



The Centaur (77)

Tue, 21st Feb 2006, The Centaur

Lot 52

Estimate: £20000 - £22000 + Fees

1967 Austin-Healey 3000 MKIII

Registration No: YRD 71F

Chassis No: HBJ8V/42618-G

Mot Expiry: Sept 2006

A significant step in terms of 'Big Healey' evolution and the foundation block for one of the 1960s' most charismatic rally cars, the 3000 MKI was introduced in March 1959. Capable of nearly 120mph, it was powered by an enlarged 2912cc version of the BMC C-Series straight six engine that developed some 124bhp and 167lbft of torque. Although, equipped with a similar chassis design to its 100/6 forebear, the new model enjoyed notably better braking thanks to the adoption of Girling front discs. Fitted with wire wheels and adjustable front seats as standard, it was available in two-seater (BN7) or 2+2 (BT7) guises.

In 1964, the 3000 MKIII BJ8 was introduced and it was an altogether more refined creature than its 100/4 ancestor. Equipped with wind-up windows, a proper convertible hood, a wood veneer dashboard and a redesigned exhaust system, it proved a comfortable and fast grand tourer. With 148bhp and 165lbft of torque now on tap from the same ohv engine, its reputed 124mph top speed was accessed via a four-speed with overdrive manual gearbox. Last of the line, the Phase Two variant benefited from redesigned rear suspension, strengthened splined hubs and larger diameter front disc brakes. Right from the start it was a sensation but this really was a case of a car just getting better and better.

We are pleased to offer here a phase II that dates from 1967 and which is believed to have been used in the Channel Isles. It is described as being in good condition throughout but with a truly excellent black interior and is finished in the eye-catching combination of green over white. The history file contains various paperwork and some ten MOT's including the current one which expires in September and it can be driven home from the sale as the road fund licence expires at the end of April.

A really genuine car which sits beautifully on the steel wire wheels and which will reward the new owner handsomely over the coming years.