

Silverstone Classic – Mission Completed!

The Silverstone Classic ... the worlds largest historic racing event, turned out to be an amazing weekend, with a fantastic unexpected result.

Anders was co-driving David Grace's Austin Healey 3000 arriving on Thursday afternoon, starting with a shake-down at a local airfield before heading to Silverstone for registration and scrutineering.



Airfield shakedown with engine tests.



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Qualifying in dry conditions

Prior to qualifying on Friday, some fine tuning and preparation was undertaken before starting at 4pm in hot, sunny conditions.

"It was a challenge to learn the circuit and the characteristics of the Healey in just 6 laps!" commented Anders.

David and Anders put the Healey on the 17th row, 33rd on the 55 car grid and 2nd in class for cars up to 3litre. The front rows were dominated with much more powerful Cobras, E-Type and TVR's.

"There is not a lot we can do against cars with nearly 200 bhp more than we have, so we are hoping that the forecasted rain arrives to even things out ... then it could get interesting!" said Bill Grace; David's son



Race day started very hot, but rain was still forecasted around the scheduled start time for the race. As predicted, 20 minutes before the start the heavens opened with monsoon conditions, delaying the start for half an hour to allow for the extreme amounts of water to be cleared from the circuit.

David and Anders made a decision to run on narrower tyres and use a smaller anti-roll bar to suit the conditions. This proved to be a stroke of genius as David instantly started gaining positions when the race finally started just before 8pm.

Several incidents brought out multiple safety car situations, which hampered the Healeys forward progress having overtaken many cars.



Last minute tyre change minutes before the race



*Rain, rain...
..and some more rain...*

After 23 minutes Anders took the wheel and David made the understatement of the year ... "there's a lot of water out there"! The rain continued, but despite the track conditions Anders still continued to overtake cars making up places.

"At some times around the track I could not see the difference between the grass, gravel and tarmac, and I had to navigate around the high curbs and plastic cones on the corners as landmarks ... a real challenge!" said Anders.

At the chequered flag David and Anders finished a magnificent 19th overall; first Healey, posting the fastest lap in class, and a minute ahead of the next Healey.



David and Anders achieved their goal of being the fastest Healey at the Silverstone Classic, and brought it home without any damage ... an incredible performance in the conditions.

Anders will be working with David to further develop the performance of the Healey and seating position for them, in preparation for their next race together at the Healey Driver International Race at the Castle Combe Historic Festival on October 6th. Last year Anders won the race (John Gott Memorial Trophy) and they will be doing their best to lift the trophy again this year.



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David Grace in battle with a Mustang GT350



The John Gott Memorial Trophy - currently in the hands of Anders.



Thanks to!

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