

Registration marks – the early years

Doug Castle – Cornwall Austin Seven Club

The late 1880's and early 90's saw the development of the internal combustion engine as a means of power for a self-propelled road-going vehicle. The Locomotives on Highways Act 1896 permitted the use of the faster and lighter petrol driven motor vehicles on public roads and by the early 1900's interest in the motor car was increasing as the number on the roads exceeded 5000. They created problems for other road users as horse-drawn carriages were still in use, and there were the early motor-cyclists and pedal-cyclists, animals being driven by herdsman as well as many pedestrians still unaware of road-safety procedures. Although few regulations existed offences occurred and it was often not possible to identify the vehicle or the driver involved.

The Motor Car Act 1903, enacted on 14 August 1903 and becoming effective on 1 January 1904, provided the principles for the means to identify both cars and drivers. The details were in the Motor Car Act 1903 (Registration and Licensing) Order issued to the County Councils and County Borough Councils in England and Wales on 19 November 1903. Similar Orders were issued to the Councils in Scotland and Ireland.

Owners were now required to register all motor vehicles at a cost of twenty shillings, five shillings for motor-cycles, and to display registration marks in a prominent position. Drivers were required to have a licence renewed annually for the sum of five shillings. County Councils and County Borough Councils were given the powers to be Registration and Licensing Authorities and required to keep a register, in the prescribed format, of registered vehicles and licensed drivers, to be updated for change of ownership, when vehicles were scrapped, and for change of address, and to make this information available for use by the police.

A system of registration marks was created so that the County Council or County Borough Council where the vehicle was first registered could be identified from the list of letters set out in the First Schedule Part 1 of the Order 1903. In his book *Riden*¹ states that these were allocated to Councils in descending order of population established by the 1901 Census. However, neither the Act, nor the Order, explains this to be the basis for the system, so I do not know where the authority for his statement comes from. However, *Moss*² does not mention this in his brief history of registration marks.

Twenty four single letters, omitting 'I' and 'Q' to avoid confusion with 'J' and 'O', were allocated to:³
A – London CC; B – Lancaster CC; C – West Riding of Yorkshire (Wakefield); D – Kent CC;
E – Stafford CC; F – Essex CC; H – Middlesex CC; J – Durham CC; K – Liverpool CBC; L – Glamorgan CC; M – Chester CC; N – Manchester CBC; O – Birmingham CBC; P – Surrey CC; R – Derby CC;
T – Devon CC; U – Leeds CBC; W – Sheffield CBC; X – Northumberland CC; Y – Somerset CC.

It is necessary to realise that County and County Borough Council boundaries were then much different than nowadays as old counties have been amalgamated and cities expanded. The London CC was more aligned with the Cities of London and Westminster, as Middlesex CC covered much of the area north of the River Thames and bordered with Essex CC to the east, whilst south of the Thames, Surrey CC stretched northwards and Kent CC which extended westwards, were the administrative Counties for areas long since absorbed into the London conurbation. Similarly the counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Durham, Glamorganshire and WR of Yorkshire covered most of the urban and fringe rural areas now well within the major cities of Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Cardiff and Sheffield.

Two-letter marks were allocated to:

AA – Southampton CC; AB – Worcester CC; AC – Warwick CC; AD – Gloucester CC; AE – Bristol CBC;
AF – Cornwall CC; AH – Norfolk CC; AJ – Nth Riding of Yorkshire; AK – Bradford CBC; AL – Nottingham CC;
AM – Wilts CC; AN – West Ham CBC; AO – Cumberland CC; AP – East Sussex; AR – Hertford CC;
AT – Kingston-upon-Hull CBC; AU – Nottingham CBC; AW – Salop CC; AX – Monmouth CC and
AY – Leicester CC.

¹ Riden, Philip (1952) 'How to trace the history of your car: a guide to motor vehicle registration records in the British Isles.' 2nd Edition. ISBN: 1898937257. Pub: Merton Priory Press, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 1DD. (Now out of print but should be available in local libraries).

² Moss, Dave (2003) 'Number plates: a history of vehicle registration in Britain. Shire Publications Ltd., Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire HP27 9AA. www.shirebooks.co.uk

³ County and County Borough Council names are as given in the Order 1903.

BA – Salford CBC; BB – Newcastle-upon-Tyne CBC; BC – Leicester CBC; BD – Northampton CC;
BE – Lindsey (Lincs) CC; BF – Dorset CC; BH – Bucks CC; BL – Berks CC; BH – Bucks CC;
BJ – East Suffolk CC; BK – Portsmouth CBC; BL – Berks CC; BM – Bedford CC; BN – Bolton CBC;
BO – Cardiff CBC; BP – West Sussex CC; BR – Sunderland CBC; BT – East Riding of Yorkshire;
BU – Oldham CBC; BW – Oxford CC; BX – Carmarthen CC and BY – Croydon CBC.

