

**Note 67**



**Silverstone Lap Speeds for 2.5 Litre Grand Prix cars, 1954 – 1960**

Best Lap Speeds by CoY on the 2.927 mile (4.711 km) circuit in practice

Year	Car	Driver	Time Min. Sec.	Speed MPH (kph)	Relative Speed
1954	Mercedes-Benz W196	Fangio	1.45*	100.35 (161.5)	Datum
1956	Lancia-Ferrari D50	"	1.42	103.30 (166.3)	+2.9%
1958	Ferrari 246	Hawthorn	1.40.4	104.95 (168.9)	+4.6%
"	Vanwall V254	Moss	1.39.4**	106.01 (170.6)	+5.6%
1960	Cooper-Climax T53	Brabham	1.34.6**	111.39 (179.3)	+11.0%

[In intervening years the British Grand Prix was run at Aintree]

\*Corners only defined by drums at intervals. This hampered the W196 which had a fully-enveloping body. Fangio hit a drum during practice through inability to place the car accurately. Subsequently the drums were replaced by dwarf walls with the same trace which will have aided later lap speeds.

\*\*Using Dunlop R5 tyres with nylon casings, worth 2% to 3% increase in lap speed versus previous R3 cotton-casing tyres (819).

On the same tyres, therefore, the mid-engined Cooper-Climax T53 with 240 HP was 5% faster than the front-engined Vanwall V254 with 265 HP 2 years earlier.

**Silverstone circuit, 1954 – 1960**

DASO 776

