 with 189 hp and 207 lb-ft, as well as an 8-speed for its automatic option. Front-wheel drive is standard for both the Cooper and Cooper S but buyers can opt for all-wheel drive.

**Rolls Royce (BMW):** (11/5) The seventh-generation Rolls-Royce Phantom launched in 2003 is finally on its way out. Its successor is in the works and has been spotted testing on public roads. Rolls-Royce has developed an all-new aluminum spaceframe architecture that will underpin its entire lineup, starting with this new Phantom. According to the British automaker, the architecture is variable in size and ride height as it must underpin a variety of models including coupes, convertibles, sedans and even an SUV. The off-roader is currently doing the rounds under the Project Cullinan code name and has been spotted in test mule form. The first model spawned from the new architecture has been confirmed for launch in early 2018 and will most likely be the new Phantom. It should be followed that year by the SUV. Rolls-Royce has ruled out a fully electric model for now, following feedback on its Phantom 102EX concept, but a plug-in hybrid option could prove popular for buyers in emission-restricted cities. (11/15) Rolls-Royce Motor Cars was honored with the Best British Luxury Craftsmanship award at the 2016 Walpole British Luxury Awards. The annual awards recognize individuals and companies in the luxury industry who exemplify British excellence and leadership in a field that contributes £32 billion every year to the British economy. The esteemed judging panel of luxury leaders, representing the most highly regarded tastemakers in the industry was led by Michael Ward (Managing Director of Harrods and Chairman of Walpole). Formed in 1990, Walpole is a not-for-profit organization that furthers the interests of the British luxury industry by harnessing and sharing the collective knowledge, experience and resources of its membership.

**All Makes (with electronic controls)** (11/2) New exemptions to the decades-old law known as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act have quietly kicked in, carving out protections for Americans to hack their own devices without fear that the DMCA's ban on circumventing protections on copyrighted systems would allow manufacturers to sue them. One exemption will allow new forms of security research on those consumer devices. Another allows for the digital repair of vehicles. Together, the security community and DIYers are hoping those protections, which were enacted by the Library of Congress's Copyright Office in October of 2015 but delayed a full year, will spark a new era of benevolent hacking for both research and repair.

### American to British Crossword Puzzle



### ANSWER TO THE QUESTION

The 1974 movie "The Great Gatsby" had two stars; Robert Redford and a 1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I.

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