CA – Denbigh CC; CB – Blackburn CBC; CC – Carnarvon CC; CD – Brighton CBC; CE – Cambridge CC;
CF – West Suffolk CC; CH – Derby CBC; CJ – Hereford CC; CK – Preston CBC; CL – Norwich CBC;
CM – Birkenhead CBC; CN – Gateshead CBC; CO – Plymouth CBC; CP – Halifax CBC;
CR – Southampton CBC; CT – Kesteven (Lincs) CC; CU – South Shields CBC; CW – Burnley CBC;
CX – Huddersfield CBC and CY – Swansea CBC.

DA – Wolverhampton CBC; DB – Stockport CBC; DC – Middlesbrough CBC; DE – Pembroke CC;
DF – Northampton CBC; DH – Walsall CBC; DJ – St Helens CBC; DK – Rochdale CBC;
DL – Isle of Wight CC; DM – Flint CC; DN – York CBC; DO – Holland (Lincs) CC; DP – Reading CBC;
DR – Devonport CBC; DU – Coventry CBC; DW – Newport (Monmouth) CBC; DX – Ipswich CBC and
DY – Hastings CBC.

EA – West Bromwich CBC; EB – Isle of Ely CC; EC – Westmorland CC; ED – Warrington CBC;
EE – Grimsby CBC; EF – West Hartlepool CBC; EH – Hanley CBC; EJ – Cardigan CC; EK – Wigan CBC;
EL – Bournemouth CBC; EM – Bootle CBC; EN – Bury CBC; EO – Barrow-in-Furness CBC;
EP – Montgomery CC; ET – Rotherham CBC; EU – Brecknock CC; EW – Huntingdon CC;
EX – Great Yarmouth CBC and EY – Anglesey CC.

FA – Burton-on-Trent CBC; FB – Bath CBC; FC – Oxford CBC; FD – Dudley CBC; FE – Lincoln CBC;
FF – Merioneth CC; FH – Gloucester CBC; FJ – Exeter CBC; FK – Worcester CBC;
FL – Soke of Peterborough CC; FN – Canterbury CBC; FO – Radnor CC and FP – Rutland CC.

Riden mentions that during 1904 some Dorset motorists objected to 'BF' and by the December the Local Government Board ⁴ had been persuaded to remove 'BF' and issue 'FX' to Dorset CC instead. Motorists were given the opportunity to retain or exchange their 'BF' mark. 'BF' is only now (2006) being re-allocated by DVLA for older vehicles.

The first registration marks with one letter followed by one or two numbers were issued from December 1903, many being retrospective for cars already on the road. A Circular sent to the Local Councils asked them not to issue numbers beyond '999' for any mark with the provision that they would be allocated further sets of two letters once the issue of their first allocation of letters had been completed. In practice the Councils issued one and two letter marks with numbers up to '9999', which provided the much needed extension of the registration system beyond that initially envisaged with the 1903 Act, even though additional sets of two letters were allocated up until 1920 to those Councils meeting the greatest demands.

After the Order attached to the Roads Act 1920 the registration system was continually extended to 'YY' as many Councils were allocated several pairs of letters to meet the demand caused by the ever increasing number of vehicles appearing on the roads in the 1920's and 30's due to the developments by, and competition between, the many manufacturers of cars and motor cycles.

Riden states that an anomaly occurred as soon as the system was introduced in 1903 as some Councils, without mentioning which, used analogous systems to register cars and motor-cycles resulting in the same registration mark being issued to a car and a motor-cycle, and that this problem continued until it was resolved by the Roads Act 1920. However, the Motor Car Act 1903 clearly states "... and every such council shall assign a separate number to every car registered with them." The Order 1903 states at Part III Article XXI that "Except where the contrary intention appears, the expression 'motor car' in this Order includes a motor cycle." So how did the anomaly, if it existed, occur?

By the early 1930's the two letters with four numbers format had been fully used in areas of high demand despite several pairs of letters being allocated to those Councils, where a set of two letters had often lasted less than two years. From July 1932 (Staffordshire - ARF) some Councils were able to issue registrations where the original pair of letters was preceded by another letter, commencing with 'A', giving the format of

⁴ The Local Government Board was a Central Government Department.

three letters followed by numbers 1-999. With numbers to '999' often being issued within two to four months the preceding letter became 'B', then 'C', 'D' *et seq.*

As early as 1953 many Councils in areas of high demand had used all their allocated letters, up to 'Y', for their three letter marks. A new format came into use when these Councils placed the number, again using 1-9999, before one (only D, E, F, H, K, N, R, U and W as above) and/or two letters. There were then two formats in use, three letters followed by 1-999 and also 1-9999 followed by one or two letters, but by the early 1950's the system was again saturated by demand as both of these formats were nearly exhausted in many areas. However, Councils in areas of low demand had not yet finished issuing the earliest two letter marks not having reached '9999'. Bute CC was only ever allocated one set of letters and the last mark, SJ 2860, was issued in December 1963 sixty years after registration began.

