

Media release



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Chevron GR8 passes second testing milestone



The Chevron GR8 has been successfully tested for the first time with bodywork in place. Although development testing commenced towards the end of February, previously the car had only run in naked chassis form.

In the hands of former British F3 racer, Chevron engineer and in-house test driver Martin O'Connell, the first test of the Chevron GR8 complete with full bodywork was held at the Anglesey Circuit on Friday 19 March. In cool but dry conditions, the Cosworth 2.0 litre YD powered mid-engined competition coupe covered over 100 miles, equivalent to three Chevron GR8 Challenge Series race distances.

Altogether, the development programme has now clocked the equivalent to ten Chevron GR8 Challenge Series races.

Previous testing proved the integration of the engine, Hewland gearbox and Cosworth electronics package, together with basic chassis dynamics. For the Anglesey session the car incorporated some suspension system adjustments. The prime objectives of the outing were to assess alternative setups, fine tune and amass data.

The next phases of testing will focus on tyres and aerodynamic refinement.

Chevron Racing Cars director Helen Bashford-Malkie states:

"Martin O'Connell was able to put together some exceedingly quick lap times. We are extremely encouraged by the results.

“When design got under way in earnest early last October, we knew the programme was tight and allowed little or no slack. It was therefore very reassuring to have the development car running complete with bodywork on schedule.

“We are making excellent progress. Engine and transmission performance is spot-on. Now that we have passed the next testing milestone, the benchmarks are all in place for tyre testing and maximising aerodynamic efficiency.

“Our engineering team and suppliers have been absolutely fantastic. Thanks to their efforts, the first new Chevron coupe for forty years has finally out on the track.

“Customers who have already placed orders for Chevron GR8 Challenge Series cars – and drivers and teams interested in doing so – are obviously keen to get behind the wheel. Opportunities for private testing are imminent.

“The production line is up to speed. Seven chassis are ready for bodywork and others are close to completion ready for wiring looms. We are on target for the opening Chevron GR8 Challenge Series event at Silverstone on May 8/9.”

Even before the car turned a wheel, Chevron Racing Cars had received orders for seven Chevron GR8s. The total includes a car for this year’s Britcar championship. In addition, the organisers of the British GT, GT Cup and V de V championships are inviting Chevron GR8 entries. Which class the Chevron GR8 will qualify for in the various championships will be determined during the testing.

Accompanying images show the Chevron GR8 works development car photographed during its initial test session at the Anglesey Circuit on 19 March 2010. Testing is in the hands of former F3 racer and Chevron engineer and test driver Martin O’Connell

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