



Interview by Tim Beynon

PEDAL POWER

Ipswich Town star, Moritz Volz, has rejected the traditional sports cars and luxury 4x4s of his footballing peers, opting for two wheeled transportation instead. Rev caught up with the affable German to find out more.

Having spent much of the past eight years plying his trade in London – firstly for Arsenal and then more successfully with Fulham – Moritz Volz has built up a reputation as a committed, attacking defender with undeniable professionalism and Premier League pedigree.

Off the pitch, however, he has also built up a reputation as one of football's nice-guys, often playing on his German roots to amuse the media and entertain his growing army of fans. Indeed, a quick glance at his website – www.volzy.com – is enough to glean an idea of the eccentricity

that has endeared him to so many. I mean, how many other professional footballers pay homage to David Hasselhoff on their personal website, a website that is accompanied by a bespoke version of the Sting classic – retitled 'A German in West London' – in which one of the lines refers to him cycling down the Fulham Road with a sausage in his hand?

A renowned cyclist, however, Volzy has shunned the sports cars and Chelsea tractors of his contemporaries, opting instead for a fold-up bike to pedal his way around the streets of London and Ipswich. So, we just had to find out more...



REV: Moritz, you're famous for your fold-up bike but, having come from the nation that brought us the sleek lines of the BMW, the efficiency of the Audi and the well loved eccentricity of the VW, how come you prefer two wheels over four?

MV: I can't stand queuing and being stuck and that hardly ever happens on a bike. I also see much more of places when I cycle away from the main roads. It's only really when the weather changes suddenly and I get soaked that I wish I had taken the car! But, saying that, in summer it can be a rather pleasant experience too.

REV: From a cyclist's perspective, what annoys you most about drivers in the city?

MV: Abuse when they think I'm holding them up and when they don't leave enough room between them for me to manoeuvre through them at lights.

REV: But do you own a car today?

MV: I'm still waiting for a sponsorship deal, so I'll keep this one open for the moment.

Anyone can feel free to fill this gap though!

REV: Who are the best drivers, Germans or English?

MV: Cars or bikes? In fact, I think Germans are better at both, as seen in Formula One and the Tour de France many times.

REV: Do you sing when you're driving? If so, what are your three favourite all-time driving tunes?

MV: I love to go full out on a tune when I'm driving, after all there is not much else to do. As for my three favourites, I'd go for:

Smile like you mean it - The Killers
The garden - Van Tramp
Our house - Madness

REV: What's the most bizarre form of transport you've ever taken?

MV: A police riot van.

REV: How did your driving test go?

MV: I did well but failed my first on a reverse bend and passed the second time round although my driving was awful. I think it's always a bit of luck ie. "who does your your examiner support?"



REV: What was your first car?

MV: A silver Golf

REV: If your car broke down would you:

A - Call for assistance straight away and wait for a mechanic

B - Lift the bonnet, locate the problem, fix it and drive on

C - Lift the bonnet, stare at the engine, pretend you know what you're looking



at, then phone for assistance and wait for a mechanic

MV: Most definitely A as I have two left hands and no clue about mechanics even though I passed A-Level Maths on it.

REV: You're commuting at the moment from London to Ipswich. How's that going?

MV: I mostly use the rail, because I can relax and read and eat, but occasionally I do take the car for convenience. Both take about the same time and it's just a bit too far to cycle!

REV: Have you ever been in a road traffic accident?

MV: Not with other cars involved, but I once spun around on a wet road and faced traffic. That was scary.

REV: Away from football, and from the roads, are you environmentally friendly? If so, can you give us an example of eco-friendly Volzy?

MV: I'm trying in some ways to do my bit, but I'm not nearly as good as I could be. It's often hard to get out of bad habits. I use organic produce when possible, don't

get disposable shopping bags and drink tap water at home, and a few other little bits.

REV: Are you a good or a bad loser?

MV: I don't like losing at all, but I don't lose the plot when I do and throw my toys out the pram. I guess I have had enough times to practise since I left Arsenal five years ago!

REV: Tell us something we don't know about you?

MV: I'd like to have a dog sometime.

REV: Favourite film, book, television programme and historical figure?

MV: Meet the Parents is a film I like a lot, anything John Grisham will do for books right now. The Office was fun to watch and if you are talking figures, maybe Heidi Klum, if that's what you mean!

REV: And finally, if you could banish one person off the face of the earth, who would it be and why?

MV: The devil, for obvious reasons, or any of the left wingers who have given me a torrid time over the years. Not many then!?!?

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