

Note 77



Cosworth's investment in a dynamometer

The size of financial risk, which Duckworth took in 1959 when company money was very scarce by borrowing £600 to buy a dynamometer so as to develop engines scientifically, can be judged by noting that each 1960 conversion of a Ford 105E engine for Formula Junior racing was sold for £145 (60), of which perhaps 10% at the most was profit after tax and before paying back the loan with interest. That is, approaching 50 conversions had to be sold before there was any cash surplus. However, the engine was so successful that 126 were supplied to Lotus in 1960 (60). The company's future was, therefore, ensured.