

AUTOSPORT 3 HOURS

The Historic Sports Car Club has re-introduced an endurance race into its 2023 schedule, recreating the Autosport Three Hour race for all pre '66 GT cars on the Snetterton 200 circuit on Sunday April 23.

PAUL LAWRENCE PREVIEWS THE ACTION



Charlie Wooding

The race has proved attractive to those who normally compete in the HSCC's Guards Trophy as well as a range of other championships and series. The Club was keen to welcome competitors who wanted to tackle this one-off endurance contest and cars from a range of categories are all eligible for the race.

The three-hour contest is open to two or more drivers per car with pit stops and special refuelling arrangements.

“We have been looking to bring this race back onto the schedule in tribute to the original Autosport Three Hours, and we felt that this was a good time to re-launch it at our annual Snetterton race meeting.

“I’m very pleased to report that we have attracted a wide range of GT cars of all engine capacities, including some that do not normally race with the HSCC. Everyone has been made very welcome for this one off race.”

Andy Dee-Crowne, CEO of the HSCC

BACKGROUND

This will be the 18th running of a famous race that began in the late 1950s. In period, Jim Clark (twice) and Jack Sears were winners while in more recent times winners have included Simon Hadfield, Chris Ward and Martin O’Connell.

After an eight-year sabbatical, the race is being brought back to the historic racing calendar and will be for GT cars, as it was in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The 2023 winners will join the illustrious list of former winners, a list topped by Jim Clark.

The race is open to all owners and drivers of Pre '66 GT cars, regardless of whether or not they normally race with the HSCC. The spirit of the race will be friendly, sporting and inclusive. High standards of on- and off-track behaviour will be expected and enforced.

TEAM COMPETITION

Entrants are encouraged to form teams of three cars – each car must be from a different class. The team with the best combined overall performance will be presented with a special trophy.

PRIZE GIVING

All race awards will be presented as soon as possible after the race at the post-race celebrations (location to be confirmed) with drinks available for all drivers and team members, garlands, interviews and a great atmosphere. All spectators are most welcome to attend.

AUTOSPORT 3 HOURS PREVIOUS WINNERS

1957	KEN RUDD AC Ace
1958	JOHN LAWRY Lotus Elite
1959	JIM CLARK Lotus Elite
1960	DICKIE STOOP Porsche 356B
1961	MIKE SALMON Jaguar D-Type
1962	MIKE PARKES Ferrari 250 GTO
1963	JIM CLARK Lotus 23B
1964	JACK SEARS AC Cobra
2007	MICHAEL SCHRYVER/SIMON HADFIELD Chevron B6
2008	MICHAEL SCHRYVER/SIMON HADFIELD Chevron B6
2009	JAMES COTTINGHAM/JEREMY COTTINGHAM Chevron B8
2010	GARETH BURNETT/ALEX AMES Chevron B8
2011	NICK FLEMING/LUKE STEVENS Chevron B8
2012	NICK FLEMING Chevron B8
2013	NICK FLEMING Chevron B8
2014	CHRIS WARD/ALEX BUNCOMBE Jaguar E-Type
2015	MARTIN O'CONNELL Jaguar E-Type

2023

CLASSES & AWARDS

The overall winners will receive the Autosport 3 Hours Trophy and there will be awards for each class winner. The grid will be divided into classes as follows:

A: Standard, competition GT & GT prototype cars up to 2500cc (excluding metal-bodied cars)

B Metal-bodied standard & competition GT cars up to 2000cc

C All standard competition GT and GT prototype cars 2001 to 4000cc

D All standard competition GT & GT prototype cars over 4000cc

E All standard competition GT & GT prototype cars up to 1300cc

REFUELLING

There will be an on-site fuel supply service via Anglo American Oil

Refuelling is only permitted in the pit lane outside the allocated pit garage for each entrant.

Each car will be required to make a minimum of two five-minute pit stops during the race. At each mandatory pit stop the car must remain stationary for a minimum of five minutes even if the car is not being refuelled.

There is no pit stop window for this race.

MGB CELEBRATED

The racing MGB will be celebrated during this weekend's Autosport Three Hour race.

To celebrate 60 years of the iconic British sports car, the HSCC is awarding a special trophy for the best performance from an MGB in the Autosport Three Hour. The HSCC 'B' Trophy will be presented to the first MGB across the line at the end of what promises to be a fantastic three-hour endurance contest.

MGBs continue to be one of the most affordable and accessible ways of getting into historic racing and are a perfect fit for the HSCC ethos of great value historic racing. The 'B' has long been a stalwart of HSCC race meetings, notably running in Historic Road Sports and 70s Road Sports as well as the GT section of the Guards Trophy.



Andy Dee-Crowne, CEO of the HSCC, said: "We're delighted with how the grid has built for the return of the Autosport Three Hour. While we have a fantastic trophy for the overall race winners, we also wanted to celebrate the strong support we've had from MGB racers and decided to present a rather nice award to the leading MGB. This unique trophy is our way of acknowledging the contribution of the MGB to the on-going success of historic motor racing."

With more than half a million road cars built between 1962 and 1980, the MGB remains one of Britain's most successful and popular sports cars and, in race trim, continues to offer tremendous value for money racing for dozens of owners.

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