

Profile of Tim Exeter (latest driver to start competing in a TVR)

Having acquired the 390SE from TVR and smartened her up, now in resplendent bright green, some would say Benetton Green, others like the lads from TVR call it Kermit!!

Castle Coombe was my first drive in the car, in the Road-going Sports Car Series...

Arriving around 4pm on the Friday afternoon, I went out for a few laps to explore the car and the track. I soon noticed a strong smell of fuel and looked over to the passenger footwell which was swimming in petrol. Before I could get back to the paddock to investigate, I hit a large bump (one of many at Coombe) and the petrol decided to part company with the footwell and head straight into my left eye. It was about this time that I started wondering what the hell am I doing driving a strange car around a strange track in the pissing rain with only one eye!

On inspection it was decided to leave it until the following morning to sort it out, and so I retired to the bar...

Saturday – Race Day. Fortunately by racetime the sun was shining and I was more than a little relieved by that.

Chris Schirle in charge of the works 420SEAC tells me for the start I need quote “5,000rpm, drop the clutch and you will leave those cars in front of you standing no problem”...

The race..

Red lights – 5,000rpm..

Greenlights – clutch dropped as per instructions..

Hang on a minute! Those cars in front are not doing their part right (being passed by me). Instead I am being passed by the cars behind. The problem I now realise is that I am suffering from a bad case of wheel spin. So while trying to rectify this I glanced up to see how Steve Cole was doing. There must be something about these TVR's because he was doing the same thing, (clouds of smoke pouring out of the rear tyres). By now I am down from 8th to about 12th place. For the next six or seven laps I enjoy some fabulous door to door racing, and eventually work back up to 8th, finishing a car length behind a Lotus Elan.

Andy Clarke in a 3000S finishing a couple of places behind. Steve Cole easily won the race. A very enjoyable day's racing...My next race was at Oulton Park and was again a strange track. I was 5th of the grid. Once again wheel spin down to 8th. First time into the hairpin, I am third in a line of three, all three locked up, all three sideways round the hairpin. This is really great stuff.

Then the Elan that beat me at Coombe tried to go round the outside of me at the very tricky Old Hall bend, so I did an Ayrton Senna and the Elan went into lawnmower mode cutting the grass on the outside beautifully.

Eventually I worked my way past a couple and set off after Jeff Yorks 911 which was in second place. Unfortunately I couldn't catch him but I was very pleased with third place...

The racing is terrific and it's nice to see TVRs old and new with Andy Clarke driving his David Gerald sponsored 3000S.

Come along and support us. We'd love to see you... I would just like to thank the TVR crew for their help. Many thanks Chris, Dave, Nick and John.

After seeing the excellent grids the Porsche and Ferrari races attract, I wonder if the TVR owners would like to indulge?

If there were enough we could run our own series. If anyone is interested they can contact Tim on 021 384 8565 or myself. Phone numbers inside front cover...

Thanks must be said to Tim for taking the time to write this profile on his start in racing his TIV. I pestered him at Oulton Park and two days later I had the report on my desk. Good luck to him for the rest of the season, and let's see a few more of you coming along to support these drivers. Three TIVs in one race. What more could you ask for other than a full grid of TVRs? I can't think of anything, can you?

Best Regards,
Martin Shaw.

