## Gordon MacPherson in Southern Rhodesia

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AHS 3902 was dispatched to Tanzanian Austin-Healey agents, Ronil Motors Ltd, in Dar-es-Salaam on 30 June 1955. Unfortunately, the person who originally ordered the car died before they could take delivery. Ronil initially declined other offers as the company wanted the car to be raced in order to publicize the marque out there. Ronil then approached Gordon MacPherson in Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, who had successfully raced an XK120 and 100M and offered him the 100S.

Gordon purchased it in April 1957 and had it painted in his racing colours of Chinese Blue. Over the next three years, he enjoyed some seventy-five race outings, which resulted in sixty-two top three finishes, including eighteen wins. In 1958 he shipped the car to Madagascar for the Madagascar Grand Prix in the capital Tananarive. Mechanical problems forced retirement whilst Gordon was lying second to a local Mercedes. Another 100S (AHS 3806), belonging to local enthusiast M. Poisson, was running down the field in the hands of his driver A. Peri. He was called into the pits for Gordon to take over his car; such procedures were possible in those days. In this other car, Gordon drove up through the field to finish in second place. Gordon also took the Whitney Straight Trophy in 1959.



The car's last race outing was at the 1960 Belgian Congo Grand Prix. Whilst dicing with John Love's ex-works D-type Jaguar, Gordon clipped a kerb at over 120mph (193km/h) and rolled the car end over end. He got away with a broken wrist, but inevitably the Healey was badly damaged. Returned to Southern Rhodesia by train, repairs on the car got under way, but business commitments and his wife's concern over his narrow escape would result in the car standing, incomplete, for over twenty-five years.

Keith Clapham discovered AHS 3902 in Zimbabwe in 1985. When he flew out to view, it was under a tarpaulin in partly rebuilt condition. Having circumnavigated all sorts of bureaucratic difficulties, Keith flew the 100S back to England in December 1985. The rebuild, which would take ten years to complete, was started in January. Only the second owner of this example, Keith put it back on the road in 1996, when it was allocated the age-related number plate TOJ 301.

Source: Big Healeys in Competition by John Baggott, page 55

Gordon MacPherson with his 100S and the trophies he won with it in Southern Rhodesia. The photograph is from a local road safety magazine. Keith Clapham now has this example in England, registered TOJ 301.