In September 1953 Middlesex CC, although issuing 'H' preceded by four numbers, began issuing marks with three numbers preceding three letters, and this format was used by all Councils until late 1964. Between 1963 and 1965 another system, now with a suffix letter denoting the year of registration, was introduced to meet the continually rising demand as family, and company, vehicle ownership increased.

As well as 'BF', after December 1904, not every combination of two or three letters has been issued as some would form marks which were considered to be objectionable, mainly GOD and WC, although VD and WOG appeared. Local Councils retained some individual numbers and sequences of letters for special issue, eg. GPO a London CC mark was issued to the GPO for many years. Other marks were kept as a stock for later issue to a vehicle of that age. Since the earliest days of registration there has been a market for prestigious marks and many have been held back over the years and are now being sold by DVLA.

Registration marks for Scotland

Although the majority of new 'Sevens' were registered with Councils in England and Wales, there are surviving 'Sevens' which were first registered elsewhere in the UK. The Motor Car Act Registration and Licensing (Scotland) Order 1904 set out the marks for identifying vehicles registered in Scotland. These included the letters 'G', 'S' and 'V', however there is again no obvious system for allocation, so the Census 1901 may have again been the basis for allocation. Hence, the pairs of letters allocated to the Scottish Councils in December 1903 went beyond the 'FP' issued to the Councils in England and Wales.

Burgh Councils and County Councils were given the powers to be Registration and Licensing Authorities and single letters were allocated to: G – Glasgow BC; S – Edinburgh BC and V – Lanarkshire CC.

Two-letter marks were issued from Dec '03/Jan '04 unless stated otherwise:

AG – Ayrshire CC from Nov '25; AS – Nairn CC and AV – Aberdeenshire CC from Sept '26.
BS – Orkney CC. CS – Ayrshire CC from May '34. DS – Peeblesshire CC. ES – Perthshire CC.
FG – Fife CC from Mar '25 and FS – Edinburgh BC from Apr '31.

GA, GB, GD, GE from Mar '28 and GG from July '30 – Glasgow BC; GM – Motherwell & Wishaw CC from Jan '20; GS – Perthshire CC from Jan '28. HS – Renfrewshire CC. JS – Ross & Cromarty CC.
KS – Roxburghshire CC. LS – Selkirk CC. MS – Stirlingshire CC. NS – Sutherland CC.
OS – Wigtownshire CC. PS – Zetland CC. RG from Nov '28 and RS from ? – Aberdeen BC.

SA – Aberdeenshire CC; SB – Argyllshire CC; SC – Edinburgh BC in Oct '27; SD – Ayrshire CC;
SE – Banffshire CC; SF & SG – Edinburgh BC; SH – Berwickshire CC; SJ – Bute CC; SK – Caithness CC;
SL – Clackmannanshire CC; SM – Dumfriesshire CC; SN- Dunbartonshire CC; SO – Morayshire CC;
SP – Fife CC; SR – Angus CC; SS – East Lothian CC; ST – Inverness CC; SU – Kincardine CC;
SV – Kinross CC; SW – Kirkcubrightshire CC; SX - West Lothian CC and SY – Midlothian CC.
TS – Dundee BC. US – Govan CC which issued 1-529, then Glasgow BC issued 530 onwards from Mar '33.

VA – Lanarkshire CC from July '22 and VD from May '30; VS – Greenock CC. WG – Stirlingshire CC from Nov '30. WS was issued by Leith CBC from 1904 to 1920 then by Edinburgh CBC from June '34. XS – Paisley BC. YJ – Dundee BC from Jun '32; YS was issued by Partick BC issued 1-39 from Jan '04 then Glasgow BC issued 40-9999 from Jan '35.

As several of the Councils administered areas of lower demand they continued to issue two letter marks until the end of 1964 and even then some did not issue marks to 9999. Apart from 'SJ 2860' being the last mark issued by Bute CC, Nairn CC reached 'AS 4097' by Dec '64, Orkney CC was able to issue 'BS 7777' and 'DS 6396' was the last mark from Peebles CC, both in Dec '64. Sutherland CC reached 'NS 5683' by

June '64 and for Zetland CC the last mark issued was 'PS 4080' in Dec '64, whilst Kinross issued 'SV 3722' in Dec '63.

