

Note 74



Top speeds, 1960 to 1966

Ref (845) gives Brabham's experience of the top speeds at Spa in 1966 compared to 1960 which, he said, "*surprised and disappointed us*":-

Date	Car	Engine	Power HP	Top speed MPH	Lap speed MPH
1960	Cooper T53	Climax FPF 2.5L	240	178	137.1
1966	Brabham BT19	REPCO 620 3L	300	172	142.2
1966 v. 1960			+25%	-3.4%	+3.7%

This effect was attributed to the much-wider high-hysteresis tyres which had been developed by Dunlop to raise cornering speeds and hence lap speeds, despite the drop in top speed. Rear tyre tread widths had doubled – from 5" to 10" – and the tread compounds were now synthetic instead of natural rubber.

The same effect had been remarked upon by Colin Chapman in describing the development of the 1.5L Lotus (see under the 1.5L Formula Summary, [2nd Naturally-Aspirated Era \(2NA\) Part 3](#) at PP 20-21).

However, it may be that the 1966 Brabham drag was also worse than the Cooper in 1960 for the reason speculated regarding the V8 exhaust system in Eg. 46, compared with the simpler system of the IL4 FPF.
