

MGBGTV8 on the Test Hill at Brooklands



Ian Ailes has sent in a couple of photos of his immaculate MGBGTV8 on the Test Hill at Brooklands last weekend which he felt might be of interest. The slope is 1 in 8, 1 in 5 and then 1 in 4! He provides a note on the Test Hill.

The Test Hill was built in 1909 as another facility to encourage use of the track for development and test work. It is 352 feet long and divided into three sections, starting with a gradient of 1 in 8, then 1 in 5 and the top third has a gradient of 1 in 4. It was used by manufacturers to test both the ability of cars to climb steep hills and also of their brakes to stop them coming down.

As performance increased, cars and motorcycles driven at full bore inevitably 'took off' when they got to the top. This extra spice of danger made it an irresistible attraction to some of the drivers at Brooklands, and the Test Hill Record became a recognised institution until speeds got so high that there was not enough room at the top for a safe landing. The record climb in 7.691 seconds (an average of 31.277 mph) stood for nearly seven years until on the 25th October 1932 when R.G.J. Nash (no relation to Archie Fraser Nash) driving a Frazer Nash special called 'The Terror' established the all-time car record for the Test Hill with 7.45 seconds (an average of 32.444 mph). 'The Terror' crested the rise at about 50mph and flew about 40 feet before landing!