Newsletter **August 2025**

Welcome to the first edition of the Vaughtons monthly newsletter. These newsletters will showcase some of the more interesting and exciting of the projects and items that the team have recently produced, crafted and manufactured.

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Kind Hearts and Coronets

In recent weeks, Vaughtons had the honour to be commissioned to make two Maltese coronets. These are the coronets of Barons. In close design consultation with the Chief Herald of Malta, (whose official chain of office we also refurbished) we were able to create these silver and gilded pieces to the correct specifications. Furthermore, each have been set in their own custom presentation cases, each embossed with the coat of arms of the individual recipients' coat of arms.

A King's Birthday Present

This year marks the seventy-fifth birthday of the King of the Ashante, Otumfuo Nana Osei Tutu II. The Ashanti people and region are in modern-day Ghana. The Ashante Empire was a state and kingdom from 1701 to 1901. It held out for many years and fought against the British until its eventual defeat. The British subsequently developed an interest and respect for Ashante culture, traditions and way of life – much of which has survived to the present day.

Vaughtons were commissioned to design and produce presentation medals for the King marking his 75th birthday. (Full size and miniature). The ribbon design is based on the colours of the Ashante flag. The medal design, which has the image of the King, is based on the crest/badge of the region and Kente cloth – the traditional garment worn by Ashante royalty. A depiction of the Golden Stool (the Ashante throne) also appears. We were delighted and honoured to have the opportunity to design and make these very special medals.

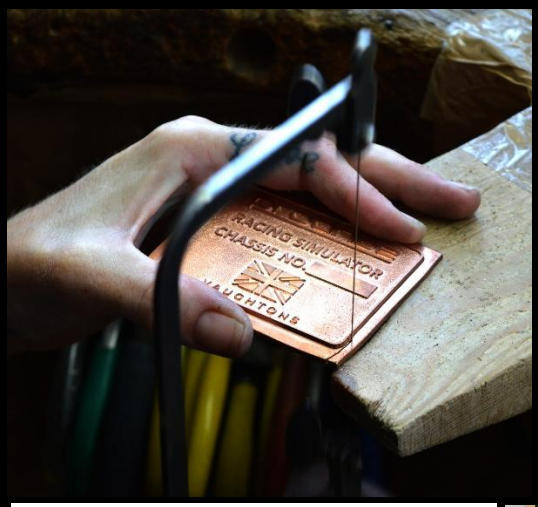
Left: The new 75th Birthday medal.
Right: HM King Charles II with Otumfuo Nana Osei Tutu II at Buckingham Palace, 2023.

Racing Simulators

Vaughtons has had the great opportunity of collaborating with *Prodrive*. *Prodrive* are known for their legendary involvement in motorsport particularly with the *Subaru Imprezas* driven by Richard Burns and Colin McRae in the World Rallying Championship, as well as their ongoing work preparing all *Aston Martin Vantages* for their respective endurance racing events.

Prodrive approached Vaughtons to produce bespoke enamelled plaques for their newly launched, high-end racing simulator. Each plaque includes the simulator's chassis number and will be mounted on the unit itself. In a generous, gentlemanly gesture, *Prodrive* have offered to include the Vaughtons name in the design—acknowledging the craftsmanship and heritage we bring to specialist automotive badging.

One of the simulators is currently on display in *Harrods*, London, and the Vaughtons team have been liaising with the *Prodrive* team, and a handful of selected suppliers, to support their social media and promotional campaign around the launch. We look forward to continuing this exciting collaboration.



Copying Chartered Accountants

Recently, Vaughtons was approached to make a replica of their Presidential Pendant for the *International Chartered Accountants of England and Wales* (the ICAEW). Because the original was made in 18ct Gold and is set with diamonds, the organisation deemed it too valuable to use daily – particularly when travelling. Therefore, a replica was sought to be made in sterling silver gilt and set with stones instead of diamonds. The senior officers of ICAEW had a tour of the Vaughtons Birmingham factory to get a better idea of how their pendant was going to be made.

The Vaughtons team were able to work from the original pendant and hand crafted an exact copy/replica (of lesser materials). A slightly different inscription on the back was commissioned.

Top images: Original pendant. Bottom images: the Vaughtons replica.

News from the Vaughtons Team

Last month, Vaughtons team member, Edward Hilary Davis, travelled to the Netherlands to attempt the Nijmegen 4 Day March. This is an old Dutch army tradition of marching/walking 50km per day (inside 12 hours) for four days in a row. That's over 30 miles a day; about 126 miles in all. The route is different each day and takes in many of the smaller towns and villages around Nijmegen. For the history buffs among you, this is the same area which was assaulted by the allied forces in September 1944 during operation Market Garden – made even more familiar by the Sean Connery and Michael Caine film: *A Bridge Too Far* (1977). This year was the 107th annual march, and Edward successfully completed it - though his feet are a little worse for wear now! Congratulations, Edward. Enjoy those walks to the office in the mornings!

Left: EHD crossing into Arnhem around the 26th mile on Day 1.
Right: Feet the morning after Day 4, and the Nijmegan 4 Day March Cross decoration.
(Sliders have the Dutch national anthem on)