

LIKE THE GT40, THE CAV GT IS BUILT ON TEAM EFFORT

“When people talk about the GT40 story, they often forget it’s about the human effort, the people that made it possible.”

If anyone should understand this, it is Brian Lewis. In 1964, then a young mechanic, Lewis began work on the GT40 project at Ford Advanced Vehicles in Slough, England.

The nucleus of people brought into the development and racing of the GT40 had a formidable track record at Aston Martin together with the collaboration of Eric Broadley, whose mid-engine Lola GT would become the prototype for Ford’s racing car.

Reflecting on the experience 42 years later in Cape Town, Lewis emphasizes the human element, “Back then, it took time and effort to build a car that had to last the pace of a 24 hour endurance race. Not like today, where a car that crosses the finish line will have different components to the one that started.”

It is this attention to detail brought about through hard work and long hours that Lewis recognizes in the manufacture of the CAV GTs, quality recreations of the GT40. Owners of Auto Futura, the company manufacturing the cars, are Jean Fourie and John Spence.

Arguably as passionate about their product as the original manufacturing team in Slough were, the pair have ploughed time and energy into research and development.

Says Lewis, “These guys are building a GT40 as it should have been done in 1964”. With the benefit of groundbreaking innovation back in the 1960s, and forty years of technology that followed, the team behind the CAV GT pay tribute to the legend that has inspired a new generation of road and race car versions.

Matching Ford’s original output, the company is currently producing chassis number 133. The one hundred and thirty-two cars that came before have been exported to buyers in San Diego, New York, Toronto, London, Germany, Australia and across the African continent.

Their international reputation has also earned their cars a place at Le Mans in 2006 and 2007. Supplied as the pace car for the historic support races, a CAV GT was driven at Le Mans in June 2006 by Sir Stirling Moss, who described it as a car with “a lot of stick”.

