



*Having made several adjustments, Piquet lapped the RAM in 1m 9.8s.*

## Piquet's RAM March tests at Ricard

The RAM Automotive team stopped off at Paul Ricard on their way to Monaco for a morale-boosting test with Brabham's Nelson Piquet. "After two races of not qualifying, we wanted an

*Piquet — car well balanced.*



unbiased opinion about our car," said team boss John Macdonald, "and Bernie Ecclestone very kindly agreed to let Piquet drive the car. Obviously with pre-qualifying at Monaco very much on our minds we had to know if there was basically anything wrong with the car."

A naturally apprehensive Piquet did 27 laps in the RAM March, and although not extending himself lapped the short circuit in 1m 9.8s, and said he thought it felt just like his championship-winning Brabham BT49 Cosworth. Nigel Mansell and Michele Alboreto were testing their DFV-powered Lotus and Tyrrell at the same time and were only fractionally quicker on what was a very windy day, while Piquet did 1m 7.9s in his Brabham-BMW turbo. "Nelson said he thought the car was really quite good, well balanced and sensitive to change," said a very encouraged Macdonald. "At least we know now that the car is basically sound. If we can generate some money and get