

## A Pocket Rocket Courtesy of Honda

by Ian Lynas

My first encounter with the new Honda Civic Type R came courtesy of the SMMT Test Day at Wetherby Racecourse, a very different form of horse power.

However on this occasion not a horse in sight, but the venue was enjoying a set up for a dog show, what an amazing world we live in - variety is certainly the spice of life.



Returning to the task in question, the latest Civic for the fast lane is a profile of sharp, aggressive angles, it makes the current Civics competing in the British Touring Car Championship look positively domestic.

So need lees to say the new Type R would very content in a motor sport environment. The Wetherby venue is simply a base where you can select from a variety of cars from various manufacturers.

Therefore driving is on normal roads with no track availability; after all even with such a car driving is going to be on everyday roads.

The minute I stepped into the new Honda, it shouted sporty to me with a capital "S". Once in the hip hugging bucket seat a seatbelt in splendid red adds that feel of security. Somehow we associate the colour red with speed and this car has it aplenty.

This is not a mode of transport for the faint hearted, it is for the out and out enthusiast, a person who enjoys the thrills that driving can deliver.

Comfort levels are pretty low, with a suspension like cement you feel every bump in the road and we have those in abundance in Northern Ireland.

When it comes to motoring audio, no disappointment in this department, press on the go pedal and you are greeted by a roar and acceleration that pushes your back firmly into the seat.

Allied to the impressive engine, which can not be said of Honda's current effort in F1, is a very



slick gear change, which I have always found to be one of the joys of driving a car from this Japanese brand.

Alas the SMMT event permits very restrictive driving time, so at some future date I would appreciate a lot more behind the wheel time.

A very performance geared package from Honda, a car with limited appeal but one that you have to try, I certainly enjoyed my all too brief spell.

The truth is this British built Honda with its potent two litre VTEC 320bhp my choice? The answer is no, I like my comforts but I know many who would go hungry to drive this car.

driven September 2017

