

A LEGEND REMEMBERED

By Jim Mc Cauley



In the late 1960s Toyota wanted to highlight their 2000GT model for the North American market. With a successful run of domestic sporting successes behind them, they approached American racing legend Carroll Shelby to manage two of their cars in the production class of the SCCA (Sport Car Club of America) Series. A third car was retained as a spare and used for development work.

Track preparation focused on tyres, suspension and a new cylinder head with the car eventually pushing out around 200bhp from its in-line straight-six. Drivers for the series were Scooter

Patrick and Dave Jordan who faced stiff opposition from the dominant Porsche 911s.

Despite being down on power compared to the 911s, Patrick and Jordan still won a number of races. However, a Porsche eventually took the overall title with Patrick and Jordan finishing the series in second and third places respectively.

To pay tribute to the victory, Toyota has recreated a GT86 in the image of the American racers of nearly 50 years ago. The Shelby tribute car is finished in the colours and graphics of the 2000GT and like the original sits on lowered suspension and Rota Retro 2 raw finish alloy wheels. The car also benefits from a remapped engine management system and throaty Miltek Sport stainless steel exhaust system. Like the straight-six 2000GT, the GT86 produces around 200bhp from its low slung flat-four boxer engine. See driving impressions of the Shelby GT86 in the Road Test section.

