



eRabbit

The electronic publication for Club GTI
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Welcome

In this issue we look at the Caddy TDI Racer. Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles has demonstrated the track potential of both the Caddy and the TDI diesel engine, by creating an extreme version of the popular van.

CADDY TDI RACER



The Caddy TDI Racer, created with the help of Volkswagen Racing, made history as the first diesel van to be raced at a UK competitive race meeting.

This one-off project was undertaken as a technical exercise with a view to illustrating how the award winning Caddy van could be adapted to meet the rigours of modern motor racing.

Taking a standard Caddy TDI, engineers modified the 1896 cc 90bhp TDI unit to produce 200bhp. Using expertise gained on the Volkswagen Golf TDI racer, the first diesel-fuelled racing car in the UK, the engine propels the Caddy from 0 to 60 mph in around 5.5 seconds, before going on to a top speed of almost 140 mph.

The work presented surprisingly few problems, as Sam Roach managing director of the Volkswagen Racing team and head of the project, explained: 'The conversion from van to racing vehicle has not been as difficult as we expected as the Caddy has an advanced car-like driving dynamic that lends itself to motor racing. The Caddy's front suspension and traction provide excellent cornering so only minor modifications were needed in these areas. The main difficulty we faced was fitting the unique welded-in roll cage into the shell of the Caddy so it conformed to competition standards.'

In order to reach the magical 200bhp mark, several modifications have been made to the original 90bhp TDI engine. These include the fitting a variable geometry turbo, a larger intercooler, increased flow rate fuel pump and injectors and a reprogrammed electronic control unit.

The Caddy TDI Racer – in its first ever race – made a big impression during the final meeting of the Volkswagen Racing Cup at Thruxton. It was driven by Peter Wyhinny Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles (UK) Director, who was delighted with the van's inaugural performance: After the race Peter stated 'We've always known that the Caddy feels more like a car than a commercial vehicle from behind the wheel, and the TDI engine is a gem.'

Apart for Racing the Standard Caddy TDI is renowned for its excellent fuel economy, having twice won its class in the annual RAC/Fleet World MPG Marathon.

Website

For more information on Club GTI please see the website.

News

The Club has arranged through Gilders of Sheffield to offer a discount on parts to club members. To use the service go to the website www.vwparts.co.uk and detail the parts you want stating that you are a current member of Club GTI. Gilders will then phone you back asking you to confirm you membership number. They will also confirm the cost of the parts and postage & packing costs. They will then be able to take a credit card and arrange to despatch your parts.

The next issue of Rabbit is due out in March. So the next eRabbit will be sent out in April.

Events

A full list of events for 2003 is now posted on the Club website. Please visit www.clubgti.com for the up to date listing.

Feedback

I would like to thank everyone who got in contact about eRabbit last month. The positive comments were much appreciated. I have taken on board the comments hopefully this will download quicker and we will in the near future have a newly designed header.

I would be grateful if you have any comments on this publication if you could email me. If you do not wish to receive this type of correspondence please email the membership secretary and request to be removed from the distribution list.

Regards

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