

BELOW FROM LEFT: A-bar, spots, Warn winch all factory fitted; Build number on plaque vital clue to mystery; NAS also featured side-hinging tailgate with swingaway wheel carrier



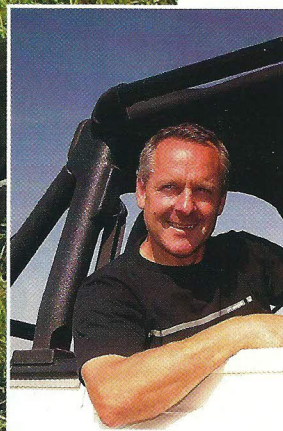
**A**s a child growing up in the 1970s, there was a time when the first thing I'd do when I'd get home from school was reach for my gun. No, we didn't live in a particularly rough neighbourhood, this was the golden age of the original *Starsky and Hutch* TV cop show and one essential part of mine and probably lots of other kids of my generation's wardrobe was the leatherette *Starsky and Hutch*-style shoulder holster. My parents no doubt took comfort from the fact that

whenever I was hauled off on a shopping trip to the local garden centre, should we run into trouble down by the herbaceous borders, concealed beneath my jacket I was 'packing a piece'. Albeit, a plastic, cap-firing 'piece'.

One obvious downside was that being a long way short of driving age, it meant having to make do without the single most important element of the whole *Starsky and Hutch* thing. The car. Although my Raleigh Tomahawk was red, it suffered

from a distinct lack of polished slot mag wheels and somewhere convenient to stick the magnetic flashing light. While we made do with the Dinky toy version, there was however, one kid at our school who could do much better. His dad not only dressed in *the* trendy knitwear and wore the correct type of Adidas trainer, he also drove the car. Or at least as far as he was concerned he did. Trouble was, even as a 10-year school kid I could work out that no matter how hard you squinted, you were never going to mistake a tired Datsun Cherry repainted red with a white stripe for a Ford Gran Torino.

Being a big fan of the North American Specification (NAS) 90, 27 years later, I have to confess to having a similar problem with so-called 'replica' NAS 90s. Now you would have thought,



INSET PIC: Cliff Durant sits in his find of a lifetime  
 MAIN PIC: Smart North American Spec South African 90, so rare that even Land Rover had forgotten about it