

FERGUSON P99 RETURNS TO HILL CLIMB AT SHELSLEY WALSH CENTENARY FESTIVAL

Ferguson P99, which won the British Hill Climb Championship in 1964 driven by Peter Westbury, will return to the hill climb at the Shelsley Walsh Centenary Festival on 21st August 2005. P99 recently appeared at the Goodwood Festival of Speed where it was reunited with Sir Stirling Moss, reliving their win of the Oulton Park Grand Prix in 1961. At the Shelsley Walsh Centenary another remarkable partnership will be seen with Peter Westbury taking the car back to the hill climb.

The Ferguson P99 (“Project 99”) is the only four wheel drive car ever to have won a grand prix. After its immediate success four wheel drive was banned in the world of Formula One. The car went on to win the British Hill Climb Championship in 1964 with a slightly larger engine, being 2.5 litres as opposed to the 1.6 litres for its Formula One events. This visionary car was also one of the first to have disc brakes and experimented with anti-skid braking.

Mothballed since 1969, it recently moved to the Ferguson Family Museum in Freshwater, Isle of Wight where it has been restored to working condition over the last year by Barry Snow of Calbourne Garage, helped by Peter Warr who originally worked with Harry Ferguson, and still works with the family. With its original paintwork intact, but with every working part examined and restored over the last 12 months, the engine first fired up on 23rd June this year after 35 years.

The car was originally designed by Harry Ferguson Research, as in his later years Harry Ferguson believed that building a Formula One car incorporating his team’s inventions would lead to the adoption of those inventions in the motor industry. The first car to adopt the Ferguson system was the Jensen FF – later the Ferguson Formula four wheel drive system was widely adopted by rally cars. Harry Ferguson teamed up with Tony Rolt, winner of the 1953 Le Mans 24 Hours, and Freddie Dixon to design the Ferguson cars.

P99 and a restored Jensen FF along with tractor and aircraft exhibits are on show in the Ferguson Family Museum in Freshwater. Group visits can be arranged by appointment.

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Enquiries/Information

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