

Schuco®



SCHUCO
RACER 1070
1945-50

The Christmas Car

The year was 1945. The second world war had just finished, and people were trying to find some normality. Although motorsport had continued throughout the war, the events were limited and only really saw a resurgence after the troops returned home.

On a surprisingly mild Christmas Day, Len Chalker opened a present which would stand the true test of time. The Schuco 1070 red racer came in a colourfully illustrated box and required assembly. Len would have spent most of that day following the meticulous instructions to build the exquisite racer. Can you imagine the first time Len would have

inserted the key, twisting it slowly before hearing the roar of the gears as the car came to life?

Over the next decade the likes of Sir Stirling Moss would enter the racing scene, bringing motorsport back into the hearts of the Great British public. I am in no doubt that Len would have continued tinkering with his 1070 racer. Using the micro tools provided to change the tyres and wheels and to ensure the gears were in the best condition to create that memory stirring sound.

Len would continue to tinker and mend things into his adult life, where he became a carpenter, husband and father. Sadly, his life was cut short when

his daughter was only 20 years old. He would never get to meet his grandsons, but the car lived on.

It was now the early 2000s and Len's Christmas racer sat in the attic of his daughter. One particularly frosty Christmas, the car was carefully wrapped and given as a heartfelt present. Gary, Len's grandson, opened the car and instantly knew what it was. He inserted the wind up key and turned it slowly. As he released it, the transgenerational reverberation sounded out across the house and the memory of Len and his Christmas car lived on, once more.

1

