



www.forumsforums.com/snowtrac.html

"It was a magical time on top of that snow-capped mountain in Scotland"

Thom Hendy to help with the task ahead. Thom is a farmer from Devon who is a brilliant engineer and a classic car restorer – the perfect choice to take on this unusual machine. When Thom and Claire stripped down the Snow Trac, they found it needed some fairly major parts. The main sprocket carrier (which transfers the drive to the tracks) was broken, the track cogs were very worn and the chassis was split down the middle and full of rust. Luckily, though, the VW industrial engine worked first time.

To get the parts essential to getting the project up and running turned out to be no easy task. Snow Tracs have not been built since 1981 and New Old Stock spare parts are very hard to find. In the end, the team realised that they'd have to find another Snow Trac to donate parts. Suggs was given this job and came up trumps, although when Claire ended up in a muddy field with a hammer

in one hand and a gas torch in the other, they found the parts used on Snow Tracs were not the same throughout production. This meant that worn wheels with bent teeth had to be reversed, as they could not be replaced. Perished and torn rubber on the tracks also has to be replaced and the steel cleats holding tracks together had to be completely renewed. Claire and Thom cut out the terribly corroded areas of the chassis and replace them with new box steel sections.

The build up of the vehicle was not like most of the car restorations we cover in *VolksWorld*, as it's usually a case of taking as long as it needs. With the Snow Trac, the whole idea was that Bob was able to drive it on a mountain by the end of the TV show. As warm weather was closing in, there was a strong threat to the snow on Glen Shee, the Scottish mountain Suggs had found as the place to put the machine through its paces. The race was on to complete the project.

Bob was given a call to say he needed to get himself, Debbie and their eight-year-old daughter up to Scotland. They booked a flight and spent a week in a hotel with the *Salvage Squad* crew. The cold weather lasted and a delighted Bob was presented with the renovated Snow Trac.

"As Claire drove up to where we were standing, it was hard to believe. The last time I had seen it had



Left This is how the project started. As you can immediately tell, this vehicle needed a lot of resto work

Right This is what started off Bob's Snow Trac obsession – a Matchbox toy given to him in the Sixties

