

STOCK CAR BUILT BY LOCAL MEN IS PUT THROUGH ITS TESTS

Four Accrington men using spare parts and their own materials have built themselves a stock car, which they plan to enter in stock car races in the coming season.

They tested the car on Saturday afternoon on Southport sands, and were well satisfied with the results.

The four are Mr John Hickey, 163 Whalley-road, in whose name the car will be licensed Mr Gordon Popplewell, 81 Haywood-road, Mr Edward Fish, 48 Marlborough-road and Mr Arthur Holgate, 3 Royds-street.

The car has been built in Mr Popplewell's workshop at the end of Marlborough-road.

A few years ago Mr Popplewell made himself an auto-gyro or one man helicopter. This proved a success and he flew in it many times at RAF aerodromes. More or less the same team helped to build the helicopter. Subsequently he sold the machine.

VISITS

Now Mr Popplewell, along with the others, has turned his attention to stock car racing and they have been visiting Nelson, Belle Vue, Coventry, Nottingham, Birmingham and Aycliffe, County Durham.

Since the racing season finished at the end of October



they have spent most evenings and nearly every weekend building their own stock car to race next season.

Mr Hickey said this weekend: "The car has cost about £200 for materials. To have obtained one new would have cost much more than that. In fact you can go to about a thousand pounds for one, although sometimes you can get a secondhand one for about £100.

"The machine has an American Ford Mercury engine 6.25

litres. It is a V8 whereas most British Fords are V4 or V6. The engine was bought from one of the top stock car drivers in Staffordshire.

"The axles are from a Morris Commercial 30 cwt van. There are 15 inch diameter wheels which the party have made for themselves. The body was originally a four seater which has been cut down to a one seater."

Mr Hickey is hoping to drive the car himself in stock car

races. He is in business as a joiner and builder, while Mr Fish is in business as a painter and decorator. Mr Popplewell and Mr Holgate are in engineering.

All four are looking forward to the next stock car racing season with greater interest than ever. They are looking forward to the thrill of having built their own "racehorse."

(Picture: Garth Dawson)