The Councils meeting the higher demands completed the issue of two letter marks to 9999 and the three letters preceding three numbers format appeared in the mid-1930's with Dumfriesshire issuing 'ASM' between June '33 and Feb '35. Fife issued 'AFG' from Oct '34 to July '35 and Glasgow issued 'AGA' from Sept to Nov '36 with Edinburgh's 'ASC' appearing in Oct to Dec '36. In most of the other areas three letter marks did not appear until 1955 to 1964.

Registration marks for Ireland:

The County Councils and County Borough Councils were given the powers to be Registration and Licensing Authorities under a similar Order within the Motor Car Act 1903. The first marks were allocated by listing the Councils in alphabetical order, and were in the format 'I-' issued in Dec'03/Jan '04 with additional marks in the styles of '-Z' and 'Z-' allocated to meet later demand. The only single letter mark was 'Z' allocated to Co Dublin CC and issued from Mar 27. The two letter marks were issued from Dec '03/Jan '04 unless stated otherwise.

AI – Co Meath CC; AZ – Belfast CBC from Feb '28. BI – Co Monaghan CC; BZ – Co Down CC from Apr '30. CI – Co Laoighis (or Laois) CC; CZ – Belfast CBC from May '32. DI – Roscommon CC; DZ – Co Antrim CC from Mar '32. EI – Co Sligo CC; EZ – Belfast CBC from Oct '35. FI – N. Riding of Tipperary CC; FZ – Belfast CBC from Jan '38. HI – S. Riding of Tipperary;

IA – Co Antrim CC; IB- Co Armagh CC; IC – Co Carlow CC; ID – Co Cavan CC; IE – Co Clare CC from Sept '22; IF – Co Cork CC; IH – Co Donegal CC; IJ – Co Down CC; IK – Co Dublin CC; IL – Co Fermanagh CC; IM – Co Galway CC; IN – Co Kerry CC; IO – Co Kildare CC; IP – Co Kilkenny CC; IR – Co Offaly CC; IT – Co Leitrim CC; IU – Co Limerick CC; IW – Co Londonderry CC; IX – Co Longford CC; IY – Co Louth CC and IZ – Co Mayo CC.

JI – Co Tyrone CC; KI – Co Waterford CC; LI – Co Westmeath CC; MI – Co Wexford CC; NI – Co Wicklow CC; OI – Belfast CBC; PI – Cork CBC; RI – Dublin CBC; TI – Limerick CBC; UI – Londonderry CBC from Aug '04; WI – Waterford CBC. XI – Belfast CBC. YI – Dublin CBC.

ZA – Dublin CBC from May '33; ZB – Co Cork CC from Apr '35; ZC – Dublin CBC from Feb '37 and ZI – Dublin CBC from Apr '27. The remaining marks in the '-Z' and 'Z-' styles were issued after the production of 'Sevens' had ceased.

Most of the Irish Councils did issue marks with numbers into the c 9000's and several moved on to the three letters preceding three numbers format, commencing A - -, in the 1950's and early 60's. 'ARI' was issued by Dublin CBC in May to June '54 and S. Riding of Tipperary issued 'AHI' from Sept '54 to May '55.

Summary:

Registration marks on pre-war vehicles is a fascinating subject without even entering the domain of block allocations to large nationalised organisations, or blocks of numbers that were only issued for use on motorcycles, commercials vehicles or cars. Some now have a high market value because they are rare as not many were issued and few of those are likely to have survived on the original vehicle. How many historic vehicles, for example, retain an original 'SJ' mark from Bute CC?

Pre-war marks are now much sought after as personalised plates as people want their initials with a low number, or with the Irish 'I' in the letters. Such is the need for modern-day status symbols that owners try to manipulate the plate lay-out, or read numbers as letters to form a name, in what has become a contrived market. Other marks are much cherished, having been in a family for decades and transferred on to every new car. Many 'Seven', and other classic vehicle, owners are of course pleased to own, and will forever retain, the original mark with their vehicle which is linked to the year of manufacture.

This article is as comprehensive as possible, but may contain inadvertent errors due to lack of, or sometimes conflicting, information found in the sources of reference.

Other References:

Motor Car Act (Registration and Licensing) Orders 1903;

The RAC Guide and Handbook 1962-3;

Glass's Index of Registration Numbers 1929-1965, published by Glass's Guide Service Ltd.

