

Arthur Mallock

ARTHUR MALLOCK, who has died aged 75, was Britain's leading designer and producer of affordable racing cars, and helped launch some of Formula 1's top designers and administrators.

His speedy little single-seaters were designated "U2" ("You too can go racing in one of these"). He aimed to keep them simple and cheap.

In 1958 the first U2s sold for £450; today the Mark 31 costs about £20,000 — still cheap for a racing car. More than 300 U2s were built, and many are still raced all over the world.

Even Max Mosley, head of the sport's controlling body, the Federation Internationale Sporting Automobile, raced a U2 in club events.

Mallock's apparently simple designs often outperformed far more complicated and expensive cars. His influence was immense, not only in enabling impecunious young men to enjoy motor racing but also in giving a grounding to budding engineers.

A colonel's son, Arthur Moeran Raymond Mallock was born on March 1 1918 and educated at Canford. He began building his own cars before the Second World War. An early model was constructed from a metal bed frame costing 2½d, and powered by a Triumph motor-cycle engine bought for £1/15s.

From 1938 to 1958 Mallock was a regular officer in the Royal Corps of Signals. He then began a career as an



Mallock: U2 designer

electronics engineer at Hanslope Park, the Government's communication centre in Buckinghamshire, where he worked until 1980.

His first "specials", which he raced himself, were based on Austin Sevens. In 1953 the establishment of the 750 Motor Club's 1172cc Formula allowed him to use Ford engines. The appearance of the U2 brought him many successes behind the wheel, and in 1959 he won the Ford Championship of Ireland.

As the U2's fame spread club drivers clamoured to own and drive one, especially after an early customer, David Wragg, won the inaugural Clubman's Formula in 1965.

Mallock also competed in Formula II events, and carried on racing well into his fifties. His sons, Richard and Ray, won national championships in U2s.

He married, in 1940, Kathleen Bentley; they had two sons and 2 daughters.

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