 $\underline{http://travel.webshots.com/photo/1016867602010215637ArcpguEmIc}$ 



http://www.classiccarsinrhodesia.co.za/MR\_Robert\_Young.html

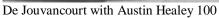


Charlie Belton with Gordon Macpherson and the very rare and successful Healey



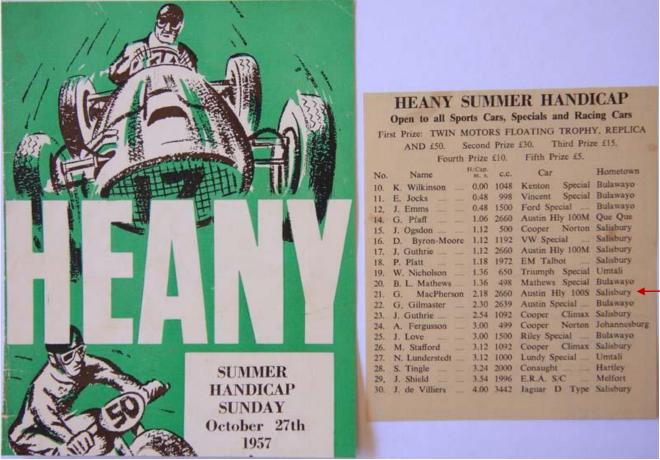
John Guthrie and Healey at Belvedere



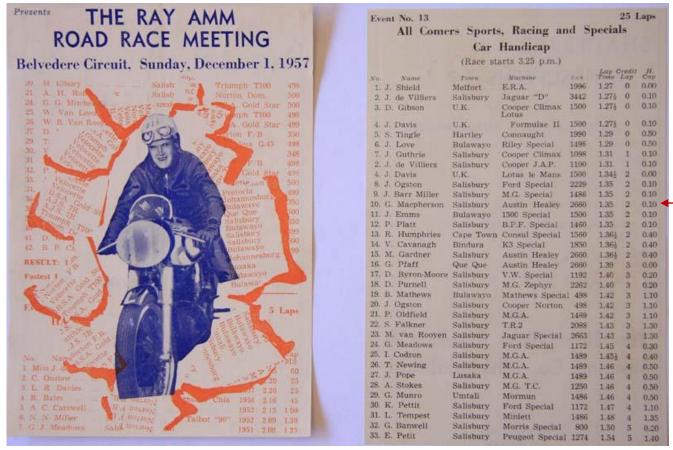




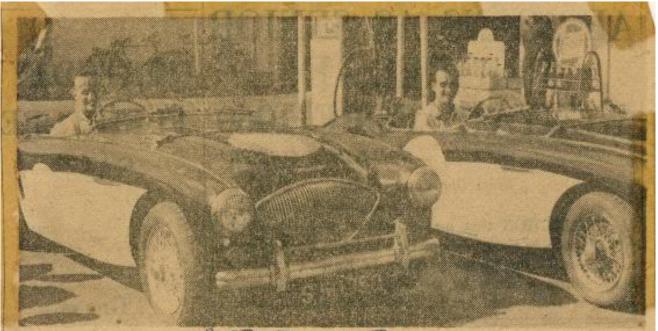
De Jouvancourt



1957 Heany Summer Handicap



1957 Ray Amm Road Race Meeting



# Two Rhodesians face stiff opposition at L.M. races

By Our Motoring Correspondent

THE only Rhodesian entries in the Lourenco Marques race meeting at the weekend—John Guthrie and Malcolm Gardner in their twin Austin Healeys—left for Portuguese East Africa last night.

The main race of Sunday's meeting is a handicap on a 1%-mile "round-the-houses" circuit. The two local drivers will be up against stiff competition from various parts of Southern Africa.

The main danger is likely to come from Tony Fergusson, the Johannesburg driver, in the Cooper-Norton with which he won the Heany 100.

### PLEASED

But both Gardner and Guthrie are pleased with their handicaps at the L.M. meeting. These will mean they have to average 64 m.p.h. to be up with the leaders, and at Heany, which has equally tricky corners, they were lapping at 67 m.p.h.

Derek Purnell, chairman of the Mashonaland Motor Car Club, will go to L.M. as team menager. RHODESIA'S only representatives in the Lourenco Marques car race on Sunday are Malcolm Gardner (left) and John Guthrie, here seen in their twin cream-and-black Austin Healeys.

# BELVEDERE MEETING SHOULD PROVE WHETHER LA IS FASTER

COMORROW'S Mashonaland Car Club meeting at Belvedere Circuit should tell the tale about Jimmy de Villiers's new D type Jaguar and fis old E.R.A., new the property of Jimmy Shields. De Villiers proved faster than the Jaguar in his E.R.A. at three different meetings, and it will be most interesting to see whether his times in the allegedly faster Jaguar are an improvement on those put up by him in the E.R.A.

Apparently the official handi-cappers think the F.F.A. the Conneight, gets 45sec, start on faster car, for De Vilhers, han-the Jaguar, Mike Stafford disapped to tap at 80.5 miles as four, gets 30sec, start on Shields (Cooper Climax) gets away hour, gets 30sec, start on Shields Tissec, ahead, and T. Peatling revision, and now has to tap at in the main race of the day over in the main race of the day over 15 taps. Shields must tap at an ahead of De Vilhers. 15 laps. Shields must lap at an average speed of Shi miles an hour-the E.R.A.'s handlesp at the last Belvedere Mashonnland "100" meeting.

# Handicap revised

De Villers, in turn, is con-ceding same bug starts to other Byron Monte is handicapped to fast cars. Sam Tingle, in his lap at 69.5 miles an hour, which

second place at the last meeting;

V. Cavanagh and N. Mathews, third and fourth men respectively last time out, must also find a few extra ounces of speed. But Cooper men Ogston and Guthrie must have bein severely handicapped, for they are now expected to lap at 70.2 instead of 73 miles an hour of 73 miles an hour.

Perhaps these revisions will see a closer finish, with the backmarkers having a chance.

# Interesting field

The motor-cycle field is as interesting as ever, despite the absence of Union stars. Some of the local riders have the best available machines, and their ability has been proved the equal of most of the riders down

Phil Snyman makes a welcome return on a machine not pre-viously seen in action here—a 2000cc M.V. Augusta. This potent ughtweight must have quite a turn of speed, for it is handleapped to tap at 80.5 miles an hour and leaves with three 350s and a 590!

# Renewing battle

Sallahury star Des Wolff will renew his battle with Keu Rohas, of Bulewayo, whose 550 Triumph T110 was the fastest motor-cycle at the jast meeting. And this strong field about includes other stars in Gary Hocking and Johnny Redman. who have done so wall in the Union.

This 14-race meeting is organised along the same lines as the successful Mashonsland "100" meetings and should be quite as successful.

THE RHODESIA HERALD, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1957



MALCOLM GARDNER M (above) who drave the D type Jaguar at the last Mash-onsland "100" meeting, will be at the wheel of his Austin Healey at Belyaders tomorrow.