Marks allocated to Councils from December 1903

A London CC
 AA Hampshire CC ¹
 AB Worcestershire CC
 AC Warwickshire CC
 AD Gloucestershire CC
 AE Bristol CBC
 AF Cornwall CC
 AG Ayrshire CC
 AH Norfolk CC
 AI Co. Meath CC
 AJ Nth Riding of Yorkshire CC
 AK Bradford CBC
 AL Nottinghamshire CC
 AM Wiltshire CC
 AN West Ham CBC
 AO Cumberland CC
 AP E. Sussex CC
 AR Hertford CC ²
 AS Nairn CC
 AT Kingston-upon-Hull CBC
 AU Nottingham CBC
 AV Aberdeenshire CC
 AW Shropshire CC ³
 AX Monmouthshire CC
 AY Leicestershire CC
 AZ Belfast CBC

 B Lancashire CC ⁴
 BA Salford CBC
 BB Newcastle-upon-Tyne CBC
 BC Leicester CBC
 BD Northamptonshire CC
 BE Lindsey (Lincs) CC
 BF Dorsetshire CC (withdrawn Dec 1904)
 BG Birkenhead CBC
 BH Buckinghamshire CC
 BI Co. Monaghan CC
 BJ E. Suffolk CC
 BK Portsmouth CBC
 BL Berkshire CC
 BM Bedfordshire CC
 BN Bolton CBC
 BO Cardiff CBC
 BP W. Sussex CC
 BR Sunderland CBC
 BS Orkney CC
 BT E. Riding of Yorkshire CC
 BU Oldham CBC
 BV Blackburn CBC
 BW Oxfordshire CC
 BX Carmarthenshire CC
 BY Croydon CBC

BZ Co. Down CC

 C W. Riding of Yorkshire
 CA Denbighshire CC
 CB Blackburn CBC
 CC Caernarvonshire CC
 CD Brighton CBC
 CE Cambridgeshire CC
 CF W. Suffolk CC
 CG Hampshire CC
 CH Derby CBC
 CI Co. Laoighis CC
 CJ Herefordshire CC
 CK Preston CBC
 CL Norwich CBC
 CM Birkenhead CBC
 CN Gateshead CBC
 CO Plymouth CBC
 CP Halifax CBC
 CR Southampton CBC
 CS Ayrshire CC
 CT Kesteven (Lincs) CC
 CU South Shields CBC
 CV Cornwall CC
 CW Burnley CBC
 CX Huddersfield CBC
 CY Swansea CBC
 CZ Belfast CBC

 D Kent CC
 DA Wolverhampton CBC
 DB Stockport CBC
 DC Middlesborough CBC
 DD Gloucestershire CC
 DE Pembrokeshire CC
 DF Gloucestershire CC
 DG Gloucestershire CC
 DH Walsall CBC
 DI Roscommon CC
 DJ St Helens CBC
 DK Rochdale CBC
 DL Isle of Wight CC
 DM Flintshire CC
 DN York CBC
 DO Holland (Lincs) CC
 DP Reading CBC
 DR Portsmouth CBC ⁵
 DS Peebleshire CC
 DT Doncaster CBC
 DU Coventry CBC
 DV Devonshire CC
 DW Newport (Monmouth) CBC
 DX Ipswich CBC
 DY Hastings CBC
 DZ Co. Antrim CC

E Staffordshire CC ⁶
EA West Bromwich CBC
EB Isle of Ely CC
EC Westmorland CC
ED Warrington CBC
EE Grimsby CBC
EF West Hartlepool CBC
EG Soke of Peterborough CC
EH Stoke-on-Trent CBC
EI Co. Sligo CC
EJ Cardiganshire CC
EK Wigan CBC
EL Bournemouth CBC
EM Bootle CBC
EN Bury CBC
EO Barrow-in-Furness CBC
EP Montgomeryshire CC
ER Cambridgeshire CC
ES Perthshire CC
ET Rotherham CBC
EU Brecknockshire CC
EV Essex CC
EW Huntingdonshire CC
EX Great Yarmouth CBC
EY Anglesey CC
EZ Belfast CBC

F Essex CC
FA Burton-on-Trent CBC
FB Bath CBC
FC Oxford CBC
FD Dudley CBC
FE Lincoln CBC
FF Merionethshire CC
FG Fife CC
FH Gloucester CBC
FI Nth Riding of Tipperary CC
FJ Exeter CBC
FK Worcester CBC
FL Soke of Peterborough CC
FM Chester CBC
FN Canterbury CBC
FO Radnorshire CC
FP Rutland CC
FR Blackpool CBC
FS Edinburgh BC
FT Tynemouth CBC
FU Lindsey (Lincs) CC
FV Blackpool CBC
FW Lindsey (Lincs) CC
FX Dorsetshire CC
FY Southport CBC
FZ Belfast CBC

G Glasgow BC
GA Glasgow BC
GB Glasgow BC

GC London CC
GD Glasgow BC
GE Glasgow BC
GF London CC
GG Glasgow BC
GH London CC
GJ London CC
GK London CC
GL Bath CBC
GM Motherwell & Wishaw BC
GN London CC
GO London CC
GP London CC
GR Sunderland CBC
GS Perthshire CC
GT London CC
GU London CC
GV W. Suffolk CC
GW London CC
GX London CC
GY London CC
GZ Belfast CBC

