

FOX TESTS FOX

Past Master Ronnie Fox, self-appointed Motoring Correspondent of City Solicitor, reports on the Volkswagen Fox.

Several of the high points in my career have been associated with the City of London Solicitors' Company. In 1989 I received the Company's Distinguished Service Award for chairing a Working Party on the Future of the Legal Profession. Ten years later I became Master of the Company. A couple of years after that a kind soul at the Company gave my name to the team at Pebble Mill which produces *The Archers*; I now have a letter confirming that my advice on partnership issues and the practice of law in *Borsetshire* has influenced the story line.

And now the Company has given an opportunity to test drive a car named after me!

Well, perhaps a car with the same name as me.

The Volkswagen Fox is a great little car for a City solicitor. Shorter than a Polo but considerably taller than a Golf, the Fox is easy to park in confined spaces but has plenty of room inside. Specify a rear seat with forward and backwards adjustment (a height-adjustable driver's seat is standard) and there is space to stretch out whether sitting in the front or the back. Even the CLLS Chairman would fit comfortably in the back!

Some people regard the styling of this three door hatchback as a little bland. I thought the lines were exceptionally clean and attractive. The car looks lower and longer than it actually is.

On the road prices start at £6,590 RRP for the basic model. The delightfully-named Urban Fox is just £600 more. Inevitably with a German car (even one like the Fox which is built in Brazil) there is a long list of optional extras for each model in the range. Black paint is £175; Henry Ford (whose cars were once available only in black) would have a fit. Air conditioning - essential in any car used in the City - is an expensive extra at £945.

The 1.2 litre three-cylinder engine is quiet and generates a reasonable amount of torque. Fuel economy struck me as exceptionally good at 46 mpg for the combined cycle (the comparable figure for my own car is 25 mpg - though



the way I drive it 16 mpg is more realistic). In fact the class average is 53 mpg but that includes several cars with smaller engines than the Fox and not nearly as much space inside. For most drivers, group 1 insurance, solid build quality and strong residual values will in any event keep the cost of ownership to a figure in line with the class average.

The 0 - 62 mph time is 17.5 seconds and the top speed recorded between Cornhill and College Hill is 92 mph. For those who seek more performance, a 1.4 litre engine is available bringing down the 0 - 62 mph dash to 13 seconds and pushing up the top speed to 103 mph.

The Fox rides well in town and the five speed gearbox is a pleasure to use. The standard power assisted steering gives a good feel of the road. The height of the car contributes to excellent all-round visibility.

Trim is generally neat and well-fitting. In some respects the plastics and fabric are a little plain and unexciting. The doors close with a solid thunk. A good radio/CD player with four speakers is standard. Reception of Radio 4 between 7.02 and 7.15 p.m. was excellent.

The Fox is agile, good value for money and an intelligent choice for a young City solicitor. I recommend it and identify with it.



It goes without saying that good looks, total reliability and maximum cost-efficiency are essential requirements of any law firm these days.

The Fox Lawyer is a city law firm designed to give customers exceptional expertise and experience in a high-value package. The **Fox** meets these demands and prices start as low as £6,590 P.H. The **Fox** continues to prove exceptional value for money in employment law and partnership law.

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EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE NOTICE

The Employment Law Committee has recently been reviewing its membership and has decided to invite further applications for new members. Applicants should have expertise in employment law and a willingness to contribute to the work of the Committee, including work outside of the regular meetings. Applicants should contact the Chairman, Raymond Jeffers at Linklaters, as soon as possible to express their interest.

Tel: 020 7456 2000 or raymond.jeffers@linklaters.com