



HRH Prince of Wales DB6 Volante (photo: Ian Kendall)

Centennial Celebrations at Kensington Palace Gardens

by Mark Donoghue

One hundred years ago, two likeminded, passionate individuals set about to produce a car 'for the discerning owner driver, with fast touring in mind'.

They had no idea that their endeavours to create an individual motorcar would have ramifications on the world of motoring history and that 100 years later would see a

culmination of this in an exhibition of 100 iconic Aston Martins in chronological order, each representing a chapter of the history of the marque along the entire length of the Broadwalk in Kensington Palace Gardens.

The logistics of parking a large number of cars in a public area in Central London were enormous. Not just the 100 Aston Martins on the length of the Broadwalk, or the 25 Le Mans



Timeline (photo: David Wright)



The first car in the Timeline, A3 (photo: Ian Kendall)



The Living Daylights V8 (photo: Ian Kendall)

racing cars, which had to be transported in, or the James Bond cars, one of which required a fork lift truck to place it in the display, but the estimated 500 Aston Martin visiting cars, created a mammoth task in Health and Safety and Traffic Management logistics.

The Royal Parks had never been subjected to such a suggestion and were anxious at the thought. After much negotiation we convinced them it would be a feasible and safe project to create the 100 Aston Martin Timeline along the Broadwalk, which stretched from the Bayswater Road to Kensington Road.

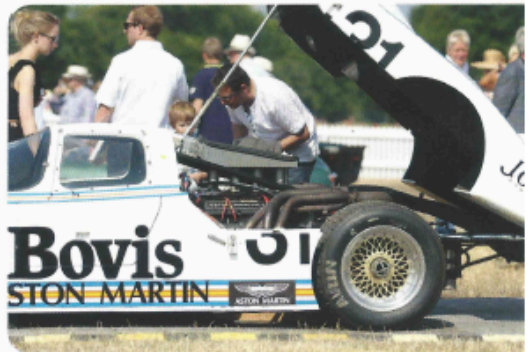
Among the 100 cars that accepted my invitation to be part of the display on the 21 July 2013, were HRH The Prince of Wales DB6 Volante, HRH The Duke of York's V8 Volante LWB, Razorblade and Bulldog. Sir Stirling Moss very kindly allowed us to display his Cygnet in the timeline to encapsulate the complete history of Aston Martin for this momentous occasion. The first car was A3, the oldest surviving Aston Martin in the world and the last, a Centennial Vanquish fresh off the production line. Dr Bez requested that CCI100 be the 100th in the Timeline, but we considered this car to be the start of the next century of Aston Martin and placed it as the 101st car, the first of the next 100 cars to be produced.

Aston Martin have been quite prolific in racing over the last 100 years and a celebration of this was seen in the Le Mans display area in front of Kensington Palace, where we

gathered 25 of the most significant Le Mans racing cars. In another area, we placed the Aston Martins used in James Bond films over the years, including the famously rolled DBS from Casino Royale.

Fortunately, the weather was glorious on the day, and there was a total of 600 Aston Martins in Kensington Gardens, the most gathered in one place at one time. An estimated 50,000 people visited, as this event was open to the public at no charge, to allow the world to join in the celebration of this incredible marque.

I wonder if in 100 years from now, when they assemble 200 Aston Martins in chronological order to celebrate the bicentenary, will they emulate the Timeline of 2013? I suspect that most of the cars that were present will still exist in one form or another and it will certainly be a challenge for the organisers to locate them all. One thing's for sure, the Royal Parks are not going to be too pleased when we request that they extend the Broadwalk to accommodate 200 cars!



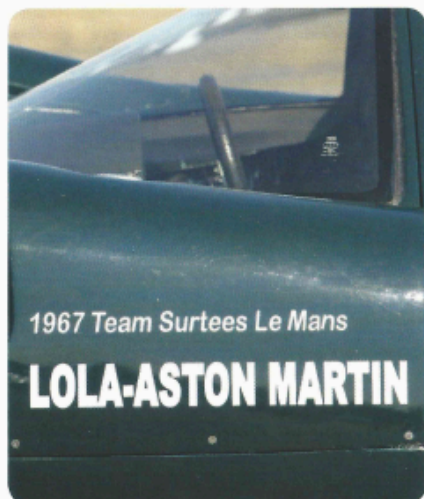
Nimrod (photo: Ian Kendall)



Pre-War Timeline (photo: Ian Kendall)



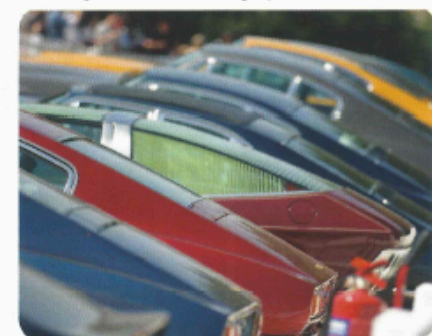
The rolled 007 DBS (photo: Ian Kendall)



Lola Aston Martin (photo: David Wright)



CC100 (photo: David Wright)



Rear view of the V8s (photo: Ian Kendall)



Atom



DB1



DB2 prototype



DB2 Saloon



DB2 Drophead Coupe



DB2/4 Drophead Coupe



DB2/4 Saloon



Lagonda 2.6-litre Drophead Coupe



Lagonda 3-litre Drophead Coupe



DB2/4 Mk II Saloon



DB2/4 Mk II Fixedhead Coupe

Photos by Chlöe Rymer

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