



Bentley veteran Turner gave his hitherto unused Ford GT40 an outing at Donington Park. Copies of *MN* have now been removed

40-year-old GT40 makes maiden run

'New' sports-racer emerges decades after manufacture

By Paul Lawrence

A 1969 Ford GT40 turned a wheel for the very first time at Donington Park last Thursday when Jonathan Turner drove chassis 1085 during the Masters test day.

Built 40 years ago, the bare shell had been stored in the USA and never used until Turner acquired the car and had it

completed by Ian Jones at Racing Fabrications.

"It sat in a crate as a chassis and complete set of parts for 40 years," said Turner, who more normally races vintage Bentleys. He plans to contest the regularity section of Tour Auto and may race this unique car in the summer.

Fabricated in March 1969, chassis 1085 was the last GT40 to be numbered. It was shipped to

the US for Gil Jackson, who had already bought the ex-Alan Mann car, number 1009. Chassis 1085, one of just 105 GT40s built, was bought by Jackson as a spare but was never used. It has been well known by GT40 experts for many years and was acquired by Turner in 2007 and shipped to the UK.

"This is a real *Indiana Jones* story," said Turner of the remarkable find. "I have always

wanted one of these and it's just unbelievable to get this one. It has to be the most original GT40 in the world. Ian has done a brilliant job of building the car; just about everything is totally original."

When Jones went to Boston to see the car, he found that rolled-up copies of *Motoring News* from 1969 had been used to protect the eight engine trumpets.