

M I D D L E B R I D G E



L I M I T E D

NEWS RELEASE

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SCIMITAR GTE CAR COMES OF AGE

New version on show at Motorfair

The 21st birthday of the Scimitar GTE is being celebrated at the London Motorfair with the first major appearance of a new version of the famous touring sports car. Originally launched at the British Motorshow in 1968, it has been revitalised by the classic car and racing company, Middlebridge.

Middlebridge acquired the manufacturing rights and all tooling for the GTE and the convertible GTC version in 1987.

Handbuilt at the Middlebridge Scimitar plant in Beeston, Nottingham - at a current rate of 300 cars per year - the new GTE retains the classic Ogle sports estate design, by Tom Karen. However, Middlebridge has utilised its expertise in engineering and restoring to incorporate numerous modifications.

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A MEMBER OF THE MIDDLEBRIDGE GROUP OF COMPANIES

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The Middlebridge Scimitar GTE is powered by the Ford 2.9 litre fuel injected Scorpio engine, developing 150 bhp. It has a five speed manual gearbox with a four speed automatic unit available as an optional extra. Top speed is 120 mph.

The road holding and stability of the car has been improved with modified front and rear shock absorbers and springs, and an anti roll bar is now fitted at the rear.

The GTE's renowned durability - with its glass fibre body - has been further strengthened. A stainless steel exhaust is included as standard, and there is improved galvanising to the chassis together with anti corrosion treatment on all steelwork in the body. Middlebridge's commitment to quality means that up to 100 hours are spent on each car preparing the bodywork.

Whilst the classic lines of the GTE - which once won a beautiful body competition - have been retained, Middlebridge has added new alloy wheels, redesigned rear light clusters and halogen headlamps. A wide range of paint finishes is offered including pearlescence and dual tone colour schemes.

The interior of the car is improved with a higher quality trim, head restraints and a four speaker radio/cassette. The fascia has been upgraded with glarefree instruments, and there are electric windows and heated door mirrors.

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The GTE is fitted with a twenty gallon fuel tank which can give the car a range of up to 600 miles (Middlebridge figures). The average touring consumption for the manual version is 30 mpg, and the auto 25 mpg (Middlebridge figures).

Priced at £24000 the Middlebridge Scimitar GTE is now available in the UK through a network of twenty four dealers.

Middlebridge says the GTE will undoubtedly appeal to both the executive looking for an estate car with sports car styling and the sports car enthusiast seeking scintillating performance.

The company is also marketing the car overseas and it intends to introduce a left hand version in the near future. There are plans to relaunch the convertible GTC model in 1990.

The Middlebridge Scimitar GTE can be seen on stand one, level one at the Earls Court Motorfair which is open from October 19 - 29.

Ends

Note to Editors

For further information on the Middlebridge Scimitar GTE and the Middlebridge company contact : Louise English (0602 484388) or Ian Tompkins (021 233 1734)