

## Lightning strikes the Festival of Speed! Disney and Pixar's Cars legendary racer Lightning McQueen at Goodwood Festival of Speed presented by Mastercard

- Seven-time Piston Cup winner to attend Goodwood Festival of Speed.
- Festival of Speed presented by Mastercard takes place Thursday 9 – Sunday 12.
- Thursday and limited Sunday tickets remain at [goodwood.com](http://goodwood.com).

This July, celebrated seven-time Piston Cup Champion Lightning McQueen will make an appearance at the Goodwood Festival of Speed presented by Mastercard.

First bursting onto the professional racing scene as a hot shot rookie racer, Lightning McQueen quickly rose to prominence under the mentorship of the legendary, three-time Piston Cup Champion, Doc Hudson - known to many as the Fabulous Hudson Hornet. McQueen's early career was defined by blistering pace and an uncompromising drive to win, establishing him as one of the most respected figures in the Piston Cup. Today, he is admired not only for his multiple victories, but also for his sportsmanship, leadership and lasting impact on the sport.

In 2011, McQueen - then a four-time Piston Cup Champion - entered the inaugural World Grand Prix alongside an elite international field including Francesco Bernoulli, Jeff Gorvette, Lewis Hamilton (now Sir), Max Schnell, Miguel Camino, Raoul ÇaRoule, Carla Veloso, Nigel Gearsley, Rip Clutchgoneski and Shu Todoroki. The season was defined by his rivalry with Bernoulli and, after finishing second in Tokyo, McQueen struck back in Italy, taking victory and setting up a dramatic title decider in London. However, following a series of incidents across the championship, the London Grand Prix was suspended, leaving McQueen and Bernoulli tied on points.

Returning home after the World Grand Prix, McQueen went on to secure a further three Piston Cup titles, placing him level with Strip Weathers, aka 'The King' for the most championship wins.

In 2017, McQueen returned to the spotlight for a competitive outing at the Florida 500. In a defining moment, he handed his iconic No. 95 to Rust-eze racing technician and aspiring racer Cruz Ramirez, who went on to claim her first victory under his guidance. Following in the footsteps of Doc Hudson, McQueen moved into mentorship role for Ramirez, yet has remained active in the racing world.

McQueen's career is a testament to extraordinary talent, resilience and evolution - a journey from ambitious rookie to one of the most decorated champions in racing history. Guided by Doc Hudson's wisdom, he honed raw speed into a legacy that not only includes seven Piston Cup titles and international acclaim, but an unwavering commitment to the next generation of racers.

**Lightning McQueen** said: "I couldn't be more fired up to head to the Goodwood Festival of Speed this July. It's one of the most legendary celebrations of racing anywhere in the world, and I'm honoured to be part of it. I can't wait to meet the fans, feel the energy and soak up the atmosphere. See you at Goodwood! Ka-chow!"

**The Duke of Richmond, CBE DL, founder of the Festival of Speed**, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Lightning McQueen will attend this year's Festival of Speed, bringing an extra spark of excitement to the event. The team here at Goodwood has been working hard behind the scenes for a

number of years to make this happen, and we're delighted that Lightning's schedule allows for him to finally join us. It's set to be a truly special moment for motorsport fans of all ages."

-ENDS-

#### Notes to Editors:

Festival of Speed presented by Mastercard will take place Thursday 9 - Sunday 12 July 2026.

#### Tickets

Thursday and limited Sunday tickets can be purchased at [goodwood.com](https://www.goodwood.com) or by calling the Ticket Office on +44 (0)1243 755055.

#### Hospitality

As well as tickets, Goodwood's unrivalled hospitality packages are also now available to book for the 2026 Festival of Speed. Whether customers are looking for a great day out with friends, entertaining clients or celebrating something special, Goodwood's hospitality provides the ultimate setting to enjoy the event. Email [hospitality@goodwood.com](mailto:hospitality@goodwood.com) or call +44 (0)1243 755054.

\*\*\*

#### Contact

For more information about Goodwood's motorsport events, please contact Katharine Morgan, PR Manager: [Katharine.Morgan@goodwood.com](mailto:Katharine.Morgan@goodwood.com)

For all other press enquiries please contact: [media@goodwood.com](mailto:media@goodwood.com)

Imagery and news from Goodwood are available from our [Press & Media site](#).

Stay up to date with all future announcements and on-event action across our social channels:

[X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

\*\*\*

#### About the Festival of Speed presented by Mastercard

First staged in 1993, the Goodwood Festival of Speed presented by Mastercard is the world's largest automotive garden party; set against the spectacular backdrop of Goodwood House in West Sussex, UK. Over 600 cars and motorcycles spanning the phenomenal history of motoring and motorsport take part along with legendary figures from the automotive world. Highlights include Future Lab presented by Radox, Forest Rally Stage presented by Subaru, Supercar Paddock, Supercar Run, F1 Pit Lane, Drivers' Club, GAS Arena and Cartier Style et Luxe Concours d'Elegance.

\*\*\*

#### About Mastercard

Mastercard powers economies and empowers people in 200+ countries and territories worldwide. Together with our customers, we're building a sustainable economy where everyone can prosper. We support a wide range of digital payments choices, making transactions secure, simple, smart and

accessible. Our technology and innovation, partnerships and networks combine to deliver a unique set of products and services that help people, businesses and governments realize their greatest potential.

[www.mastercard.com](http://www.mastercard.com)

\*\*\*

### **About Cars 20th Anniversary**

20 years ago a hotshot, rookie race car took an unexpected detour on a forgotten stretch of Route 66, landing himself in the sleepy town of Radiator Springs. In that small but loyal community, Lightning McQueen would learn more about friendship, dedication, and teamwork than his previous life in the fast lane could ever have taught him. Two decades after Disney and Pixar's Cars premiered, the fans' love for McQueen, Mater, Sally, Doc Hudson and the rest of the Radiator Springs crew, races on.

Fans of all ages have embraced the fun, friendship & fast-paced adventures of Cars through numerous films, Cars Land at Disney's California Adventure, dynamic product lines, books, games, and many themed experiences. The world of Cars has also spawned numerous shorts and series, with much more to be discovered down the road!

Join the milestone celebration as we hit the road for Car's 20th anniversary and rediscover that life is really about the journey, not the finish line. Disney and Pixar's Cars now streaming on Disney+

### **Contact**

For more information about Car's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Pixar Press Contact: Chris Wiggum [cwiggum@pixar.com](mailto:cwiggum@pixar.com)

Disney UK Press Office: [Disney.UK.Press.Office@disney.com](mailto:Disney.UK.Press.Office@disney.com)