Rare pre-production RV8

The first RV8 Adder, which was effectively the first pre-production RV8 with the vehicle identity number "**900000**" and build reference "**ADD VAL03**", is coming up for sale at a Classic Car Auctions auction on 24th September 2022. It was the first recognisable RV8 finished in the bold Flame Red colour and still has its original registration "K638 WOK". The proud owner is Peter O'Hare who bought the car from Richard Higgins in 2006.

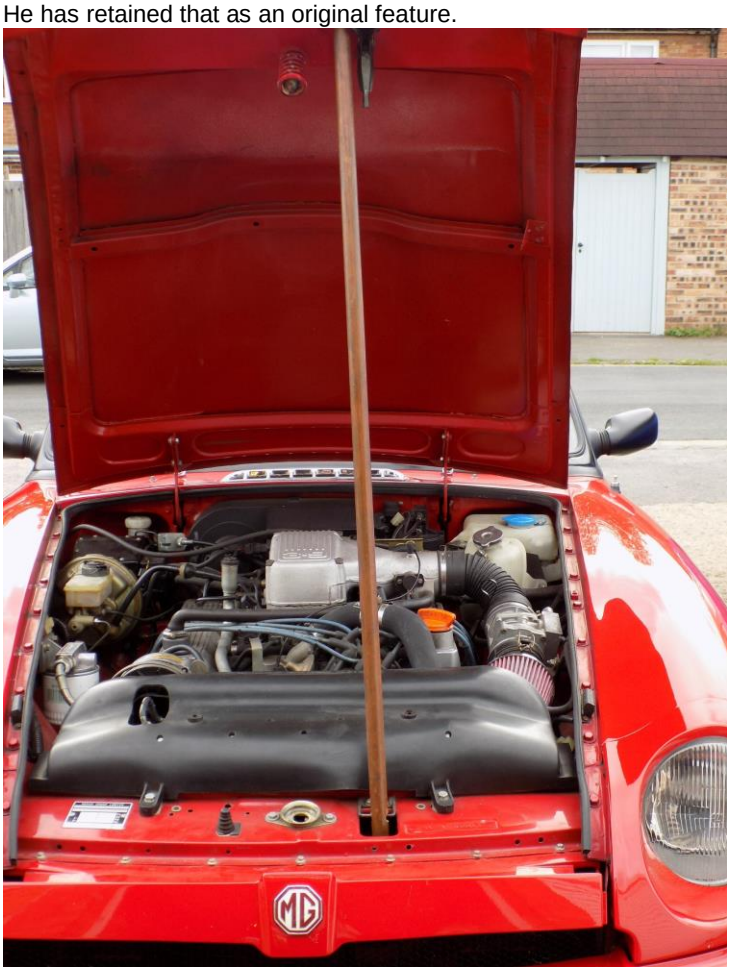
Pre-production role

At first glance it looks like a production RV8 but a closer examination reveals a number of differences from its pre-production role when it was used as a validation spec test vehicle for performance tests and hood safety catch security tests at high speed. The side cills of the body kit are GRP rather than the "RIM" (reaction injection moulding) plastic of the production parts made the German company Zender. Peter has replaced the GRP bumpers with production items but has kept the originals. The bonnet and boot latches were still MGB specification and there was no bonnet stay

Original GRP bumpers were replaced by production items

Other prototype features include Rover Mini windscreen washer jets and a normal, plain Rover plenum chamber instead of the special MG one which was developed at a fairly late stage in pre-production. The spare wheel also sits proud of the boot floor, unlike the production RV8s, where the pressings were changed to allow the larger wheel and tyre used on the RV8 to sit lower and free up much needed more luggage space. The trim inside is not original but taken from the discarded interior of the "so-called Frankfurt show car" because later in the production period "900000" was used by the team styling and creating the Krafthaus hardtop.

Peter says people are often surprised when he opens the bonnet at shows and produces an old broom handle as the bonnet stay! He has retained that as an original feature.



RV8 on display at the Cowley Centre

Body number for "900000"