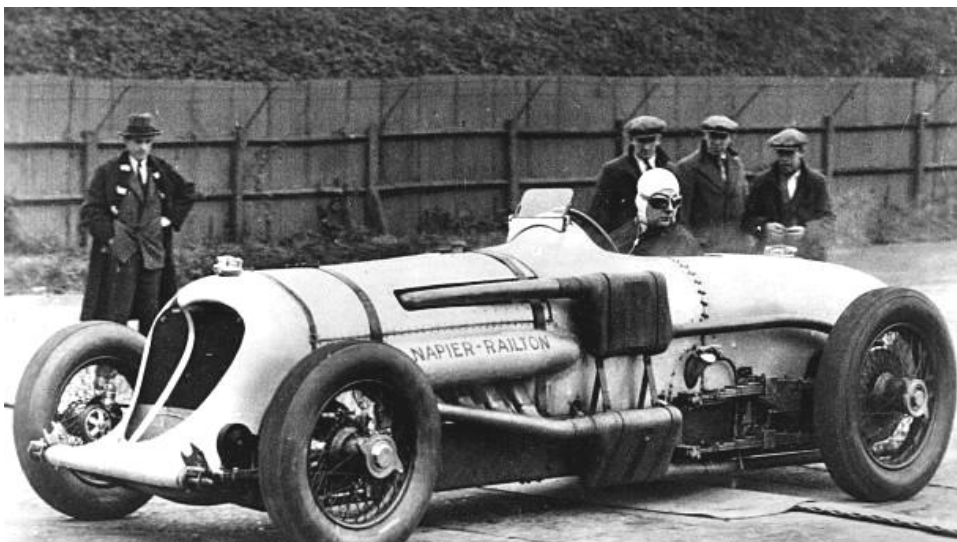


## JOHN COBB AND BROOKLANDS



Ardath Tobacco Co. Ltd. issued many sets of cigarette cards and in 1938 created a set of 22 cards entitled Group 'I'. One of these cards portrayed the 23,936 cc car which had been built for John Cobb and named after its designer Reid A. Railton. The new Railton was described as being unorthodox in design, the driver sitting ahead of the engine, chassis and front wheels. He broke the Land Speed Record with the car on 23 August 1939 at a speed of 350.20 m.p.h. and in 1947 raised the record to 394.19 m.p.h. at Utah.

Pattreiuex issued a set of 96 cards in 1935 entitled 'Sporting Events and Stars'. Number 64 was John Cobb. 'Another of Britain's Greatest Champions of the Motor Racing World shown at the wheel of his giant 450 hp Napier Railton. Driving his car at Brooklands, along with T.E. Rose-Richards, on September 21st last, he won the International 500 miles race from scratch at 121.28 mph. He also holds the Lap Record at Brooklands previously held by the late Sir Henry Birkin. Breaking records is a habit with John Cobb, and his sensational record feats with his Napier Railton, along with his co-drivers T.E. Rose-Richards and C.J.P. Dodson at Utah U.S.A., thrilled the Universe. Had a narrow escape recently when receiving a badly cut cheek from a stone thrown up by a car he was passing, but he carried on to win, as usual.



John Cobb was a British racing driver and land speed record holder. He holds the ultimate lap record at Brooklands.

He was born December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1899 and lived in Esher. He raced several cars at Brooklands and took the lap record at an average speed of 143.44 mph in a Napier Railton achieved on 7 October 1935. He later turned to water speed records and at Loch Ness in 1952 died in the jet speedboat Crusader at a speed in excess of 200 mph.

Thousands of people lined the streets of Inverness to bid farewell as the hearse left for Surrey. He is buried at Christ Church, Esher.