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**1967 BOAC International 500 - Brands Hatch
10 minute Short Film**

Now on the internet – <https://goo.gl/nCjhfe>.

Made to a Budget of £3,000 using BOAC Staff,
with Camera Car loaned by Bruce McLaren and AC Cobra from AC Cars

Background to the Film

BOAC contracted a small New York film company to make a 10-minute film of the first BOAC International Sport Car race in July 1967. This would be made on 35-millimetre film that could be used on general release in cinemas worldwide as a short to support full feature films. BOAC also contracted Jack Brabham to appear in the film.

Two other companies initially agreed to sponsor the film – one fuel and one tyre company – but withdrew shortly before the race, which left the film company well below its budget.

Camera crews who had recently been involved in making the film Grand Prix had been contracted to film the race, but were short of some equipment such a camera car.

Charles Hardy, BOAC Sales Promotion Manager therefore asked me if I could help. Bruce McLaren very kindly offered to lend us their old works' Can Am sports racing car – provided we picked it up and brought it back in one piece. So as well as driving David Piper's Ferrari 275 LM in the race with Roy Pierpoint (kindly organised by Nick Syrett who was running the race as Secretary of the BRSCC), I drove the camera car during practice and from the back of the grid at the start of the race.

The camera crews did an excellent job of shooting a considerable amount of footage of the race from a helicopter and from around the circuit, which then needed to be edited into a film. However, due to the lack of funds, the owners of the film company returned to New York and left one junior assistant, Suzie Salter, to put the film together.

Having no knowledge of cars, Suzie at first asked me if I would help her identify the cars and their various sounds in the footage. She then suggested that to link the material with BOAC, I was filmed with Jack Brabham getting off an aircraft and driving through London to Brands Hatch, for which AC cars of Thames Ditton kindly lent us their AC Cobra demonstrator (I had started motor-racing in an AC Aceca-Bristol).

This still left the script to be written, the film to be edited and music to be added, etc. Fortunately, the highly capable editor Peter Musgrave became available between full feature films, and we managed to put it all together by autumn 1967.

The film went on general release worldwide in 1968 which gave BOAC good publicity for an outlay of £1,000. (Sponsorship of the race itself cost BOAC some £3,000, with £1,000 cash prize and £2,000 in free tickets. For that, the race name "BOAC International 500" was circulated throughout the whole sports car racing series with worldwide coverage – Le Mans, Daytona, Kyalami, etc. Surely an extremely cost effective promotional deal!)

The 16mm version was recorded on to video tape / VCR by BA in the 1980s, and I converted this to mpg format using a home PC – so regrettably the quality is not quite up to the old BOAC standards!

I hope it brings back good memories – for BOAC the result was perfect being won by the Chaparral a car with a wing!



Hugh Dibley



Footnote: Bruce McLaren wrote in his Autosport column that the name of BOAC added some class to motor racing. Looking at the standard of equipment in the pits – open refuelling, etc – perhaps puts this into perspective!