H Middlesex CC
HA Smethwick CBC
HB Merthyr Tydfil CBC
HC Eastbourne CBC
HD Dewsbury CBC
HE Barnsley CBC
HF Wallasey CBC
HG Burnely CBC
HH Carlisle CBC
HI Sth Riding of Tipperary CC
HJ Southend-on-Sea CBC
HK Essex CC
HL Wakefield CBC
HM East Ham CBC
HN Darlington CBC
HO Hampshire CC
HP Coventry CBC
HR Wiltshire CC
HS Renfrewshire CC
HT Bristol CBC
HU Bristol CBC
HV East Ham CBC
HW Bristol CBC
HX Middlesex CC
HY Bristol CBC
HZ Co. Tyrone CC

IA Co. Antrim CC
IB Co. Armagh CC
IC Co. Carlow CC
ID Co. Cavan CC
IE Co. Clare CC
IF Co. Cork CC
IH Co. Donegal CC
IJ Co. Down CC

IK Co. Dublin CC
IL Co. Fermanagh CC
IM Co. Galway CC
IN Co. Kerry CC
IO Co. Kildare CC
IP Co. Kilkenny CC
IR Co. Offaly CC
IT Co. Leitrim CC
IU Co. Limerick CC
IW Co. Londonderry CC
IX Co. Longford CC
IY Co. Louth CC
IZ Co. Mayo CC

J Durham CC
JA Stockport CBC
JB Berkshire CC
JC Caernarvonshire CC
JD West Ham CBC
JE Isle of Ely CC
JF Leicester CBC
JG Canterbury CBC
JH Hertfordshire CC
JI Co. Tyrone CC
JJ London CC
JK Eastbourne CBC
JL Holland (Lincs) CC
JM Westmoreland CC
JN Southend-on-Sea CBC
JO Oxford CBC
JP Wigan CBC
JR Northumberland CC
JS Ross & Cromarty CC
JT Dorsetshire CC
JU Leicestershire CC
JV Grimsby CBC
JW Wolverhampton CBC
JX Halifax CBC
JY Plymouth CBC
JZ Co. Down CC

K Liverpool CBC
KA Liverpool CBC
KB Liverpool CBC
KC Liverpool CBC
KD Liverpool CBC
KE Kent CC
KF Liverpool CBC
KG Cardiff CBC
KH Kingston-upon-Hull CBC
KI Co. Waterford CC
KJ Kent CC
KK Kent CC
KL Kent CC
KM Kent CC
KN Kent CC
KO Kent CC
KP Kent CC

KR Kent CC
KS Roxburghshire CC
KT Kent CC
KU Bradford CBC
KV Coventry CBC
KW Bradford CBC
KX Buckinghamshire CC
KY Bradford CBC
KZ Co. Antrim CC

L Glamorganshire CC ⁷
LA London CC
LB London CC
LC London CC
LD London CC
LE London CC
LF London CC
LG Cheshire CC
LH London CC
LL London CC
LI Co. Westmeath CC
LJ Bournemouth CBC
LK London CC
LL London CC
LM London CC
LN London CC
LO London CC
LP London CC
LR London CC
LS Selkirk CC
LT London CC
LU London CC
LV Liverpool CBC
LW London CC
LX London CC
LY London CC
LZ Co. Armagh CC

M Cheshire CC ⁸
MA Cheshire CC
MB Cheshire CC
MC Middlesex CC
MD Middlesex CC
ME Middlesex CC
MF Middlesex CC
MG Middlesex CC
MH Middlesex CC
MI Co. Wexford CC
MJ Bedfordshire CC
MK Middlesex CC
ML Middlesex CC
MM Middlesex CC
MN Isle of Man
MO Berkshire CC
MP Middlesex CC
MR Wiltshire CC
MS Stirlingshire CC
MT Middlesex CC

