

## New Golf Better Value than Ever

by Ian Lynas

ASKING around as to the priority when buying a new car, I discovered that value is more important than ever.

It is refreshing to see that Volkswagen is offering value with the arrival of the new Golf which is now in its seventh generation.

On seeing pictures of the new arrival, a few have expressed that it does not look any different. True but that is styling they are referring too. I can assure people that the

new Golf is different, in fact just about everything is new.

After all if Volkswagen was to change the exterior shape of the Golf to any great degree then in my book it would no longer be a Golf.

This car has become a motoring icon and it has simply got better, it is a case of evolution rather than revolution.

Recently I had the opportunity to take the wheel of a number of right hand drive models; months earlier I brought my first impressions of the newcomer, then the versions tried were all left hand drive.

The quest for value for money re purchase is accompanied by economy and the good news with this new Volkswagen, fuel economy is up by as much as 23%.

What I found interesting and which renewed my faith in the diesel engine is a test which I carried out with a colleague.

Taking the same route in similar driving conditions, speed etc. We tested a 1.4 TSI (petrol) version against the 2.0 TDI (diesel) and over the route the diesel delivered ten miles more per gallon.

This is certainly great news to us here in Northern Ireland as we are amongst the most devoted fans of the diesel engine.

Assisting in no small manner in delivering improved fuel economy is the fact that the new Golf is lighter than the outgoing model as much as 100kg.

Being light does not mean that the car is less safe, the new Golf is a very safe mode of transport with a raft of safety aids and systems, many of which are standard, hence the added value.

The good news continues the newcomer is larger and therefore more interior space and added comfort for all who travel in the new car.



Ease on the wallet continues with the news that insurance groups are lower than the outgoing car and therefore less to pay.

I did note that the entry level model to the Golf family is cheaper than the equivalent model in the outgoing range.

To date more than 29 million Golfs have been sold, few cars have such a sales history and there is no doubt that success will continue; many have grown up with the car and it has matured, yet through an excellent choice of variants new customers continually join the ranks.

With the new model trim levels are S, SE and GT and the good news for fast lane followers new GTi versions will arrive later this year; there is even talk of a very attractive coupe probably to be badged as CC, which will offer four doors, a rear hatch and a large boot.

Engine choices range from a 1.2 TSI, 1.4 TSI which are petrol to diesel engines of 1.6 and two litre capacity and the latter has a power increase to 150PS.

You can enter the world of the new Golf for £16,285 and that gets you a seat in the 1.2 TSI S while the most expensive model in the line up is the 2.0 GT TDI with a very complete package including a six speed DSG gearbox at £24,880.

