



GRAND PRIX CARS BACK ON TRACK AT AINTREE

The Aintree Circuit Club recently organised the return of racing cars to the Aintree Grand Prix circuit, to take part in filming for a forthcoming BBC television documentary.

Three significant cars from the Liverpool circuit's motor sport history were demonstrated on the famous start / finish straight in front of the grandstands and alongside the world famous Grand National steeplechase course, to echo the glory days of the venue, when it hosted the British Grand Prix on five occasions in the 1950s and 1960s, together with a further eleven non-championship Aintree "200" Formula One events.

A Vanwall from the Donington Grand Prix Collection represented the winner of the 1957 British Grand Prix at Aintree, together with Andrew Wareing's BRM P261, as driven by Graham Hill to second place in the circuit's final F1 race in 1964.

The historic line-up was completed by an Aston Martin DB2/4, which was driven by Frank Defty in Aintree's very first car race in 1954. It was driven from the Midlands to the circuit for the filming session by current owner Alastair Hibbert.

Cars owned by Aintree Circuit Club members were displayed on the terrace in front of the grandstands, overlooking the race track. An Austin Healey Sprite, which took part in support races at the Grand Prix events, also completed several runs, driven by owner and Club member Keith Hopwood.

Club director John Bailie said, "It was fantastic to see these cars on the historic Aintree Grand Prix track, and to hear their engines echo across Aintree's magnificent grandstands. In particular, I would like to thank Kevin Wheatcroft for loaning the Vanwall from the Donington Collection, and Rick Hall for preparing and driving the car. We are also most grateful to the Aintree racecourse management for their invaluable assistance in arranging this filming".

The TV programme, in the BBC's "Inside Out" series, is scheduled for transmission in October.

Join Aintree Circuit Club by visiting: <http://www.aintree.org.uk>
or email: jb@aintree.org.uk



Image 0980: The iconic image of Stirling Moss crossing the finishing line to win the 1957 British Grand Prix at Aintree is re-created in 2010 by Rick Hall in the Donington Grand Prix Collection's magnificent Vanwall.

A high res version of the above image can be downloaded from the link on page 3 of this document.



Image 0997: The Aston Martin DB2/4, driven by Frank Defty in Aintree's first ever motor race in 1954, poses at Aintree in 2010 for the first time in over 56 years.

A high res version of the above image can be downloaded from the link on page 3 of this document.



Image 1003: The Donington Grand Prix Collection's 1957 Vanwall, Andrew Wareing's 1964 BRM P261 and Alastair Hibbert's Aston Martin DB2/4 from 1954 line-up together on the historic Aintree Grand Prix circuit's start/finish straight.

High res versions of all three images can be downloaded from this link:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/101718560235956231485/BackOnTrackPRHiResImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCL-O8siN2lay7gE&feat=email>

If the above link does not work, please copy and paste the address into your web browser.

Additional Information

Aintree Circuit Club is the world's first track-based motor club and has been in continuous operation since 1954.

The full 3-mile Aintree Grand Prix circuit was in use from 1954 to 1964. It staged the British Grand Prix in 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961 and 1962. It also hosted the Aintree "200" non-Championship race on eleven occasions, the final one taking place in 1964.

The 1955 British Grand Prix saw Stirling Moss drive to victory, his first ever Grand Prix win and the first time a British driver had won his home Grand Prix.

The 1957 British Grand Prix, also bestowed with the title "Grand Prix d'Europe", saw the first British Grand Prix win by a British car (Vanwall).

Aintree remains Britain's only purpose-built Grand Prix circuit.

For more information, please contact:

John Bailie

Aintree Circuit Club PR and Marketing Director

Mobile: 07860 255485

Email: jb@aintree.org.uk

Web: <http://www.aintree.org.uk>