

## MOTORING MATTERS by Anthony Goodwin

### WE CAN DREAM, CAN'T WE?

In my time road testing cars, I have been lucky to drive some fantastic cars that only footballers and those people in banking with huge bonuses could afford. These have included the Rolls Royce Phantom, Maserati Quattroporte and now I can add two more to this list the Bentley Continental GTC Speed and Audi R8 V10.



I shall start with the Bentley, the Continental GTC Speed is the most powerful Bentley convertible ever made. It's tauter, sportier and has a much darker look than the GTC. Exterior changes include a dark chrome front grill, 20" multi spoke sport wheels and twin rifled exhausts. I was lucky that the sun was shining on the day I took it out for a spin, so roof down and the exhaust note when you press down on the drilled alloy pedals is great; you know you are in a proper sports car.

With a lower ride height than the GTC, you get a much sportier ride along with ride comfort. The test model I took out was in white, when looking at the brochure I couldn't believe that Bentley has 6 shades of white! In total you have a choice of 39 colours, 9 Greys, 8 Greens, 3 Blacks, 5 Reds, 11 Blues, 3 Browns and the 6 whites. You can also choose your own colour - a bit like the paint mixing service - you take them a colour and they will match it! So that's the outside sorted, now for the interior! So it's off to the Mulliner, a specialist division dedicated to making your own GTC Speed as individual

as you are. Features include boot carpet that matches the carpet in the front of the car, alloy filler cap together with many, many more. For a sound system how does a Naim sound to you? With 14 speakers including a sub woofer, this replaces the ski hatch. Speed dependant volume control and phone and sat nav integration come as standard.

Now for some numbers, maximum speed with the roof up is 200mph, with the roof down, this drops to a very slow 195mph, with a 0 – 60 taking 4.5 seconds. Fuel consumption is a great 17mpg combined, which for a car of this size and power is very good, Co2 emissions of 396, which means a band M £405 per year. Prices for the GTC Speed start from £153,400 with many options the upper price is unlimited.

#### THE LATEST AND MOST POWERFUL VERSION OF THE AUDI R8 V10

It is true to say that this is a everyday supercar, it's easy to drive without taking too much away from the driving experience. It looks fast and sleek even when it's standing still. I had the 5.2 V10 out on trial, with a six speed manual gearbox which made me feel in complete control.

I was lucky to be on a private test track and was able to take the car up to 100mph



which didn't take very long at all! When pulling onto the high speed bowl I even got the traction control to kick in, due to my heavy foot on the accelerator. The traction control worked brilliantly and corrected the car and kept me going in a straight line. When you do put your foot down, the exhaust note is sublime. The model I was testing had the optional ceramic brakes and I can report that they work very well to stop the car very quickly, this is an optional extra at £6995.00, but when you are spending a lot on your car what's an extra few thousand.

When you get into the car you are surrounded by alcantara leather and aluminium. Standard equipment includes electronic climate control, 3 spoke flat bottomed multi function steering wheel, lockable glove box and 2 cup holders! The all new magnetic ride system which comes as standard on the V10 version has two modes normal or sport, sensors in the car monitor the roads and automatically adjust the damping effect of the suspension. The system uses a magnetic charge which passes through a fluid based shock absorber. This means far better road handling and driving comfort.

Putting the stereo on was a treat, the V10 model has the Bang and Olufsen sound system, with 12 speakers having a total output of 465 watts, this is more than my home cinema system! For those that can only afford the V8 version then it's available as option at £1175.00. As for colours you can choose from a range of 2 standard colours or 7 metallic/pearl effect paints, Audi also have what they call exclusive where you can choose any colour you want, this is an extra charge.

Now the number part, the 4.2 V8 costs 79,820.00 and the 5.2 V10 £99,575.00 max speed for the V8 is 187mph the V10 197mph. The 0-62 times are 4.6 for the V8 and 3.9 for the V10, both versions are insurance group 20E. The fuel consumption for the V8 is 19.3 combined and the V10 19.2. Road fund is £405.00 per year.

### SMART ECO DRIVING

Smart have unveiled a new green driving initiative to coincide with the launch of the fourtwo cdi. The new smart CDI which will be taken on a full test drive soon is the lowest Co2 emitting car in production. The initiative is designed to encourage drivers to adopt a smarter driving techniques. These techniques will help to save money and cut back on Co2 emissions.

Later on in the year you will also be able to do the green driving courses at Mercedes-Benz World. Motorist can book theory lessons to learn tips on eco driving, as well as practical tuition



with a professional eco driving instructor. At the centre of the smart driving initiative is the GAS

principles these stand for Gears, stay in as high a gear as you can for as much of your journey as possible, Anticipation, look well ahead and adapt your speed to what is happening in the distance, Smooth Driving, accelerate and brake as little as possible to maintain momentum, thus saving fuel.

On the recent Brighton to London drive one of Smarts eco driving experts recorded an astounding 109.9mpg. When compared with the standard 85.6mpg it really shows what a difference eco driving techniques can make.