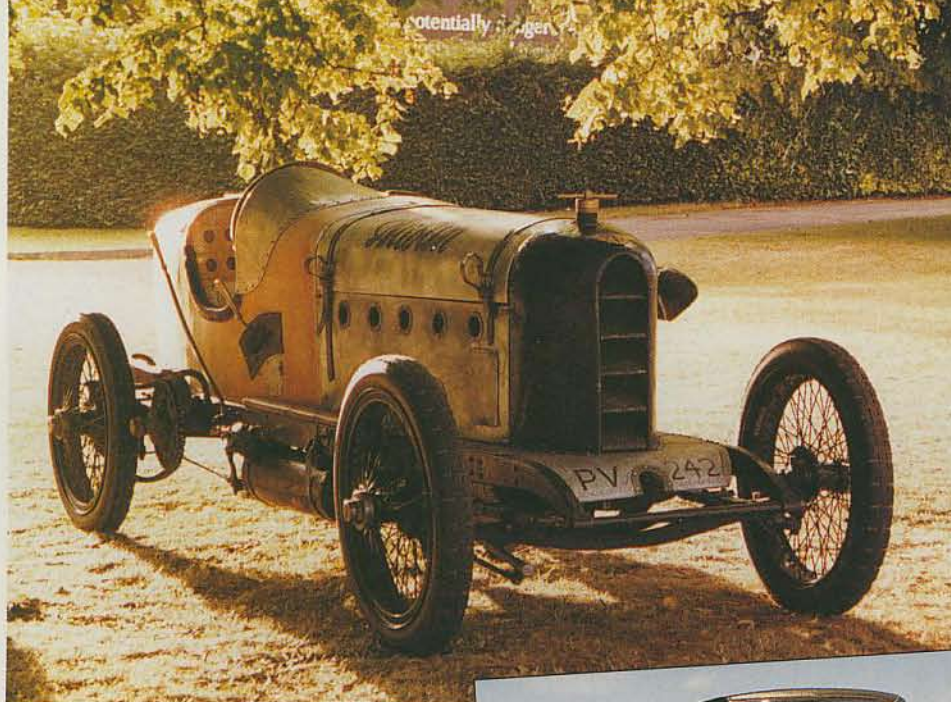


Goodwood Festival of Speed

Words and pictures by *Kevin Elliott*



The Curtis 'Crawfish' Crider Special was one of the guest cars that competed in an England V America stock car battle in 1955, which the visiting Americans won.



The Echidna-Chevrolet heads up Class 7, European and American Sports Car racers from '1950 to '665, as they prepare to take to the hill.

Goodwood Festival of Speed has been a well kept secret in the hot rodding fraternity for a few years now, with many recognisable faces in the crowd should you have paid a visit. The appearance of drag cars in 2002 brought the event to the attention of many who had never attended, and with the inclusion of a hot rod display and Fuel Altereds on the track, this year's Festival was positively overrun with rodders!



Mick Dowling represented the early sedans in the A line-up, Mark Grant representing the later As.

But there was much more to hold your attention than these two points of interest, as the classes for international touring cars, American road and Daytona racers, Indy and Can-Am cars, American sports cars, and stock cars showed. And that's without the tot rods and Andy Saunders creations in the Cartier Style et Luxe concours.

Of course there were Formula One cars old and new, motorcycles, Le Mans racers, rally cars and Grand Prix cars as well, plus all the manufacturers stands and chances to get the autograph of your favourite race driver past or present, proving once again that Lord March and his team of dedicated and hard working staff had thought of something for everyone, whatever their preferred motorsport arena.

Naturally the class we were most interested in was the Fuel Altereds, with *Pure Hell*, *Pure Heaven II*, *Rat Trap*, *Nanook*, and the *Bradford Special* Topolino all performing rolling burnouts on the track. A slight mishap on the startline on Friday saw *Pure Heaven II* reverse into the push truck, damaging both vehicles and preventing any more runs from that car as one of the rear wheels was split. The remaining four didn't run on Saturday as it rained for most of the day, but they came out in force on Sunday, deafening small children and old dears alike. One of the most amusing moments of the event was standing in the paddock when any of the Altereds fired up, knowing that most of the crowd hadn't a clue what was going to happen next, then watching many of them cover their ears and run!

How will they top it all next year? We've no idea, but the Festival gets better each time, so we're sure they'll find a way. Meantime, for those with a circuit racing fetish, or who like to see Lotus Cortinas and the like battling it out round corners, there's still the Revival Meeting at Goodwood circuit on September 3-5. A unique homage to old style racing, everything within the circuit is as it was prior to 1966 and visitors are encouraged to wear period attire. See www.goodwood.co.uk for ticket details or call 01243 755055.



Built in '39, this Bugatti Type 32 'tank' is the only survivor of a number of similar streamlined racers, entered by the French national motor museum.



Campaigned from '66 to '72, Randy Bradford restored his Topolino two years ago and was one of five Fuel Altereds who came over for the Festival.