



Above Par

Ian Lamming enjoys a round with the new Golf

PEOPLE are so interested, which is lovely. 'What you driving?' they cry.

And this week the answer is a Golf. 'Oh.' But it's not just any Golf, it's the new Golf.

'Looks like the old one.' Yes, it does because it isn't a Golf Mark VIII, it's a twiddled and fiddled with, polished version of the Mark VII, which superseded Mark VI in 2012. I know, hard to believe. And have you seen the size of the children?

Now when you have sold as many Golfs as VW then it is understandable that they don't mess with such a winning formula.

Mark I appeared in 1974 since which time they have managed to sell 33 million around the globe, so shut up.

The latest version may look familiar but the new tech under the skin is incredible. It will even reverse park a caravan using just the accelerator, for goodness sake.

Styling changes are confined to bumpers back and front, lights and vents. There are also new alloy designs.

Inside gets slightly different panels and materials and a much bigger touch screen that is cleverer than ever, mirrors your digital devices and uses the space between the dash clocks to project a host of information.

Engines, including the 1.6 litre TDI, have been all been developed to the nth degree. The 1.6 litre unit develops 115PS which is more than enough performance while retaining great economy. Handling-wise, comfort and control are excellent, responses sharp and dynamics heightened.

So what's the result of all this newness? Well, it is this. Golf is a car to survive Brexit, no matter how bad the negotiations go, or how much we upset the Europeans, we Brits are still going to buy them by the bucket-load.

Why? Well, while we might risk the future and that of our children pulling out of the 27, there's no way we are going to take a chance with the family motor, is there? Really.

Golf is much more than solid, dependable, reliable. It takes the stress out of life with its sheer ease of driving. It performs perfectly while protecting the purse. It is smart without being radical, which makes it timeless, but it is completely cutting edge when it comes to technology.

New Golf is new, it's at the very forefront of automotive engineering and those lovely people who ask need to know just how accomplished it is. Not so much an 'oh' as an 'ooh' then.

Fact File

- Engine: 1.6 diesel
- Power: 115PS
- 0-62mph: 10.2 secs
- Top speed: 123mph
- Combined MPG: 68.9
- Transmission: five-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 102