



the
**Henry
Ford**®



Pat Moss-Carlsson

Dec. 27, 1938 - Oct. 14, 2008

Nationality: British

Raced between 1958-1974

Driving Origins: The daughter of Albert, a dentist by trade with a passion for rallying, and younger sister of Stirling, a man now considered one of racing's greats, Pat Moss was raised with racing, although it was not her first passion. As a young girl, Pat inherited her mother's interest in horses and showjumping and would often compete against her brother in local events. She even had the honor of being presented to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II after major victories in the 1945 Windsor Cup horse trials and the Queen Elizabeth Cup in 1953.

Early Influences: Her first experience in driving was at the age of 7 when Stirling taught her how to drive behind the wheel of the family's Jeep, although Moss claims she was initially not interested in motor sports. At age 17 she was given her first car, a Morris 10, as a gift from her father. She credits her start in racing to a motor treasure hunt she participated in with her horse groom Ann Riley in 1954. The pair claimed victory after finding the hidden worm and feather and completing the race. This initial success led to a short stint as assistant driving navigator for Stirling's manager Ken Gregory, and finally to her racing professionally in 1958.

Racing Accomplishments:

- Fourth place in 1958 Liege-Rome-Leige Rally
- Won 1960 Liege-Rome-Liege Rally, considered toughest rally in Europe, in an Austin Healey 100/6, seen at the time as a difficult car to drive. The victory was not only Moss's first, but the first time an all-woman crew had won an international rally.
- Chosen 1960 Driver of the Year by Guild of Motoring Writers

- Won 1962 Tulip Rally in newly-introduced Mini-Cooper. Moss is credited with being the first driver to win an international rally in a Mini-Cooper, although Moss disliked the ride, saying the car was “twitchy and pretty unruly on the limit.”¹
- Won 1962 Deutschland Rally
- Five-Time European Ladies Rally Champion: 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965
- Won 1968 Sestrieres Rally

Interesting Fact: Standing at 5’4, Pat was too short to reach the pedal in the large Austin Healey, forcing mechanics to strap blocks of wood to the pedals for her to successfully drive the car that would bring her the 1960 Liege-Rome-Liege victory.²

Life off the Track: Racing continued to effect Moss’s home life when, in 1963, she married Swedish driver and former competitor Erik Carlsson. After the birth of her daughter Susan in 1969, Moss-Carlsson scaled back her racing, ultimately retiring from rallying in 1974. She shied away from fame, opting instead to quietly settle down with Erik in England, raise their daughter and return to her first love, horses. Carlsson returned to her showjumping roots as she supported Suzy’s competitive efforts and raised horses, while still keeping a livery green Morris Minor in her garage. Pat Moss-Carlsson died in late 2008 after a long battle with cancer.

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Research and biography written by Hilary Restek and Casey Schuster, graduate students at Indiana University/Purdue University Public History Department.

¹ “Pat Moss” *Telegraph*

² Macaulay, “The Story of Pat Moss...”