

Brooklands Museum. 27th February 2019.

Brooklands, the world's first purpose-built motor racing circuit, was built by local landowner Hugh Locke King on 330 acres of farm and woodland on his estate at Weybridge in Surrey. Work commenced in late 1906 and took only nine months to complete.

The first official race was held on the 6th July 1907 and was greeted by the press as a 'Motor Ascot'. Because Brooklands was the world's first purpose built motor racing circuit, there were no established rules to follow. To begin with, many of the procedures were based on horse racing traditions, partly in an attempt to attract a ready-made audience to this new and curious sport. Cars assembled in the 'paddock,' were 'shod' with tyres, weighed by the 'Clerk of the Scales' for handicapping and drivers were even instructed to identify themselves by wearing coloured silks in the manner of jockeys.

In 1915 Vickers started manufacturing aircraft at Brooklands and progressively extended their premises with the growing demand from military contracts. The following aircraft have been fully or partially made on the site, Gunbus, Vimy, Hurricane, Wellington, Viscount, Vanguard, VC10 and Concorde.

Many of the group paid for a guided tour of Concorde which included a "flight" at mach 2.2 this was followed by a tour of a working Concorde flight simulator that was used to train the pilots.

Other attractions included the Barnes Wallis-designed "Stratosphere chamber" was built in 1946 to investigate high-speed flight at very high altitudes, London Bus museum, Aircraft factory, Motorcar and cycle museum and access to the remaining part of the banked motor circuit.



Concorde



Concorde flight simulator



HTW group inspecting a Harrier



Concorde engine



Stratosphere chamber



Stratosphere chamber door



London Bus Museum



Car Museum



Hawker Hurricane