

Mike Jenvey – News letter

22nd March 2010



March 09/R – 1st tests

It is rare for an amateur to be appointed as a ‘development driver’, so I was delighted to accept Alan Hudd’s offer of taking on the development driver role of the new March 09/R (pictured above) driving for March Racing Academy.

The car has evolved from Alan Hudd’s dream of recreating the March 75s Le Mans prototype of the 1970’s. The design has been generated from the body and shape of the 75S and brought up to date with wind tunnel optimisation, sophisticated set up and suspension computer modelling to ensure it is a competitive modern sports car. Initially the car has been aimed at the Sports 2000 Duratec championship but with ambitions to take it to other series in the near future.

The car was launched at the Autosport Racing car show on the 15th January. The first test and my first drive of the car took place at Silverstone on the 8th March.

Initial impressions were very positive. I was amazed to be able to complete fast laps so early in development. From lap one the car was easy to drive with no major negative handling traits and inspiring enough confidence to push hard. The engine felt very strong and the gearbox felt superb. The only problem was a noisy headrest vibrating in my ear – soon solved with some gaffa tape!

The day was not about lap times but sub 1min around Silverstone national is a very good start and was done with very spongy brakes and long gearing. We do admit to using new tyres.

As with all newly designed cars there is significant development required in order to achieve its full potential, but that is where I come in! And, I am pleased to say, it is proving very enjoyable working with Kieron (KW Motorsport – designer) and John (March Racing Academy).

The 2nd test at Brands Hatch on the 16th of March and we were able to do some longer runs. This highlighted a number of powertrain installation issues, all of which are easily fixable. The times we were putting in at Brands puts us as the leading current manufacturer when comparing times from the last round of 2009. But they will have moved on and we still have to close the gap to the front runners.

I am confident that come the first race in April we will be mixing it at the front.

Updates:

- I am very excited that One Fuel is sponsoring my championship campaign in the March. One fuel Ltd of Bridgnorth are UK distributors for Shell Racing Solutions products and are supplying me with fuel, oil and other fluids.
- Positive press keeps rolling in. I have now created links to the best press articles on the website – www.mikejenvey.co.uk
- I am actively seeking a Britcar 24 hour drive (and the finance required to do it)
- I am very fortunate to have Ade Davies at Chris Jewkes Fitness in Wolverhampton helping me with my personal fitness.



Launched at the 2010 Autosport show