

At the Pittsburgh Vintage GP

Imagine a street course in a great city, through a beautiful park, over 100,000 spectators, and racing on one of the most challenging circuits in America. The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is a true spectacle of racing in America. The circuit is considered to be the most challenging race course in the USA. With 22 turns, 11 elevation changes, hydrants, light poles, statues, fountains, hydrants, curbs, trees, and stone walls...more about the stone walls later.

My son James originally planned to race our Lotus 7, but the motor is currently in the machine shop, so what to do? Rather than scratch, I let James drive my 1960 MGA as he did last year, with me as a spectator.

The MGA with James driving qualified in 5th place in the field of 21 entries in the Production under 1500cc class.

In the final Trophy Race on Sunday he finished just out of the podium in 4th place.

The first 3 spots were Austin Healy Sprites, much smaller and lighter on this twisty course. The rumor is the little Healeys are bored out 1275cc motors with an estimated 130 horsepower, about the same as my MGA, but with a lot less weight. Anyway, that's the story, and we're sticking to it!

Oh yes...about the wall. James was a little over optimistic on his first practice lap with new brake pads, and came in contact with a stone wall that had "stepped out onto the race track".

The wall is fine. The MG, on the other hand, was a mite battered. As they say, "that won't buff out".

The front and rear fenders were the worst for wear and the headlight assembly went missing.

With crow bars, hammers and a roll of white duct tape fully deployed, the car passed tech inspection and was back on the track for the next practice session with minutes to spare.



The MGA with one eye. Photo by Elliott Golden



Before



After

PITTSBURGH

**VINTAGE
GRAND PRIX**



**MOTORSPORT
FESTIVAL**



TM



We're going to need a bigger hammer.

Now to repair the MGA, in time for the 41st year of the Lime Rock Historic Festival at Lime Rock Park in Connecticut over Labor Day Weekend. Another great spectator event. See you there!

James Goodson