

GOODWOOD - 75 YEARS OF MOTORSPORT

1948 - 2023

Introduction

The 9th Duke of Richmond and wartime fighter pilot Tony Gaze saw the potential for a racing circuit using the perimeter roads of RAF Westhampnett which had been used as a Battle of Britain air base in the Second World War. There was a pent-up demand for motor racing in the years after the war, the first Goodwood event in 1948 bringing a huge crowd. Goodwood was the first motor circuit to open after World War 2, replacing Brooklands as the home of British motor racing.

1948

Duke & Duchess of Richmond open Goodwood for racing in their brand-new Bristol 401 on September 18th. Entry oversubscribed, 85 drivers took part, 15,000 spectators, broadcast on BBC, first ever race won by P. de F.C. Pycroft in his Jaguar 100. First Goodwood Trophy race won by Reg Parnell in Maserati 4CLT. Stirling Moss won his first ever race in a Cooper-Norton. Racing organised by the Brooklands Car Club which later became the BARC and the 9th Duke was elected President. (From 1947 to 1949 it was the Brooklands Car Club, becoming the British Automobile Club later in 1949).

1949

On Easter Monday, Reg Parnell won three races at Goodwood's first international meeting. The crowd was bigger than anyone expected, fences were broken down and fans stood on the grass yards from the cars. They were ordered back into the enclosures and no more events were held until August when proper barriers had been installed to control spectators.

1950

The BRM V16 made its debut and Reg Parnell won the Woodcote Cup in this car. Prince Bira, de Graffenried and Parnell raced Maseratis in the Richmond Trophy.

1951

A chicane was installed between Woodcote and the finish line after Freddie Richmond became concerned about speeds past the pits. It was called Paddock Bend but has always been known as the Chicane. (This was not the first use of a chicane on a race circuit. Farina won the Formula One race in his Alfa Romeo.)

First ever Goodwood Nine Hours race, from 3pm to midnight, won by Peter Collins for Aston Martin.

1953

Juan Manuel Fangio raced the V16 BRM and Mike Hawthorn won the Goodwood Trophy in a Thin Wall Special Ferrari.

1954

Jimmy Stewart won the sports car race at the first Members' Meeting in a C-Type Jaguar and Moss won the Goodwood Trophy in a works Maserati 250F.

1957

Tony Brooks won the Lavant Cup in a Cooper Climax despite a five-second penalty for jumping the start.

1958

First ever Royal Automobile Club Tourist Trophy held at Goodwood. Stirling Moss and Tony Brooks shared the winning Aston Martin. A new vehicle tunnel was built under the track and a pedestal rain tunnel under the Lavant Straight took BARC Members to a new enclosure near the Chicane.

1959

The Aston Martin of Moss and Salvadori caught fire in the pits during a re-fueling stop in the Tourist Trophy race. Salvadori was injured, the car and the Aston pits were destroyed by the fire. Moss took over Carroll Shelby's Aston and won the race, giving Aston Martin the World Sportscar Championship.

1960

John Surtees entered his first ever car race at Goodwood, coming second to Jim Clark in the Formula Junior race. He had his first ever test in a racing car at Goodwood and his podium in 1960 was the first time he had ever been to a car race having won seven motorcycle championships.

1961

Stirling Moss won the Tourist Trophy for the seventh time in Rob Walker's Ferrari 250 GT Berlinetta.

1962

Stirling Moss crashed his Lotus on the entry to St Mary's in the Glover Trophy as he came back through the field after a pit stop. The accident, on Easter Monday, ended his career in top level racing. In July the BARC celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a "Festival of Motoring" which featured Donald Campbell's Bluebird and Sir Henry Segrave's Golden Arrow.

1964

Ken Tyrrell gave Jackie Stewart his first test in a single seater. Bruce McLaren set a target time in the Cooper-BMC, Stewart beat it, the rest is history.

1965

On Easter Monday 1965, Jim Clark in a Lotus and Jackie Stewart in a BRM shared a new lap record of 1.20.04 in the last Formula One race to be held at Goodwood.

The Duke of Richmond decided to close the circuit at the end of 1966, concerned about the speed of the new 3-litre F1 cars. The last race, a seven-race BARC club event, was held on July 2nd 1966. It was won by Christopher Le Strange Metcalfe in a Lola Climax. He had won his first race at Goodwood in August 1949 in a Fiat Balilla.

1970

After 1966 the Circuit was used for testing by some of the biggest and best-known racing teams including McLaren, Eagle, Honda, Brabham, Toleman and Tyrrell. In the summer of 1970 Bruce McLaren was killed while testing his new CanAm car and he is remembered in the Memorial Garden at the Circuit. In May 1973, Stirling Moss returned to Goodwood, driving a Cooper Norton during a local British Leyland dealer's track day.

1991-1992

The Earl of March, Freddie Richmond's grandson, starts to take over the estate from his Father the 10th Duke of Richmond. From day one, his dream is to re-open the Motor Circuit and he starts talking to the people who can help him.

