

FERGUSON P99

GOODWOOD REVIVAL 2006

Ferguson P99, the only 4WD Formula 1 car ever to win a grand prix, driven by Stirling Moss in 1961, returned to Goodwood this year to be driven by Sir Stirling Moss and Barry Williams. Ferguson P99 lives in the Ferguson Family Museum in Freshwater and returned to the Goodwood Revival for its first race in 40 years.

With qualifying laps on the Friday, Sir Stirling drove P99 for a gentle warm up. With 23 cars in the race he was placed 18th on the grid, 5 from the back. Early on Sunday it became apparent that the lingering rain would ensure that the track was greasy for the Richmond Trophy due to start at 10.40 a.m. These were ideal conditions for this unique 4WD F1 car. Sir Stirling felt that even from the back of the grid this car could win the race and suggested that Barry “Whizzo” Williams take over.

With 2 practice laps before lining up for the start Barry Williams could feel the sensational road holding for which this car was famous. The flag was down and the race was off. P99 surged off the start taking 5 cars before the end of the grid and another 6 before the end of the first lap. He now lay 7th and started to reel in the front runners. Each lap saw him move up a further place until he was lying 3rd with 8 laps to go, 9 seconds behind the leading car gaining at 2 seconds a lap.

On the 8th lap he began to experience brake fade and had to use his engine for braking which caused him to spin off on Woodcote Corner. With his brakes now restricted in efficiency he could not quite track down the 2 leaders and ended 3rd, a triumphant result for this unique car designed in the 1950's by the Harry Ferguson engineering team.

