

RILEYS IN THE AUSTRALIAN G.P.

Rees Mackay has been delving into the history of the Australian Grand Prix, and has prepared an interesting table showing the winning cars down the years and also details of Riley participation, with interesting notes.

- 1928 Winning car — Austin 7
Rileys — Riley '9'. J. W. Williamson. Finished 12th and 2nd class B (slightly lowered and fitted with pointed tail. Damaged when rolled in practice. Seized gearbox in race, repaired on circuit).
- 1929 Winning car — Bugatti 37A
Rileys — Riley '9'. J. Williamson DNF (Entered by Riley distributors. broke oil pipe on lap 24).
Riley Redwing. M. Rouse DNS.
- 1930 Winning car — Bugatti 37A
Rileys — Brooklands. J. Wall. DNF
Brooklands. D. Antill (of Perth/Sydney light car record fame) DNF
Brooklands. W. Johnson DNF
Brooklands. Barney Dentry. 7th, 1st, class B. (wife Bess as riding mechanic. Lay 2nd for most of race until delayed by valve trouble).
- 1931 Winning car — Bugatti 39
Rileys — Brooklands. Dentry. 4th & 1st in class (considered fitting blower but didn't)
Brooklands. Joan Richmond. 5th.
- 1932 Winning car — Bugatti 37A
Rileys — Brooklands. W. Williamson. 9th
Brooklands. Dentry. 10th (last). Car used Ulster engine provided by Factory. Lubrication problem in practice resulted in radio message to UK. Problem persisted during race.
- 1933 Winning car — Brooklands. Bill Thompson. (Works car tended by factory mechanics en-route to New Zealand)
- 1934 Winning car — Singer le Mans
Rileys — Brooklands. Dentry. 8th (last) (two long stops in race, one for plugs, other for bonnet repairs).
4 seater. Williamson. DNF. (Said to be Joan Richmond's Monte Carlo car).
- 1935 Winning car — MG. 'P'
Rileys — Brooklands. Dentry. 5th. (car now radically streamlined) Imp. Williamson. DNF. (Gearbox failure lap 8) (Off pace in spite of special equipment)
Brooklands. Wreford. DNF. (Oil pump trouble lap 5). (Said to be Trevaux's 1934 le Mans car).
- 1936 7 Winning car — MG. 'P'
Rileys — Brooklands. Dentry. 5th. (Fitted with ex-Eyeston factory motor)
Imp. O'Leary.
- 1938 Winning car — E.R.A.
Rileys — Brooklands. Dentry. 16th (Two early Pit stops)
IMP. Thane. DNF (Crankshaft broke on lap 3)
- 1939 Winning car — M.G. 'TA'
Rileys — Brooklands. Downing. DNF (Completed 7 laps)
- 1947 Winning car — M.G. 'TC'
Rileys — *Dixon 2L. Bartlet. DNF (Stopped with no oil pressure. Later found guage fault)
Imp. Myers. 12th
- 1948 Winning car — B.M.W. '328'
Rileys — Imp. Head. 10th
*Dixon 2L. Bartlet. DNF (Magneto failed on lap 32)
- 1949 Winning car — Delahave
Rileys — Special. A. Rizzo. 3rd. (A Sprite engine in a 1932 '9' chassis) (Made several Pit stops with plug trouble).
- 1950 Winning car — Ford V8 Special
Rileys — None
- 1951 Winning car — Reed Special (Ford V8)
Rileys — None
- 1952 Winning car — Lago Talbot
Rileys — *Dixon 2L. Bland. DNF
The Rizzo Special. Mossetter. DNF
Imp. Mildren. DNF
- 1953 Winning car — Lago Talbot
Rileys — None
- 1954 Winning car — HWM Jaguar
Rileys — The Rizzo Special. Tobin. 6th
Imp 'replica'. Downing. DNF (Overheated on lap 8)
Rizzo Special. Mildren. DNS. (Another special built by Arthur Rizzo. Rizzo chassis with 1½ Riley engine). (Damaged on rough road during practice).

* This would be the car imported into England by Gerry Dick. Now owned by Nick Jarvis.

SPRITE NEWS

Ian Hall met a Mr. E. B. Kay at Silverstone and was given a photograph taken on the 1949 Lands End Trial which he has kindly forwarded to the Editor.

The picture shows (left to right): CNF.640 with E. B. Kay. DYV.241 with an unknown lady, Dr. J. Spiridion and Jack Zillwood (two well known Cheltenham competitors) CPO.302 with Eric Grindod.

All three cars still exist. CNF is John Golder's. DYV is Julian Majzub's and CPO is the one sold at Sotheby's sale last winter to a Mr. Ferranti.

The results of the 1949 Lands End Trial show that Spiridion gained a first class award, Kay a second and Grindod a third.

Ian Hall is keen to see any similar pictures of Sprites in rallies, trials, etc. (either pre-war or very early post-war). If anyone would be prepared to lend pictures to Ian he would be glad to hear at 2 The Laurels, Great Coxwell, nr. Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7NF. Any pictures entrusted to Ian would be treated with great care and would be returned within four weeks.

