

A HALT FOR IRISH PETROL-HEADS

TO ILL



READY FOR THE OFF: Our Geraldine is strapped in and is rarin' to get going



Voltaire Diamonds.

But, while the sparklers may be forever, my dazzling turn in the car only lasted a few minutes - I had a few more supercars to drive.

Top of my list was the Westfield, a home-made roadster based on a 1967 Lotus. This retro race-car was total fun to drive. Hugging the ground, with a tiny steering wheel and teenier gear-stick, I realised that size did not matter at all.

To get in, I had to climb down into the tiny cockpit and strap myself into a full-harness.

Owner Ben Teeling from Clontarf, Dublin, navigated for me - a wise decision, given that he had made the car himself with the help of mate Derek Graydon.

Having built it from scratch with parts bought in England, he didn't want to see it in pieces on the gravel.

The cool convertible has a clip-on roof for rainy days but Ben admitted: "It flies off when you go above 40mph!"

So it was just as well we hadn't put it on - we were travelling



SPEED: Jeremy Clarkson

at speeds of up to 140 mph.

He added the quirky car earns him "some funny looks" when he pulls in for petrol.

Ben also gave me a few fast laps in his souped-up Honda S-2000 which has a real old-school sportscar look and feel and is nearly as hot as his home-made car.

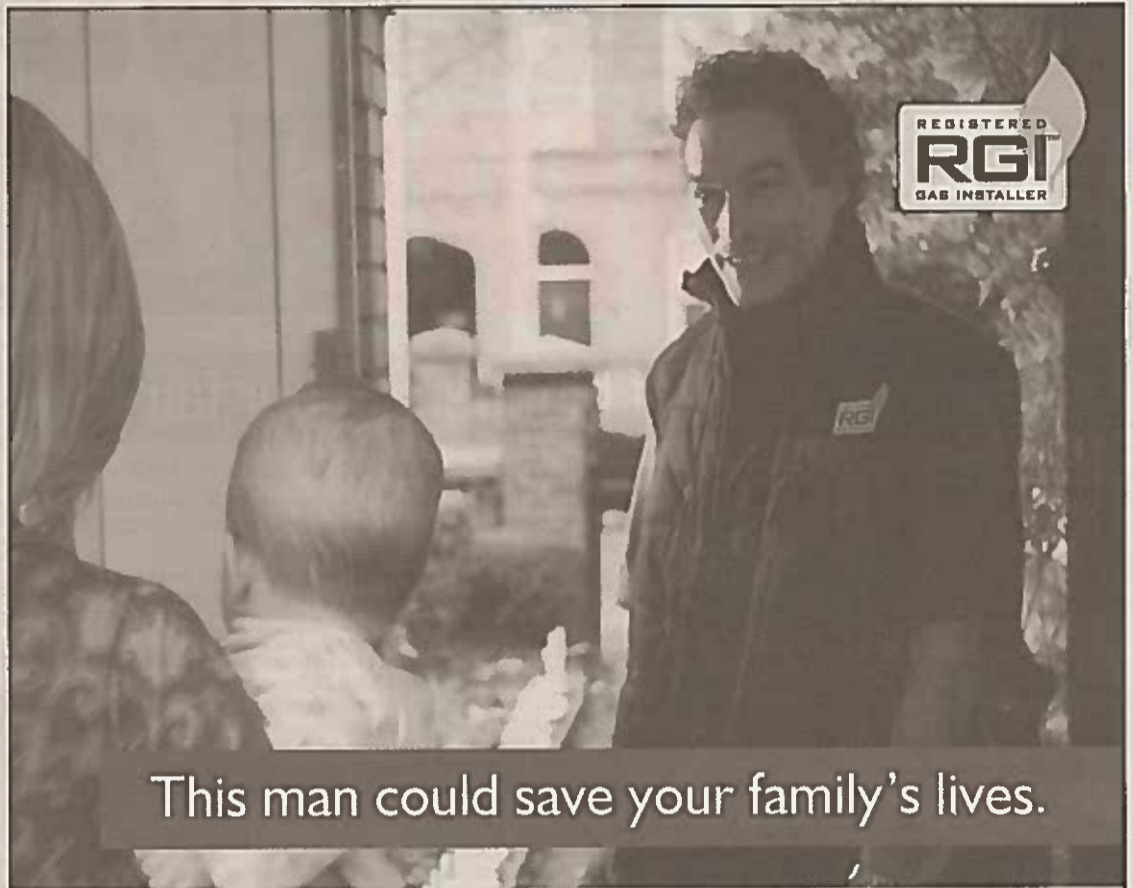
As I climbed out, 2FM DJ Nikki Hayes arrived for her own stint on the track.

Supercar

Meanwhile *Sunday World* snapper Ciaran McGowan showed us all who's boss as he made one of the Mondello safety cars, a Mazda 3, behave like a supercar.

Mondello boss John Morris is hoping Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond, James May or the Stig will visit the track during their one-week stay. Clarkson last drove Mondello 15 years ago, he revealed.

All too soon, my car-azy day was over. Anyway, the lads were running out of petrol - and had to send out for more so they could drive home!



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