



Brooklands to celebrate centenary of Britain's very first Grand Prix

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Above: Sections of the iconic banking are preserved by the Brooklands Museum Trust (credit: Lou Johnson).



Above: The full spectrum of Grand Prix cars will be on show at Brooklands for the centenary celebration from current generation F1 machines such as the Aston Martin AMR25 right back to the all-conquering Delage 15-S-8 of the 1920s (credit: Lou Johnson).

Brooklands Museum tells us...

(All photographs and text from Brooklands Museum).

- 100 Grand Prix cars to mark special 100-year anniversary
- Spectacular celebration at the birthplace of British motorsport
- The world's first purpose-built racetrack honours its history
- Iconic racers on show as well as crowd-pleasing action
- Tickets now on sale for milestone tribute on Saturday 8 August at Brooklands Museum



Britain's very first Grand Prix was staged at Brooklands, the birthplace of British motorsport, in 1926. Now, celebrating this year's centenary in spectacular style, the award-winning Brooklands Museum is staging a very special event on Saturday 8 August - 100 years to the day after the original race was held.

Marking this milestone in British motor racing history, an amazing gathering of 100 Grand Prix cars will be on show at Brooklands, ranging from the very early pioneers to the high-tech Formula 1 machines of today.

Adding to the excitement, many of the earlier machines will be revving up on sections of the original banked oval circuit, while more recent racers will join them in action on the adjoining test track at Mercedes-Benz World - itself located within the historic 2.75-mile speedway.

"It's going to be a wonderful occasion and a very apt celebration to mark the 100 years of Grand Prix racing in Great Britain," said Alex Patterson, Chief Executive of Brooklands



Museum. “The Brooklands race in 1926 was fraught with danger and bravery, laying the foundation for Britain’s successful motorsport industry. Paying tribute to that watershed moment in time, this summer’s very special day will feature what’s certainly one of the biggest and most comprehensive collections of Grand Prix cars ever seen and, with many of those performing, it’s going to be a truly fitting tribute.”

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Britain hosts its first Grand Prix in 1926

Brooklands was built in the Surrey countryside and was the brainchild of Hugh and Ethel Fortescue Locke King. When it opened in 1907, it was the world’s first purpose-built, banked motor racing circuit. With road racing banned on the British mainland, it quickly became the country’s motorsport capital, as well as home to equally intrepid early aviators.

It was therefore the natural venue for the Royal Automobile Club to stage Britain’s very first official Grand Prix. A one-off circuit layout was prepared using large sections of the banked outer oval track, with temporary earthwork chicanes on the finishing straight adding to the challenge.

On Saturday 7 August 1926, nine Grand Prix cars lined up before a vast crowd. Four hours later, victory went to the Delage 15-S-8 driven by French aces Louis Wagner and Robert Sénéchal, with Malcolm Campbell upholding local honour by finishing second in his Bugatti 39A. While many of the marques competing that day are no longer at the pinnacle of the sport, Aston Martin – a participant in 1926 – is very much on today’s Formula 1 grid.

Brooklands held a second Royal Automobile Club Grand Prix the following summer – again won by the then state-of-the-art Delage – and two further unofficial Grands Prix races were staged at Donington Park in the late thirties.

With the outbreak of war in Europe, Brooklands was given over to aircraft production. Hawker and Vickers expanded their established factories, building over the circuit’s concrete straights and assembling more than 18,000 Hurricane fighters, Wellington



bombers and other military aircraft before Armistice was declared in 1945.

Brookland's racing legacy

With Brooklands no longer available, motor racing quickly relocated to the runways and perimeter roads of many decommissioned World War II airfields. The former RAF base at Silverstone held the country's first post-war Grand Prix in 1948 and, two years later, had the honour of hosting the very first points-scoring Formula 1 race. Thereafter, the British Grand Prix was also organised at Aintree and Brands Hatch before Silverstone became a permanent fixture on the World Championship calendar in 1987.

Although Brooklands fell dormant, its legacy endured. Significant sections of the circuit have been carefully preserved by the Brooklands Museum Trust, and its influence shaped Britain's post-war motorsport landscape. Teams including Connaught, Cooper, Brabham and Tyrrell established themselves nearby in Surrey, while reigning World Champion McLaren is still based just a few miles away in Woking.

"Brooklands remains close to the hearts of motorsport fans everywhere and this is a great moment for the Museum to honour the past but importantly to look forward to the next 100 years of innovation," said Patterson. "We are thrilled to be honouring the venue's unique heritage with this summer's centenary celebration. Alongside this remarkable array of cars, we will be inviting many Formula 1 drivers who have competed in British Grands Prix to join us for what promises to be a truly memorable and unmissable event."

Tickets are now available via the official BrooklandsMuseum.com website. Adult admission is priced at £39.95 in advance, with tickets for accompanied children aged 4 to 17 (under 4s are free) available at £19.95. Members will be able to purchase tickets to an exclusive VIP Preview evening on the Friday and offered Saturday admission for £19.95 (child £9.95) - a special price that includes an official Show Guide

Early booking is strongly advised for what is expected to be a truly outstanding, sell-out occasion.



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. Almost a century later, the most recent 2025 British Grand Prix was won by reigning World Champion Lando Norris in a McLaren MCL39.



Brooklands Museum will showcase 100 Grand Prix racing cars in August (credit: Lou Johnson).