

## Note 6



### Optimistic Maserati powers in the '50s and '60s

There are several examples where Maserati power claims were not substantiated when their engines were tested on British dynamometers.

#### 1954 250F IL6 2.5 Litre

The early engines were supposed to give 240 HP. When Moss' engine was tested by SU in early 1955 after a full works overhaul it gave only 214 HP on standard 50% methanol fuel (147 p.276, 158): discrepancy minus 10.8%.

The engine from the Owen-purchased 250F, after its 1<sup>st</sup> overhaul by BRM, gave 222 HP (40): discrepancy minus 7.5%.

#### 1959 IL4 2.5 Litre

Power claim for this engine, supplied to fit into a Cooper chassis, was 215 HP but on an English brake it gave only about 200 HP(293 p.156): discrepancy minus 7.0%.

#### 1964 V8 4.5 Litre

Tested by Coventry Climax as "way below" the quoted 420 HP (293 p.200).

#### 1966 V12 3 Litre (see Fig. N6A)

Tested by Coventry Climax at 330 HP, the Maserati claim being 360 HP (293 p.208): discrepancy minus 8.3%.

Another source (799) states that a claim of 350 HP for this engine type was a real 312 HP: discrepancy minus 10.9%.

Salvadori, who records the discrepancies in (293), believed that Maserati took "flash" readings, i.e. immediately after start-up without letting the engines stabilise at a temperature.

#### Overall average

The overall average of the 5 stated discrepancies over a wide range of dates, types and sizes, is just under minus 9%.

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Fig. N6A  
1966 Maserati 300F1  
60V12 70.4/64 = 1.10 2.989 cc  
DASO 508

