

Lagondaforum: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

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Written by TVJL at Sep 17, 2017 5:59 pm

Has anyone ever seen an engine number like this one before? I've asked the question on the Lagonda Owners Group on Facebook too.

So far as I am aware, the last of the LG45s were fitted with S4 engines and no LG6 was ever given an S3. Moreover, isn't the 'starred' chassis number always present below the engine number too?

Perhaps you know better.

Attachments:

[21740441_10156667319262571_1781619791022983130_n.jpg](#) (filesize: 35.55 KB)

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by Colin M34 at Sep 17, 2017 7:58 pm

How about this for a possible answer?

If a car still under guarantee developed an engine fault the factory would have whipped out the motor and put in a replacement and sent the car back to the customer.

They then investigated what the problem was. Perhaps they sent the engine back to Meadows who then rectified the fault and sent it back, waiting in the stores to be put into the next car being produced. So someone with their "new" LG6 got a perfectly good remanufactured engine. It was just from an earlier batch.

The LG6 was after all only intended as stopgap model before the V12 engines were available. The fact that they are very good cars is another story...

Colin

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by TVJL at Sep 18, 2017 12:18 am

Hi Colin,

Interesting thoughts. However, does this analysis explain (a) the suffix 'S3', or (b) the absence of the chassis number?

Tim

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by Colin M34 at Sep 19, 2017 10:20 am

Perhaps it was a "float" engine held in the stores and quickly shoved into the LG6 under guarantee when the original engine went wrong. So of course it would not have been allocated a chassis number and could have been in the stores for some time. Also, as a float engine perhaps it had been previously upgraded from S3 to S4.

I am not sure the difference between S3 and S4 and would the owner have known anyway if he got his car back quickly running sweetly again?

Arnold Davey and I have had some most enjoyable discussions about what went on along the same lines with busses at London Transport's Aldenham works.

With London busses, the most extreme example of this occurred during the war with "frozen" and "unfrozen" bodies but that story will have to keep for

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another time.

Colin

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by bill at Sep 20, 2017 8:45 am

I think that the only difference between Sanction 3 and Sanction 4 were "internal" e.g. timing but nothing else .

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by Colin M34 at Sep 21, 2017 11:01 am

Hi Bill,

Yes, these were my thoughts as well. Possibly the Scintilla vertex magnetos on S4 engines had automatic advance so the flywheel markings were different.

What do you think about my theory that this was a "float" engine replaced under guarantee?

Colin

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by bill at Sep 21, 2017 2:43 pm

My feeling is that you are probably correct, Colin. The very fact that the engine doesn't have a chassis number I think indicates that it was never allocated to a specific chassis in the works.

The worrying thing ,however, is does anyone now have the original engine with the original chassis number on it stored under their bench ? If so perhaps they should check it over very carefully before use ...

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by TVJL at Sep 26, 2017 11:37 pm

Interesting thoughts, chaps. From what you say, it seems that the engine numbers were applied in Staines rather than Wolverhampton? If that's right, and this was a 'float' engine as you suggest (which seems an entirely logical premise to me), the proposition explains why there is no chassis number included (of course).

However, I'm still a little unclear as to why (or even how) an LG6 float engine came to be stamped up as an S3? No matter how long it had been hanging around in the stores, it's stamped as an LG6 despite ending up in an S3 LG45. Assuming that it had no engine number at all stamped on it prior to use, and that it had indeed been upgraded from S3 to S4 spec., why give it an LG6 prefix and yet an S3 suffix?

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by Colin M34 at Sep 29, 2017 9:34 am

Hi Tim,

Perhaps the engine came as a batch of engines with the Meadows number and the S3 designation because this was part of a contract. My understanding is that the board, including the finance director, would "sanction" the order so this engine formed part of an S3 batch.

It might have then had the model number stamped in the factory as the LG6 float engine sometime later. No reason to change the S3 designation, it

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was still part of that batch. This might also tie up with the works orders.

All speculation until further evidence comes to light...

M34

Re: LG45 / LG6 strange engine number

Written by h14 at Oct 02, 2017 12:02 am

Not sure that the "float" engine theory works. My LG6 has engine number LG6/515/S4. I've done a lot of research correlating LG6 engine numbers, to the extent that I can be pretty certain that it (chassis 12360) would originally have been fitted with engine number 499 or 500. The engine is stamped 12360...but you can see that the block has been hammered to obliterate a previous chassis number...probably 12527.

So...I think Lagonda would have stamped the eventual chassis number on this block. The "typeface" of both sets of numbers is identical, so I can be reasonably certain that Lagonda changed the chassis number.

Perhaps this was an engine held in reserve, but sent outside the works for local fitting.

I have at home in France my records for LG6 engine numbers, so on return will check to see how 384 sits with S4 and LG6 engines.

Colin...the number here is Lagonda's own engine number; Meadows had their own entirely different range of engine numbers, and I believe that earlier model Lagondas were indeed stamped (in different locations) with both Lagonda and Meadows engine numbers. Certainly by the time the LG6 appeared, this practice had ceased and LG6 engines have no Meadows engine number.

Laurence
