

**Tom Drew**  
Australian Racing Driver

Friday, April 2, 2009.



## **APR Motorsport signs Australian Tom Drew to drive New Mk6 VW GTI in its international racing debut at Barber Motorsport Park, USA.**



**Caption:** Drew and the new Mk 6 Volkswagen Golf GTI will join the two existing APR Motorsport Mk 5 GTIs at Barber.

Australian racing star Tom Drew, has been selected to drive in the historic international racing debut of the 6<sup>th</sup> generation Volkswagen GTI for the VW DriverGear supported APR Motorsport team.

Drew will drive in Round 3 of the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge, a 2 hour 30 minute endurance race, at the Barber Motorsport Park, Birmingham, Alabama (April 8-10).

Held as part of the 2010 Indy Grand Prix of Alabama the weekend will also feature the Grand-AM Rolex Sports Car Series and IndyCar, with fellow Australian's Ryan Briscoe and Will Power also competing.

"I feel very honoured to be given the responsibility of the world racing debut of the new Mk6 Volkswagen Golf GTI. It's a very high profile event and the race has full TV coverage in the USA, so it's great to have been selected", he said.

The race will also be Drew's first in the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge and his first for the Alabama based APR Motorsport, the competition arm of the highly regarded aftermarket performance product company APR.

"You could say I've been thrown into the deep end- there are many firsts this weekend. It will be the first race for the new VW Mk6 GTI, my first time with APR, my first race at Barber, and my first weekend in the Grand-Am Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge. Hopefully we can add another first to the list by the end of the weekend."

But while a rookie to series, Tom has no shortage of experience behind the wheel, or that of a Volkswagen. Prior to heading to North America Drew sampled the high horsepower of the Australian Fujitsu V8 Supercar Series while also competing in light-weight high down-force prototypes as the factory driver for West Race Cars Australia.

**Continues...**

**Tom Drewer**  
Australian Racing Driver



Drewer won the 2007 Thundersports Sports Car Championship and was offered a drive by West in the American IMSA Prototype Lites Series, where he dominated the Lites 2 category winning 10 from 12 races and the 2008 Championship. Last year, 2009, Drewer competed in the Prototype Lites 1 category and successfully tested both the American Le Mans Series Challenge car (LMPC) and a Panoz GT2 car. However, it was in the beginning of his career when Drewer found his love for VW's.

"I'm an absolute Volkswagen junkie, so it is a dream come true to be able to represent VW and APR. I think it all started because my father's Formula 2 car used a Golf engine. Back in Australia I even used to proudly wear the VW logo on top of my go-kart helmet because I love the 'dub' that much.

For my first road car I bought a Golf - a 1976 Mk1 - which my father and I worked pretty heavily, installing a 16v engine out of a later model GTI. I hill-climbed that car, and when it was time for my first true racing car we bought a Formula Vee (VW powered open-wheeler), so I'm really going back to my roots this weekend."

And that he is. To support his early racing Drewer worked for an Australian APR agent, German Auto, in South Australia. For the record, Drewer won the Under 2000cc Road Registered category at the 2001 South Australian Hillclimb Championships in his 1976 VW Golf Mk1, was 2002 South Australian Formula Vee Rookie of the Year and the 2003 FVASA Formula Vee Drivers' Champion.

"I enjoyed great success in Volkswagens so I'm hoping I can continue the trend for APR and VW DriverGear in the new Mk6 GTI."

Jeff Mishtawy, Director of Motorsport for APR, shared his sentiments on having Tom join the team, "I'm really proud to have signed him. Tom has driven such a large variety of cars and has so much experience; I'm looking forward to working with him on the car. Having a driver of his calibre providing feedback to a brand new car is an absolutely ideal situation, and I'm sure we'll show that with our pace in April."

Sharing the car with Drewer is APR Motorsport team principal Stephen Hooks. With both Drewer and Hooks behind the wheel it will be a historic debut for the Mk6 GTI as it's taken on track by two drivers with a deep history with Volkswagen products.

Drewer's APR VW Golf will run in what is know as the ST (Street Tuner) category and is similar to Australian production car racing. He will be competing against a field including Honda Civic SI, BMW 328i, Mazda MX-5, Mazda Rx-8, Kia Forte Koup, Chevrolet Cobalt SS, and Mini Cooper S.

"Having those cars around me and a roof over my head will be quite a change from what I've been driving recently. It's great to be part of a factory supported team with direct links to VW, and I will still be driving prototypes later this season".

For now though, Drewer certainly sees this as a welcome return to where it all began.

"My fist car was Golf, and so is my next. I'm returning to where it all began, behind the wheel of a Volkswagen GTI. I can't wait!"

**Further information follows. For more information or images:**

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**Further information:**

**About APR:** APR LLC is an automotive engineering firm operating a 36,000 sq. ft. performance campus in Opelika, Ala. APR was founded in 1997 with a corporate philosophy of Integrity, Excellence and Innovation. APR's Sole Mission is to provide the highest quality and most highly engineered aftermarket performance products available for Porsche, Audi and Volkswagen vehicles. Learn more at [www.goapr.com](http://www.goapr.com)

**About the series:** The GRAND-AM Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge features sports cars manufactured from around the world, brought straight from the showroom floor, that race side by side with only minor modifications in the area of safety. Like the GRAND-AM Rolex Series, the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge races two classes at the same time: Grand Sport (GS) and Street Tuner (ST). The starting fields for Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge typically feature more than 60 of today's hottest import and domestic production cars, racing simultaneously and competing for both overall and class honours. Learn more at [www.grand-am.com](http://www.grand-am.com)

**About Tom Drewer:** Drewer has been touted as one of Australia's future Le Mans winners by respected motorsport commentator and cartoonist, John 'Stonie' Stoneham. In his first year of North American competition Australian Tom Drewer dominated IMSA Lites 2 in 2008, taking the Championship with 11 pole positions, 10 wins, setting 5 lap records, all on unfamiliar circuits. This gave Tom back-to-back Championships across the Pacific after he took the Australian Thundersports Sports Car Championship for West Race Cars in 2007. Tom's driving duties were split in 2007 with seats in both the Fujitsu V8 and V8 Giant Supercar Series, the feeder categories to Australia's premier motor racing series, V8 Supercars. Tom made his transition to cars in 2002, driving Formula Vees and winning the FVSA Drivers' Championship, after a stellar karting career beginning at age 7 and once backed by triple World Champion Nikki Lauda's airline, Lauda-Air. Australia's *AutoAction* magazine has named Tom 'Best Overseas Rookie' in their annual awards while prestigious *Wheels* magazine has put Tom in their 'Hot Half Dozen Watch List' for 2009. Learn more at [www.tomdrewer.com](http://www.tomdrewer.com)