In 1992 he realises that opening the Circuit will be a huge and complex task so starts talking to the BARC about staging an event on private roads in Goodwood Park. With advice from FIA Safety Inspector Derek Ongaro and the BARC he starts work on creating the Festival of Speed with support from early sponsor Robert Brooks who begins to contact owners of historic racing cars. The track will be a 1.16 mile "hillclimb" from the Lime Avenue to the top of the hill adjacent to the racecourse.

1993

The first Festival of Speed is held on Sunday June 20th with practice on Saturday afternoon. Among early sponsors are Brooks, Moet & Chandon, Aston Martin, Citroen, Honda and Tatler. There were 25,000 spectators who saw nearly 100 cars and motorcycles in the paddock and in action on the hill. Patrons of the event were Stirling Moss and John Surtees, the latter having organised the motorcycle entry.

Arrows, Surtees and McLaren brought F1 cars, Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason drove a V16 BRM, Beatle George Harrison drove his Rocket, Gordon Murray brought a McLaren F1, Brooks & Salvadori an Aston Martin DBR1. The theme was British Racing Green, the "central display" was an Aston Martin DB7 on a plinth on the turning circle. Willie Green sets fastest time in an F1 Surtees.

1994

Full day on Saturday added, Festival of Speed now a weekend event. As in 1993 it clashed with Le Mans and Lord March decided that never again would Festival of Speed clash with Le Mans or Formula One. Martin Brundle sets fastest time in McLaren Peugeot.

1995

Scuderia Ferrari made its debut at the Festival. Cartier Style et Luxe added to content. Jonathan Palmer

sets new fastest time in six-wheeled Williams FW08B, first time this car has run in competition. Moss and Jenkinson on the Hill in Mercedes 300 SLR to celebrate 1955 Mille Miglia win.

1996

Friday added, making Festival of Speed a three-day event. Thrust SSC record car on show outside Goodwood House. Jack Brabham stars, drives Brabhams on the Hill.

1997

First central display sculpture designed by Gerry Judah featuring Ferrari F1 car hanging from an arch with prancing horse on top. Jim Hall brings his Chaparrals to run on the Hill and Ferrari celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

1998

Mario Andretti makes his Festival of Speed debut and drives Lotus 79.

The first Goodwood Revival. Ray Hannah flies Spitfire down Pit Straight at roof level. First ever race won by Ludovic Lindsay in his ERA Remus.

1999

Festival of Speed sees Nick Heidfeld set a new Hill record of 41.6 seconds in McLaren-Mercedes F1 car. Ickx and Bell together on the Hill in Le Mans-winning Mirage.

2000

Soapbox Challenge added to Festival of Speed content, continued until 2004. Michelin Supercar paddock added to Festival of Speed, and later in 2014 the timed Supercar Run. Dan Gurney debut with his Eagle-Weslake and Alligator motorcycle.

2001

Brabham BT46B fan car on Hill at Festival of Speed.

Revival celebrations muted just days after the terrorist attacks in New York on September 11th, many people unable to travel to the event which was held on September 14th to 16th. Barry Sheene won the bike race and Emanuele Pirro won the RAC TT in an E-Type Jaguar.

2002

Tambay and Pescarolo win the TT at Revival. New sunset race on the Saturday. Barry Sheene wins Lennox Cup bike race after great battle with Wayne Gardner. This was to be Sheene's last race.

2003

Ford's central display at Festival of Speed featured three Ford GT40s to celebrate Le Mans victory, Chaparrals returned, Bob Riggle wowed the fans with his Hemi-under-Glass wheel-standing dragster. Team Lotus entered a soapbox with aerodynamic bodywork.

2004

Festival of Speed - Mercedes W194, W196 and W196 Streamliner feature. Gerry Judah Rolls-Royce central display.

Hales and Attwood in ISO Bizzarini win TT for second year at Revival.

Forest Rally stage added to Festival of Speed, expanded in 2006 with new course designed by Hannu Mikkola who, along with Damon Hill, joins Moss and Surtees as Festival of Speed Patrons. Franchitti and Pirro win TT at Revival, tribute to Sir Jackie Stewart.

2006

Sebastian Loeb debut on Forest Rally stage at Festival of Speed.

Stirling Moss spectacular in Jaguar Mk 7 in St Mary's Trophy at Revival. Renault F1 team maps engine to play French national anthem. Lord March asked the engineers to play the British national anthem which they did, having created a new engine map for Sunday!

2007

Lewis Hamilton debut at Festival of Speed, drives McLaren on hill. Toyota central display, Ferrari 60th anniversary, four Bugatti Royales at Cartier Style et Luxe.

Revival tributes to Roy Salvadori and Cosworth.

2008

Dougie Lampkin rides his bike through Goodwood House and on up to the roof at Festival of Speed. Lewis Hamilton returns to the Festival of Speed, Lord March drives Porsche 908. Airbus airliner flies low over the Festival for display.