MU	Middlesex CC	OY	Croydon CBC
MV	Middlesex CC	OZ	Belfast CBC
MW	Wiltshire CC		
MX	Middlesex CC	P	Surrey CC
MY	Middlesex CC	PA	Surrey CC
MZ	Belfast CBC	PB	Surrey CC
		PC	Surrey CC
N	Manchester CBC	PD	Surrey CC
NA	Manchester CBC	PE	Surrey CC
NB	Manchester CBC	PF	Surrey CC
NC	Manchester CBC	PG	Surrey CC
ND	Manchester CBC	PH	Surrey CC
NE	Manchester CBC	PI	Cork CBC
NF	Manchester CBC	PJ	Surrey CC
NG	Norfolk CC	PK	Surrey CC
NH	Northampton CBC	PL	Surrey CC
NI	Co. Wicklow CC	PM	E. Sussex CC
NJ	E. Sussex CC	PN	E. Sussex CC
NK	Hertfordshire CC	PO	W. Sussex CC (except GPO) ⁹
NL	Northumberland CC	PP	Buckinghamshire CC
NM	Bedfordshire CC	PR	Dorsetshire CC
NN	Nottinghamshire CC	PS	Zetland CC
NO	Essex CC	PT	Durham CC
NP	Worcestershire CC	PU	Essex CC
NR	Leicestershire CC	PV	Ipswich CBC
NS	Sutherland CC	PW	Norfolk CC
NT	Shropshire CC	PX	W. Sussex CC
NU	Derbyshire CC	PY	Nth Riding of Yorkshire
NV	Northamptonshire CC	PZ	Belfast CBC
NW	Leeds CBC		
NX	Warwickshire CC	QA	London CC ¹⁰
NY	Glamorganshire CC	QB	London CC
NZ	Co. Londonderry CC	QC	London CC
		QD	London CC
O	Birmingham CBC	QE	London CC
OA	Birmingham CBC	QF	London CC
OB	Birmingham CBC	QG	London CC
OC	Birmingham CBC	QH	London CC
OD	Devonshire CC	QJ	London CC
OE	Birmingham CBC	QK	London CC
OF	Birmingham CBC	QL	London CC
OG	Birmingham CBC	QM	London CC
OH	Birmingham CBC	QN	London CC
OI	Belfast CBC	QP	London CC
OJ	Birmingham CBC	QQ	London CC
OK	Birmingham CBC	QS	London CC
OL	Birmingham CBC		
OM	Birmingham CBC	R	Derbyshire CC
ON	Birmingham CBC	RA	Derbyshire CC
OO	Essex CC	RB	Derbyshire CC
OP	Birmingham CBC	RC	Derby CBC
OR	Hampshire CC	RD	Reading CBC
OS	Wigtownshire CC	RE	Staffordshire CC
OT	Hampshire CC	RF	Staffordshire CC
OU	Hampshire CC	RG	Aberdeen BC
OV	Birmingham CBC	RH	Kingston-upon-Hull CBC
OW	Southampton CBC	RI	Dublin CBC
OX	Birmingham CBC	RJ	Salford CBC

RK	Croydon CBC	TP	Portsmouth CBC
RL	Cornwall CC	TR	Southampton CBC
RM	Cumberland CC	TS	Dundee BC
RN	Preston CBC	TT	Devonshire CC
RO	Hertfordshire CC	TU	Cheshire CC
RP	Northamptonshire CC	TV	Nottingham CBC
RR	Nottinghamshire CC	TW	Essex CC
RS	Aberdeen BC	TX	Glamorganshire CC
RT	E. Suffolk CC	TY	Northumberland CC
RU	Bournemouth CBC	TZ	Belfast CBC
RV	Portsmouth CBC		
RW	Coventry CBC	U	Leeds CBC
RX	Berkshire CC	UA	Leeds CBC
RY	Leicester CBC	UB	Leeds CBC
RZ	Co. Antrim CC	UC	Leeds CBC
		UD	Oxfordshire CC
S	Edinburgh BC	UE	Warwickshire CC
SA	Aberdeenshire CC	UF	Brighton CBC
SB	Argyllshire CC	UG	Leeds CBC
SC	Edinburgh BC	UH	Cardiff CBC
SD	Ayrshire CC	UI	Londonderry CBC
SE	Banffshire CC	UJ	Shropshire CC
SF	Edinburgh BC	UK	Wolverhampton CBC
SG	Edinburgh BC	UL	London CC
SH	Berwickshire CC	UM	Leeds CBC
SJ	Bute CC	UN	Denbighshire CC
SK	Caithness CC	UO	Devonshire CC
SL	Clackmannanshire CC	UP	Durham CC
SM	Dumfriesshire CC	UR	Hertfordshire CC
SN	Dunbartonshire CC (exc USN) ¹¹	US	Glasgow BC ¹²
SO	Morayshire CC	UT	Leicestershire CC
SP	Fife CC	UU	London CC
SR	Angus CC	UV	London CC
SS	E. Lothian CC	UW	London CC
ST	Inverness CC	UX	Shropshire CC
SU	Kincardine CC	UY	Worcestershire CC
SV	Kinross CC	UZ	Belfast CBC
SW	Kircudbrightshire CC		
SX	W. Lothian CC	V	Lanarkshire CC
SY	Midlothian CC	VA	Lanarkshire CC
SZ	Co. Down CC	VB	Croydon CBC
		VC	Coventry CBC
T	Devonshire CC	VD	Lanarkshire CC
TA	Devonshire CC	VE	Cambridgeshire CC
TB	Lancashire CC	VF	Norfolk CC
TC	Lancashire CC	VG	Norwich CBC
TD	Lancashire CC	VH	Huddersfield CB
TE	Lancashire CC	VJ	Herefordshire CC
TF	Lancashire CC	VK	Newcastle-upon-Tyne CBC
TG	Glamorganshire CC	VL	Lincoln CBC
TH	Carmarthenshire CC	VM	Manchester CBC
TI	Co. Limerick CC	VN	Nth Riding of Yorkshire CC
TJ	Lancashire CC	VO	Nottinghamshire CC
TK	Dorsetshire CC	VP	Birmingham CBC
TL	Kesteven (Lincs) CC	VR	Manchester CBC
TM	Bedfordshire CC	VS	Greenockshire CC
TN	Newcastle-upon-Tyne CBC	VT	Stoke-on-Trent CBC
TO	Nottingham CBC	VU	Manchester CBC

