

SPEED LINES



No. 3—TAZIO NUVOLARI

MOTOR RACING GAINING IN POPULARITY IN NEW ZEALAND

— says —

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A Brooklands Model Riley with which R. A. Dexter has won many events "down under," including the only road race for cars. For the present season a light monoposto body has been fitted.

MOTOR sport in all its branches is firmly established in New Zealand, particularly in Auckland, the principal city in the North Island. Approximately 22,000 motor vehicles, including two-wheelers, are registered in Auckland alone, and the majority of owners take a keen, if not always an active interest in the competition side of motoring, which in Auckland is controlled by the New Zealand Motor-racing Drivers' Association.

Although only a young body, the Association has already organised many highly successful events, and public patronage has been good at the various meetings, when the number of rival attractions are taken into consideration.

Enthusiasts usually attend in force the meetings held at Henning's Speedway, a mile and a quarter dirt track near the city, and also those at Muriwai, a fine ocean beach some 35 miles away from Auckland. Reliability trials held so

far have attracted comparatively few competitors, and it has been suggested that genuine private owners are chary of competing with "trade" drivers in specially prepared cars.

Motor racing organisations in New Zealand are keen to hold road events, but the official attitude makes this impossible. Only one road race for cars has been held in Auckland, permission being obtained to use some newly formed roads in an area that had been opened up for building. The event was a great success, but hopes that it

would become an annual fixture were dashed when the area became residential and use of the road was refused. Plans are in hand, however, for a road race of the round-the-houses type during the Auckland centenary celebrations in 1940.

New Zealand has only one modern racing car, a single-seater blown Austin Seven, but there are many older models and a variety of "specials" that turn out regularly in the hands of keen owners. The most consistent performer is a Riley Nine, that started life as an ordinary

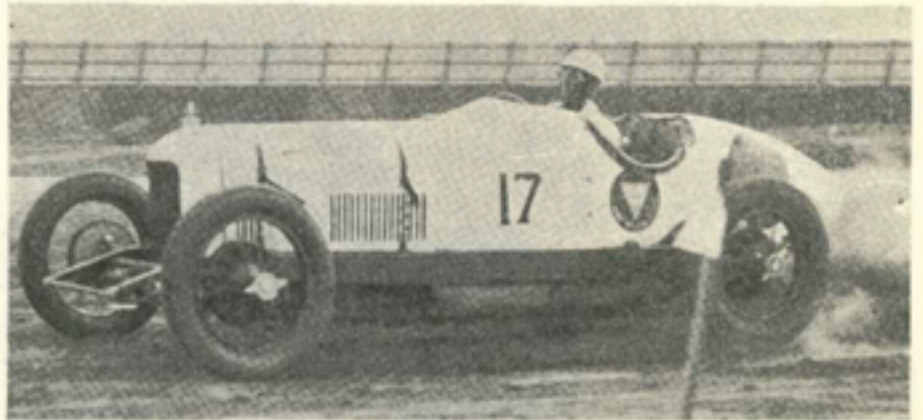
Brooklands model and has been modified until in appearance and performance it bears some resemblance to one of Freddie Dixon's cars. It is owned and driven by R. A. Dexter, junior. Among the other cars that appear regularly are several that were once well known in England. Foremost among these is an eight-cylinder Miller, once the property of the late Count Louis Zborowsky, and raced by him



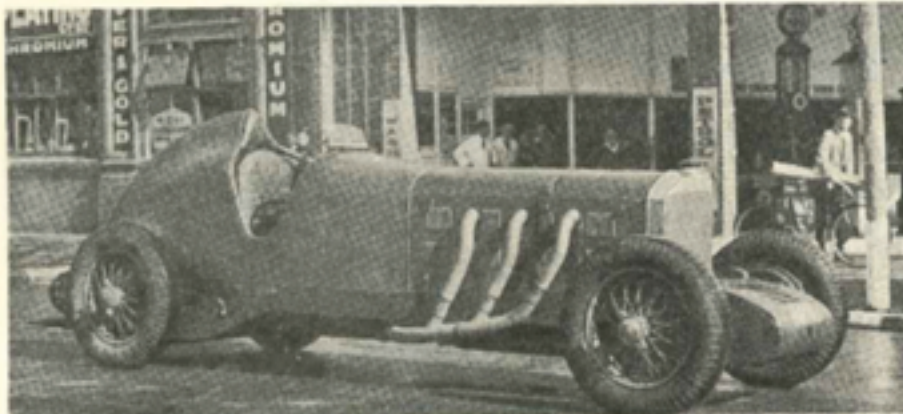
One of Auckland's fast "midget" cars

and Sammy Davis of *The Autocar*. Now about 13 years old, the Miller is in the hands of a driver who is also a clever mechanic, G. Mathieson, and he has carried out modifications to the lubrication system that enable the old car to top the 100 mark on the beach with ease.

A 1½-litre machine, designed by the late J. G. Parry Thomas, is another veteran in use in Auckland. An aviation mechanic, A. F. McGruer, is racing the old



A veteran of New Zealand racing—an old-time Miller, once the property of the late Count Louis Zborowsky



The S.S.K. series Mercedes-Benz, raced in New Zealand by Lieut. R. H. A. Kidston, brother of the late Glen Kidston, of Bentley fame

Thomas Special this season, and hopes to overcome the troubles that have been associated with the machine since it first appeared in New Zealand many years ago.

More modern is a Riley Nine with which Mrs. Wisdom and Miss Joan Richmond were so

successful at Brooklands. The car was taken to Australia, where it won the Australian Grand Prix, before being sent on to New Zealand for exhibition. A young driver, W. Galpin, with no previous experience of racing, bought the Riley and has done well in several starts.

An S.S.K. Mercedes-Benz was brought to New Zealand some

time ago by a naval officer, Lieutenant R. H. A. Kidston, a brother of the late Glen Kidston, of Bentley fame. A locally-built single-seater body was fitted, and the Mercedes won the New Zealand beach championship last year without ever being fully extended.

Most of the other cars at present racing in Auckland are of the home-made type. There are several good performers among them, however, and one or two have attracted favourable comment by reason of their clever design. Locally-built midget cars have also made their appearance, and it is planned to use them on a quarter-mile cinder track, and also in special events at Mangere Speedway, a mile and a quarter earth circuit.

