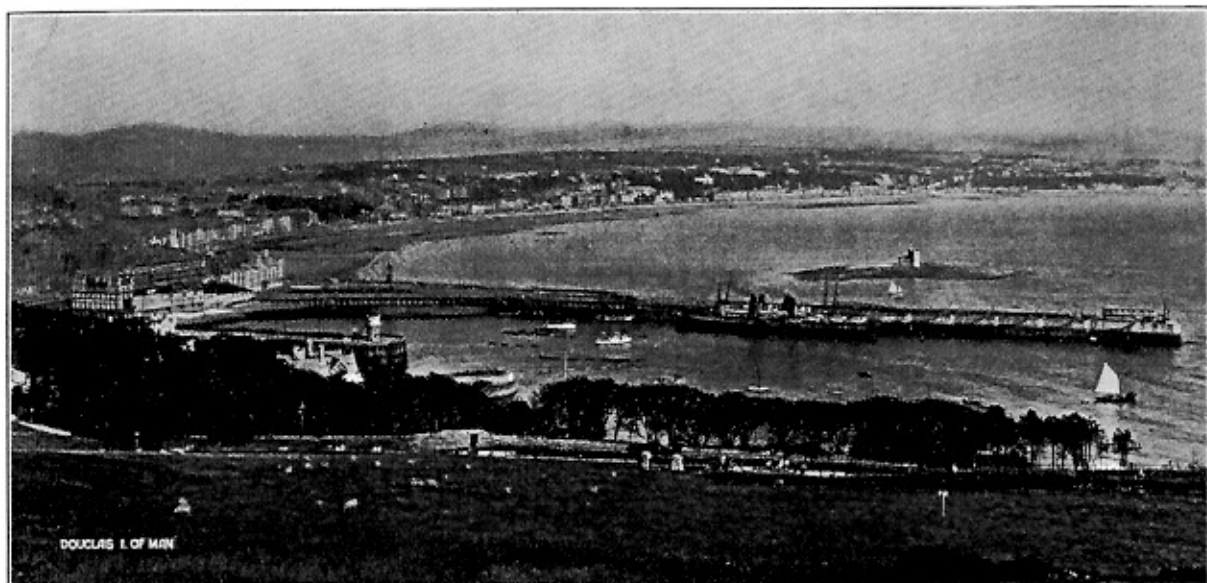


# MANNIN BEG

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Road Racing in Great Britain at last!

M.G.'s BIG PART IN A NEW CLASSIC



DOUGLAS I. OF MAN

THAT races for light cars should be held next summer over the famous motor-cycle T.T. course in the Isle of Man, is the suggestion of Mr. Cecil Kimber, Managing Director of the M.G. Car Company. In effect these would replace the Irish Grand Prix Races which have been cancelled this year. Three races without handicap, including one for baby cars, are suggested."

In January, 1932, the foregoing news item appeared in many daily papers. It created no small stir amongst motor racing folk who had become somewhat depressed at the abandonment of one of the few road races which are held in the British Isles—the Irish Grand Prix.

The last car races were held in the Isle of Man about ten years ago. Since then the roads have been vastly improved and the Isle of Man itself has become more and more race-conscious. Mr. Kimber's suggestion did not fall on stony ground. The Manx Government was approached

and was found to be enthusiastically in favour of Isle of Man car races. The R.A.C. was non-committal; it would run a race if approached from a trade source, but had no intention of organising one on its own initiative.

For once the daily Press did not allow the item of the moment to pass forgotten into the files as soon as it was published. Several of the motoring correspondents kept Mr. Kimber's suggestion in mind, and when they foregathered in Douglas for the motor-cycle T.T. races in June, 1932, it was not only with the intention of reporting the motor-cycle event, but also to "prospect" for a car course and to sound Manx feelings on the matter.

It was generally agreed that the T.T. course was not altogether suitable, the mountain section being too narrow to allow for passing at speed with any degree of safety. A course around Castletown was inspected and another in the north of the Island, around Ramsey and the

Point of Ayre. Both would have made excellent spectacles, but there came a brilliant suggestion from T. H. Wisdom of the *Daily Herald*. Why not utilise the streets of Douglas itself and turn the projected races into a replica of the famous Monaco Grand Prix?

The suggestion was immediately taken up on all sides and amateur course-planners round Douglas and environs began mapping out the twists and turns, the straights and the hills of this popular Island resort.

In point of fact the car course does not actually touch the T.T. circuit at all, for the two-wheelers make a detour round the Governor's Bridge hairpin and dip down into a loop road which the car circuit avoids by keeping on the straight road and going direct to Onchan. With a big town like Douglas to play with, the variations and the possibilities for a race course are tremendous, and it is not surprising that the suggestions were many.

Only in one respect did they