



10 years ago (12/11/81)

KEKE ROSBERG became a clear favourite to sign for the Williams team, as he carried out back to back tests at Paul Ricard between the new six-wheeled FW07D and the regular FW07C. The conventional car was a second quicker in the Finn's hands, Keke setting the best ever non-sliding skirt time.

Also impressive in an F1 car was Jonathan Palmer, the British F3 champ testing a McLaren at Silverstone and setting a time quicker than either Watson or de Cesaris had managed for British GP qualifying! Palmer's week wasn't all plain sailing as he then pranged his Ralt RT3 at Goodwood.

With Palmer out of the fray, Dave Scott took complete command of the televised F3 race at Thruxton, with FF Festival winner Tommy Byrne impressing by finishing an excellent second ahead of the equally notable Dave Coyne's Anson. The support races saw wins for Tim Davies (above) in the FF2000s and Karl Jones in a thrilling final round of the Star of Tomorrow FF1600s. David Hunt and Mark Peters followed the Welshman home, but Phil Kempe took the title.

In those days our Grand Prix review came out fairly early, and this year's driver rating featured deposed World Champion Alan Jones on top from Gilles Villeneuve and new title holder Nelson Piquet. Amazingly, Carlos Reutemann was placed only seventh, despite comfortably outscoring his Williams team-mate Jones and so nearly taking the crown. In a year in which Mansell and Alboreto came onto the GP scene, Eliseo Salazar was regarded as best newcomer...