

AUTOMOTIVE

## Bentley marks motorsports milestone

May 17, 2021



*Bentley Drivers Club celebrated the centennial of the marque's first racing victory. Image credit: Bentley Motors*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British automaker Bentley Motors celebrated the centenary of its first racing win by returning to Surrey's famous Brooklands Racetrack.

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The oldest Bentley in existence, the EXP 2, led a field of more than 20 vintage 3-Litre models at an event at Brooklands. Organized by the Bentley Drivers Club, the gathering reinforced Bentley's storied history in motorsports.

### Back to Brooklands

The EXP 2 was the second car built by W.O. Bentley's new company in 1921. The experimental vehicle was the basis for the 3-Litre, Bentley's first production model.

The EXP 2 recorded its first win at Brooklands, the world's first purpose-built banked motor racing circuit, on May 16, 1921. It was the car's second race overall on the circuit, with Frank Clement behind the wheel.



*The EXP 2 pictured in 1921 at Brooklands. Image credit: Bentley Motors*

Only a small part of Brookland's original 2.75-mile course remains and the site is now home to a motorsports and aviation museum.

After the success of the 3-Litre EXP 2, follow-up models went on to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1924 and 1927.

These victories, along with driver John Duff's 21 world records in 1925, firmly established Bentley's motorsports foundation.

"Motorsport success is a huge part of Bentley's heritage, as it is for the Bentley Drivers Club," said Richard Parkinson, chairman of the Bentley Drivers Club, in a statement. "We were therefore determined to mark the centenary of the first Bentley racing win on [May 16, 1921] at Brooklands on the very same date this year with the actual car, EXP2 itself, kindly provided by Bentley Motors."

The restored EXP 2 was joined by 24 other vintage models at the site.



*The oldest existing Bentley, the EXP 2, alongside the 200,000th vehicle from the marque. Image credit: Bentley Motors*

In March, Bentley Motors rolled off its 200,000th luxury car from its production line, in another landmark moment for the marque. To mark the occasion, the automaker presented the new Bentayga Hybrid alongside the EXP 2, the oldest Bentley in existence ([see story](#)).

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