Tribute to Tony Brooks at Revival.

2009

Audi Centenary at Festival of Speed. Jenson Button takes to the Hill in Mercedes W25.

Moss celebrates 80th birthday at Revival, drives Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR as well as collection of cars he raced.

2010

Moving Motor Show added to Festival of Speed, offering manufacturers runs on the hill with newly launched cars. Festival becomes a four-day event, with Thursday tickets on sale.

2011

Indy 500 Centenary celebration at Festival of Speed. Fastest on Hill is Dan Collins in revolutionary Lotus 88B. Brian May plays guitar for Indy 500 celebration.

Tribute to Juan Manuel Fangio at Revival and new motorcycle scramble area.

2012

Sebastian Vettel, Lewis Hamilton and Alain Prost at Festival of Speed. Goodwood Action Sports (GAS) arena added to the Festival.

Strike action by fuel delivery drivers threatened the Revival in September. Audi brings Auto Unions for Silver Arrows demo.

2013

Festival of Speed celebrates 50 years of McLaren. Seven F1 teams on the Hhill. Nelson Piquet in Brabham BT52 at Festival of Speed; Vulcan bomber display; First Glance area introduced to showcase latest cars from manufacturers with global launches making the headlines.

Revival tribute to Jim Clark. Kenny Brack wows the crowd with his GT40 drive in the rain at Revival.

2014

The Members' Meetings are revived, first one is the 72nd, following on from BARC members meetings between 1948 and 1966.

Sebastian Loeb sets fastest time on Hill in Pikes Peak Peugeot at Festival of Speed and Richard Petty, the King of NASCAR, takes to the Hill.

Tribute to Sir Jackie Stewart at Revival.

2015

Valentino Rossi, on the Hill, rides bike into the House and appears on balcony. Duncan Pittaway brings Fiat S76 Beast of Turin. Drifters debut at Festival of Speed with "Mad Mike" Whiddett starring on the Hill.

2016

Festival of Speed celebrates BMW and 40th anniversary of James Hunt's F1 world title.

Revival celebrates Sir Jack Brabham. New evening race into the sunset on Friday. Tom Kristensen wins first ever Kinrara Trophy.

2017

Tribute to John Surtees at Members' Meeting with a minute of noise. He had died ten days before the event.

Bernie Ecclestone tribute at Festival of Speed, first central display to feature a person as opposed to cars. Future Lab added to event, showcasing future technologies. Justin Law sets fastest time at Festival of Speed in Jaguar XJR ahead of Penske Indycar. Tom Kristensen celebrates 20 years since his first Le Mans win.

2018

76th Members' Meeting disrupted by snow. First time F5000 cars had run on a track in the snow. Spectacular.

Huge Honda celebration at Festival of Speed with bikes from the museum in Japan. Jet-pack pilot David Mayman flies above the Hill and the crowd.

Revival celebrates Bruce McLaren and a Rob Walker tribute.

2019

At the Festival of Speed Romain Dumas sets a new Hill-record at 42.32 in electric Volkswagen I.D. R. New attraction is The Arena for drift cars. Takuma Sato drives Ayrton Senna's McLaren MP4/4. Tribute to Michael Schumacher with his cars and Corinna Schumacher, Damon Hill, Mika Hakkinen and Ross Brawn. Jackie Stewart celebrates his 80th birthday and 50 years since his first world title. Revival celebrates 75th anniversary of D-Day.

FIA President Jean Todt and Luca di Montezemelo make first visit to Goodwood.

2020

Pandemic caused cancellation of all three events. In October we held SpeedWeek behind closed doors, an event that featured highlights of both Festival of Speed and Revival. This included a Rally stage, "first glance" new cars and a new track record set by Nick Padmore (1.09.9) in an Arrows-Ford F1 car.

Events return to near-normal, 78th Members' Meeting moved to October from its usual date of March/April due to ongoing pandemic restrictions. Bruno Senna wows the fans in V10 McLaren-Honda.

Mario Andretti returns to Festival of Speed and drives historic Ferrari and Lotus 79.

Revival tribute to Sir Stirling Moss who had died in April 2020. New Electric Avenue feature at Festival of Speed to showcase latest electric cars. Lotus is Central Feature.

2022

Gordon Murray launches his T.33 at 79th Members' Meeting.

Festival of Speed sees Wayne Rainey back on his 1992-championship-winning Yamaha YZR500 bike, Nigel Mansell celebrates his 1992 World Championship, Central Feature displays BMW 'M' cars, and a new Hill record set by Max Chilton in the McMurtry Spéirling electric fan car at 39.08 seconds. Revival is held days after the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, but goes ahead with minutes of silence, a film of her visits to Goodwood and tribute speech from the Duke. On-track tributes include Graham Hill's 1962 Championship with Damon in BRM, 75 years of Ferrari and over 100 Austin 7s to mark the car's centenary.