

Round Seven: LONGFORD

30th Australian Grand Prix

Date: 1st March 1965

26 Laps of 7.242kms (188.292kms)



Longford saw the McLaren cars come resoundingly into their own with good short-stroke engines and the small frontal area and shallow tread of the Firestones on this ultra-fast circuit. McLaren and Brabham staged a thrilling battle for pole position and 100 bottles of champagne on the Friday, with McLaren finally making it with a shattering 2m 18.5s lap. McLaren won the 10 lap qualifier on the Saturday from Brabham and Graham Hill and lap times from this set the grid for the Grand Prix.

From the start, McLaren was first away, joined by Graham Hill on the outside. Brabham came between them and soon edged ahead of Hill. Clark, Matich, Stillwell and Phil Hill all followed very closely behind. This group soon pulled away from Levis, Jane and Scott, with Tresise behind, beginning to get the Cooper-Climax wound up ready to find a way past the smaller cars. Jane moved past Levis, then, as they passed the pits, Tresise moved out to take Levis as well. As he did, the Cooper went out of control, crashing through a fence, killing the young driver immediately.

After three laps, McLaren led from Brabham, Hill and Clark, who was suffering from a miss-fire under full revs. This allowed Phil Hill to pass him. By the end of four laps, Grant, Jane and Archer were all out.

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Clark got back in front of Hill, only to be re-passed again. This occurrence was to take place numerous times throughout the race. Just before half distance, the front suspension collapsed on Match's car and he was lucky to be able to keep the car under control until bringing it to a stop.

As Brabham was passing Levis, going into Mountford corner, Levis suffered a brake lock up and connected with Brabhams wheel. As a precautionary check, Brabham called into the pits, and returned to the race back in fifth position, just ahead of Stillwell, but behind McLaren, Graham Hill, Phil Hill and Clark.

Brabham began recording record shattering laps in his endeavour to regain his spot. McLaren responded and on lap 17 set a new record time of 2m 18.4s. With nine laps remaining, everyone sensed the urgency as Brabham began to appear in their mirrors. Jack passed Clark and was now right behind Phil Hill. Jack passed Phil, but was immediately re-passed by Phil, who set a new record lap of 2m 18.2s in doing so. Jack responded once more and passed Phil with a new lap record of 2m 18.0s, a time that was never ever beaten on the Longford track.

Meanwhile up at the front, McLaren was having clutch trouble and his lap times began to drop. Phil Hill wasn't finished yet and needing to help defend his team leaders position, he once again took Brabham and followed this by passing Graham Hill as well. Brabham also took Graham Hill and with three laps to go, McLaren was holding on, with Phil Hill trying to hold off Brabham. This he could not do and Brabham was now in second. McLaren was changing gears without a clutch and survived to win by only 3.3 seconds. This must surely go down as one of the best Australian Grand Prixes ever.

Grid: (* denotes pole)

Graham Hill	Jack Brabham	Bruce McLaren*
Frank Gardner	Jim Clark	
Phil Hill	Bib Stillwell	Frank Match
Rocky Tresise	Jim Palmer	
Bob Jane	Jack Hobden	John McDonald
Mel McEwin	Roly Levis	
Glyn Scott	Kerry Grant	Lyn Archer

Result	Driver	Nat	Car	Laps	Time
1	Bruce McLaren	NZ	Cooper T79 / Climax 2495cc 4cyl	26	1hr 1m 10.9s
2	Jack Brabham	Aust	Brabham BT11A / Climax 2499cc 4cyl	26	1hr 1m 14.2s
3	Phil Hill	US	Cooper T70 / Climax 2499cc 4cyl	26	1hr 1m 15.8s
4	Graham Hill	UK	Brabham BT11A / Climax 2499cc 4cyl	26	1hr 1m 18.8s
5	Jim Clark	Scot	Lotus 32B / Climax 2499cc 4cyl	26	1hr 1m 19.3s
6	Bib Stillwell	Aust	Brabham BT11A / Climax 2499cc 4cyl	26	1hr 2m 25.1s
7	Jim Palmer	NZ	Brabham BT7A / Climax 2499cc 4cyl	26	1hr 2m 27.2s
8	Glyn Scott	Aust	Lotus 27 / Ford 1495cc 4cyl	23	
9	Roly Levis	NZ	Brabham BT6 / Ford 1495cc 4cyl	23	Accident

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Result	Driver	Nat	Car	Laps	Time
10	Jack Hobden	Aust	Cooper / Climax 2200cc 4cyl	22	
11	Mel McEwin	Aust	Elfin / Ford 1500cc 4cyl	20	
Ret	John McDonald	Aust	Cooper / Climax 2495cc 4cyl	21	Mechanical
Ret	Frank Gardner	Aust	Brabham BT11A / Climax 2499cc 4cyl		
Ret	Frank Matich	Aust	Brabham BT7A / Climax 2499cc 4cyl	5	Suspension
Ret	Lyn Archer	Aust	Elfin / Ford 1500cc 4cyl	4	Mechanical
Ret	Bob Jane	Aust	Elfin / Ford 1500cc 4cyl	4	Gearbox
Ret	Kerry Grant	NZ	Brabham BT4 / Climax 2495cc 4cyl	3	Engine
Ret	Rocky Tresise	Aust	Cooper T62 / Climax 2495cc 4cyl	1	Fatal Accident

Fastest Lap: Jack Brabham 2m 18.0s (Record)