

Evolution of a Challenge Champion



Outside Stew Jones' shop in Winsted, CT, in 1998, Terry Love's Series III E-type was fully prepared to do battle on the JCNA concours scene. Photo Courtesy Pascal Gademer



Jeanne Gerding, half of the team that produced the winning car, shows off the show-ready E-type. Inset Terry receives the Sir William Lyons Trophy from Kathy Nell.

Story Terry Love
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Photos Terry Love unless otherwise noted

My love for Jaguars began in 1964 when, as a teenager, I visited the Chicago Auto Show. The body styling was so unique that I promised myself I would own a Jaguar when I grew up.

Thirty years later, in 1994, I saw a photo in *The Robb Report* of a 1974 E-type OTS for sale. The owner's wife wanted a new house, and the E-type was being sold to provide the needed down payment! After purchasing it, we took it to our first show, not knowing what to expect. The show happened to be the 1995 Biennial meet, held at the Milwaukee Zoo. One of our judges called the car "The best non-authentic Jaguar" he had ever seen because of the mixture of American and British hose clamps and mis-matched tires.

At the Biennial, I saw what I thought was the most beautiful and perfect Jaguar

possible. Owned and restored by Stew Jones from Winsted, CT, this white 1974 E-type OTS easily won its class and became the 1995 Class Champion by virtue of its 100-point scores. Seeing it encouraged me to pursue a National Championship.

Early in the 1996 season, returning from a show in Kentucky, sudden wind shear tore the metal roof from our trailer, causing everything else to collapse on the E-type. The dents in boot and bonnet and paint scraped down to bare metal momentarily shattered our dreams. We and our Series III were neither seen nor heard from for two years, while Stew Jones repaired, rebuilt and repainted the car. His work transformed our Jaguar into a consistent winner and, in 2001, the Challenge Champion.

This year, in Franklin, TN, more Jaguars were being shown than I had ever seen in one place! There were E-types as far as the eye could see and C- and D-types which I had previously seen only as pictures in car magazines. As you can imag-

ine, winning "Best In Show" and the Sir William Lyons Trophy was the greatest moment of my life, to date!

I would like to thank the JCNA Challenge Championship Committee and all who worked to make the event possible. In particular, I'd like to thank some individuals who helped make my dream come true:

- Jim Hendrix, Jaguar Club of Greater St. Louis ("This is the best non-authentic Jaguar I've ever seen")
- Stew Jones Restoration, Winsted, CT
- The 1995 Series III National Champion which inspired me
- Jim Simpson, my good friend and mechanic.
- Jeanne Gerding, my best friend, long-time companion and the most obsessive-compulsive automobile detailer on the planet!

May all Jaguar enthusiasts share my happiness!



Left A long effort to perfect the E-type culminated in winning the Sir William Lyons Trophy at the Challenge Championship in 2001.



Center A 1996 highway disaster befell Terry Love when a cross-wind blew the roof off the trailer and dumped the contents on the



E-type, triggering a major restoration.

Right The exterior may be shiny but nothing makes a show car look better than a spotlessly detailed interior in perfect condition.