



## *The Racing Section Iota 500 1957-59*



In the late 1950s, despite being predominately a rally club, BAC Motor Club members also had other interests. In 1957 the "Racing Section" was created by Aubrey Palmer when a group of ten each put £5 towards the purchase of a 500cc JAP-engined Iota Formula 3 racing car. Although by that time it was fairly dated for circuit racing it was however thought that it would be a useful hillclimb and sprint machine. Regular sessions were spent on Thursday nights rebuilding and developing the car in a garage at the Club's HQ, the Railway Inn on the Gloucester Road at Patchway (now, for many years, a Toyota dealership). Others who worked on the car included Gerry Bath and Roy Cox. Although it was tested on the runway at Filton a few times it was never actually entered in competition. Having tried the car, Geoff Brown recalled many years later that *"it was a lethal device that hopped around all over the place; it took all your time to keep it in a straight line, let alone go round corners"*. By 1959 enthusiasm in the Racing Section had waned, and the Iota was sold for £55.

*Advert in December 1959 issue of Motor Racing magazine:*

**IOTA, 500 c.c. J.A.P., excellent condition. View week-ends only. £65.—Brown, 50 Muller Road, Bristol, 7.**



*Kneeling by car: Club Secretary Mike Manning (at front) and Jack Stonard (r.h. side).*



The first Iota 500 racing car had been designed in 1946 by Dick Caesar, and a small batch of chassis were sold as kits for owners to complete themselves. For 1950 Caesar produced an improved production version and complete cars were offered for sale. Although they achieved a little competition success, just a small number, possibly only single-figures, were actually produced. Any history of the Club car pre-1957 or post-1959 is unknown.

## IOTA RACING CARS

**3 ALMA VALE ROAD,  
BRISTOL 8. Tel. 38662**

**CAR COMPLETE £525 — CAR LESS ENGINE £440**



**1950 SUCCESSES include**

May.	R.A.C. International 500 Race.	1st (79.29 m.p.h.)
May.	Prescott. 1st	Sept. Prescott - - 1st
June.	Shelsley Walsh - 3rd	Sept. Shelsley Walsh - 2nd
June.	Prescott - Fastest 500	(Breaking previous Class Record)
July.	Castle Combe - 1st	
July.	Prescott - - 2nd	Oct. Gamston - 2nd & 3rd

*Pete Stowe  
October 2020*