

ITALIAN CARS 1, 2, 3 in GRAND PRIX

Twenty-four of the world's top drivers meet at Silverstone for the Grand Prix of Europe. British ace Reg Parnell of Derby is No. 4 in the strong Italian Alfa-Romeo team. With only six British cars included, attention is focussed on Bob Gerard and his well-known E.R.A. Our white hope in motor racing, the B.R.M., is there only on show. The King and Queen are among those who look it over. It's the first Grand Prix to be watched by a reigning sovereign and the Royal party are there to wish the drivers luck, including Prince Bira of Siam. Earl Mountbatten is President of the Royal Automobile Club, which organised the meeting. Favourites for the trophy are the Alfa-Romeo foursoms, with Louis Chiron and his Maseratis as nearest challengers. Seventy laps lie ahead - 200 miles to come - as they thunder away to a perfect start.

Jumping into an early lead is Juan Fangio, No. 1, the former bus driver from the Argentine and today the most successful racing motorist on the Continent. Leading the Alfa-Romeo team, the Argentinian is driving strictly to orders, with the other Alfa-Romeo's 2, 3 and 4 following him round. Chasing the Italian quartet down the straight from Copse Corner comes the Belgian driver Johnny Claes (No. 18) in a Talbot and Bob Gerard (No. 12) in his E.R.A.

Fast-working mechanics put the Italian aces soon back on the road. Closely watched by the Royal party, they're back in there - battling it out, but never seriously challenged.

The half-way mark is coming up and the order stays unchanged. Reg Parnell - in Alfa-Romeo No. 4 - is still in fourth place - and Fangio, in No. 1 is still out front. Twenty more laps to go.

Down goes the chequered flag for first man home and it's Alfa Romeo's No. 2 - Guiseppi Farina (a broken oil pipe having forced Fangio to retire). Fagioli is second, Parnell third - a 'one, two, three triumph' for the cars from Italy. An ovation greets the hero of them all - 'Doc' Farina, 90-mile-an-hour winner of the European Grand Prix.