Brooklands Museum celebrates double award winning success

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Brooklands Museum wins prestigious Royal Automobile Club award for Grand Prix Centenary

They tell us...

- Brooklands Museum celebrates double award winning success
- Britain's Grand Prix Centenary celebration is named 'Motoring Spectacle of the Year' by the Royal Automobile Club
- Spectacular event also wins the 'Digital Media of the Year'

accolade at the 2026 International Historic Motoring Awards

Brooklands Museum has received one of the historic motoring world's most prestigious accolades, winning the Motoring Spectacle award, supported by Bosch, at the 2026 Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards, for its extraordinary celebration of the centenary of Britain's first Grand Prix.The award celebrates a landmark event that brought together internationally significant racing cars, legendary drivers, motorsport enthusiasts and the wider Brooklands community to honour a defining moment in British sporting history, at the very place where it happened 100 years ago.
The recognition is particularly poignant given that Britain's first Grand Prix, held at Brooklands in 1926, was the Grand Prix of the Royal Automobile Club. A century later, the Club is recognising the Museum's ambition and achievement in celebrating that historic occasion.

Held on 7 and 8 August 2026, the centenary celebrations saw Brooklands Museum bring together an exceptional collection of more than 120 Grand Prix and Formula 1 cars, representing more than 50 marques and a century of pioneering engineering, innovation and sporting achievement.

The sold-out event celebrated Britain's rich motorsport heritage, with the historic grounds of Brooklands providing a spectacular backdrop to a programme that included a recreation of the original 1926 Grand Prix starting grid.

The award recognises the ambition, creativity and dedication behind the event, made possible through the collective efforts of the Museum's staff, volunteers, partners, car owners, collectors and the international motorsport community.

Alex Patterson, CEO of Brooklands Museum, said: "To receive this recognition from the Royal Automobile Club, a century after it staged Britain's first Grand Prix here at Brooklands, is an immensely proud moment for us all.

"From the outset, our ambition was to deliver a celebration worthy of this remarkable

moment in British sporting history. What we achieved together not only celebrated our extraordinary heritage but demonstrated what is possible at Brooklands today.

“We see the success of the Grand Prix Centenary not as the culmination of an ambition, but as the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Brooklands Museum. Over the next few years, we want to build on this momentum, strengthen our international reputation and develop an ambitious programme of distinctive, world-class events that bring together extraordinary people, machines and stories, inspiring new generations.

This award belongs to everyone who helped us turn our ambition into reality. It is a testament to their passion, dedication and generosity, and to the enduring significance of Brooklands on the world stage.”

Mark Hastings, Event Director for the Grand Prix Centenary, said: “It was an enormous privilege to bring together a century of Grand Prix history at Brooklands. Seeing these remarkable cars, the drivers, owners and people who care for them come together at the birthplace of British motorsport was a moment that will stay with many of us for years to come.

This award is a wonderful recognition of what can be achieved when so many people share a passion and a common ambition. Everyone who played a part in making the centenary happen can feel immensely proud of what we achieved together.”

The Royal Automobile Club award follows Brooklands Museum’s success at the 2026 International Historic Motoring Awards, where it received the Digital Media of the Year award for its Grand Prix Centenary campaign.

Through original films, archive footage, interviews and digital storytelling, the Museum brought the history of Britain’s first Grand Prix to audiences around the world, connecting new generations with the pioneering people and machines that helped shape modern motorsport.

Together, the two prestigious industry accolades recognise not only the significance of the centenary event, but also the Museum's creativity and ambition in bringing its remarkable heritage to life far beyond its historic grounds.

As the birthplace of British motorsport, Brooklands continues to look to the future with the same pioneering spirit that has defined it for more than a century – a place where people dared to drive faster, fly higher and think differently.

About Brooklands Museum

Brooklands Museum is the largest museum in Surrey, occupying 32 acres on the site of the world's first motor racing circuit, which opened in Weybridge, Surrey in 1907. It showcases the achievements of the pioneering men and women in motorsport and aviation and uses their history of innovation and endeavour to inspire a new generation.

Since opening as a public Museum in 1991 it has continued to grow its collection of aircraft, racing bikes and cars as well as opening the award-winning Brooklands Aircraft Factory and the only Concorde with public access in South East England. With displays in original buildings, motoring and aviation events and an extensive learning programme for schools and colleges, including the award-winning Brooklands Innovation Academy, the past is brought to life again for over 180,000 visitors a year.

About the British Grand Prix

Britain's very first Grand Prix was staged by the Royal Automobile Club at Brooklands in August 1926, exactly 100 years ago. The country's second Grand Prix was held at the same venue the following summer. Throughout the 1930s, several non-championship Grand Prix took place at Donington Park. Racing at Brooklands ended during World War II when the venue was converted into an aircraft production site.

The first post-war Grand Prix was held at the former RAF Silverstone airfield in 1948, and two years later, Silverstone hosted the first points-scoring World Championship Formula 1 race. In the years that followed, the British Grand Prix also visited both Aintree and Brands

Hatch before Silverstone secured a permanent place on the F1 calendar from 1987.
Britain’s first Grand Prix was won by French drivers Louis Wagner and Robert Sénéchal in a Delage 15 S 8.