VV	Northampton CBC	XX	London CC
VW	Essex CC	XY	London CC
VX	Essex CC	XZ	Co Armagh CC
VY	York CBC		
VZ	County Tyrone CC	Y	Somersetshire CC
		YA	Somersetshire CC
W	Sheffield CBC	YB	Somersetshire CC
WA	Sheffield CBC	YC	Somersetshire CC
WB	Sheffield CBC	YD	Somersetshire CC
WD	Warwickshire CC	YE	London CC
WE	Sheffield CBC	YF	London CC
WF	E. Riding of Yorkshire CC	YG	W. Riding of Yorkshire CC
WG	Stirlingshire CC	YH	London CC
WH	Bolton CBC	YI	Dublin CBC
WI	Waterford CBC	YJ	Dundee BC
WJ	Sheffield CBC	YK	London CC
WK	Coventry CBC	YL	London CC
WL	Oxford CBC	YM	London CC
WM	Southport CBC	YN	London CC
WN	Swansea CBC	YO	London CC
WO	Monmouthshire CC	YP	London CC
WP	Worcestershire CC	YR	London CC
WR	W. Riding of Yorkshire CC	YS	Glasgow BC ¹⁴
WS	Edinburgh BC ¹³	YT	London CC
WT	W. Riding of Yorkshire CC	YU	London CC
WU	W. Riding of Yorkshire CC	YV	London CC
WV	Wiltshire CC	YW	London CC
WW	W. Riding of Yorkshire CC	YX	London CC
WX	W. Riding of Yorkshire CC	YY	London CC
WY	W. Riding of Yorkshire CC	YZ	Co Londonderry CC
WZ	Belfast CBC		
		Z	Co. Dublin CC
X	Northumberland CC	ZA	Dublin CBC
XA	London CC	ZB	Co. Cork CC
XB	London CC	ZC	Dublin CBC
XC	London CC	ZD	Dublin CBC
XD	London CC	ZE	Dublin CBC
XE	London CC	ZF	Co. Cork CC
XF	London CC	ZH	Dublin CBC
XG	Middlesborough CBC	ZI	Dublin CBC
XH	London CC	ZJ	Dublin CBC
XI	Belfast CBC	ZK	Co. Cork CC
XJ	Manchester CBC	ZL	Dublin CBC
XK	London CC	ZM	Co. Galway CC
XL	London CC	ZN	Co. Meath CC
XM	London CC	ZO	Co. Dublin CC
XN	London CC	ZP	Co. Donegal CC
XO	London CC	ZR	Co. Wexford CC
XP	London CC	ZT	Co. Cork CC
XR	London CC	ZU	Co. Dublin CC
XS	Paisley BC	ZW	Co. Kildare CC
XT	London CC	ZX	Co. Kerry CC
XU	London CC	ZY	Co. Louth CC
XV	London CC	ZZ	Dublin CBC
XW	London CC		

¹ originally Southampton CC

² originally Hertford CC

³ originally Salop CC

⁴ originally Lancaster CC

⁵ originally Devonport CBC

⁶ originally Stafford CC

⁷ originally Glamorgan CC

⁸ originally Chester CC

⁹ GPO was allocated to London CC for issue to the GPO.

¹⁰ 'Q-' marks were allocated to the LCC, also the AA & RAC for issue to foreign visitors and should not be confused with suffix and prefix 'Q' marks denoting uncertain origin of vehicle.

¹¹ USN was allocated to London CC

¹² Govan issued 1-529 from 01/04 then Glasgow issued 530-9999 from 03/33.

¹³ Leith issued from 1904-1920 then Edinburgh issued from 06/34.

¹⁴ Partick issued 1-39 from 01/04 then Glasgow issued 40-9999 from 01/35.