

Note 60



The 1952 500 cc Norton engine in Vandervell's Cooper

While design and construction of the Vanwall engine was in hand in 1952/53, Tony Vandervell thought it would be useful to have experience of the "base" engine, the 1952 works Norton, B/S = 85.93/86 = 0.999 and 498.7 cc, by racing it in a Cooper Mk 7 chassis.

This car was driven by Alan Brown, a very experienced "Half Litre" exponent, in 2 races in 1953. He found very quickly that the limited RPM range with only a 4-speed gearbox made it impossible to produce competitive lap speeds (68).

Rival cars also had Norton 500 cc engines but these were production "Manx" 79.62/100 = 0.796 units with somewhat less peaky power curves. Moreover they were certainly running on alcohol-base fuel where the '52 ex-works engine may have still been on motorcycle racing regulation 80 Octane petrol.
