

Style and substance

Alyson Warnock gets a preview of the new Lunar Clubman SE tourer

ONLY A FOOLHARDY punter would have bet against this layout becoming an overnight success and for good reason. A fixed bed in a single-axle van, without the compromise of a corner washroom, is highly desirable.

The layout is the most popular of this season. But if you've been waiting for a luxurious model, it's time to get out your chequebook.

After successfully introducing the SE layout in its Lexon range, Lunar is adding it to the high-end Clubman range. It will be launched at the Lawns show in September but *Practical Caravan* has already been able to put it through its paces.

First impressions

This is a good-looking van. The new graphics, stainless-steel grab handles and redesigned rear panel give it a sleek appearance. The van's exterior also provides a hint of how well equipped it is: while pitching I noticed a satellite TV point in the battery box, a super-pitch connection point and a shower connection point.

Inside, the list of standard kit is impressive. The van has Alde wet central heating, a combined system for heating and hot water. It's the first time this system has been available in a single-axle van.

The kitchen has all the appliances you'll need, and the lounge has a radio/CD/MP3 player, directional aerial and two TV points. The washroom has a separate shower and Thetford C250 toilet.

It's the attention to detail that make this van. The lights are LED.

We say



Alyson says This amount of equipment in a single-axle van of this weight is astounding. And the styling is sleek without being cold or ultra-modern, so the van is a pleasure to live in.



These require less power and remain cool to the touch. There are bolster and throw cushions in the lounge. And there's a heated towel rail in the washroom.

Few vans could match such a list, and those that do are twin-axles. The Clubman SE is a single-axle on the right side of 1500kg.

Living spaces

Lunar has overhauled the Clubman's styling for the 2010 season. The dark worktops and rich wood tones of 2009 have been replaced by light surfaces and soft-toned walnut wood. The result is still plush and rich, but airier.

The SE layout in the Lexon range worked well and Lunar has made just a few tweaks in the Clubman. The main difference is in the kitchen, which had limited storage. The Alde system has freed room under the sideboard for a cupboard. But the recessed sink and drainer eats into work space.

Other areas in the van feel comfortable. Access to the washroom around the fixed bed is good and it is easy to move around the basin to the shower. The fixed bed is large enough for six-footers. The lounge seats are not long enough to use as single beds but are big enough to stretch out on.

Very few niggles came to light during my time in the van, but there was one of note. The front steadies are very short. On a level pitch they sit comfortably at 45 degrees but blocks are needed on sloping pitches to keep them in contact with the ground.



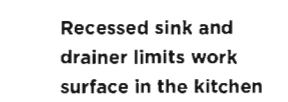
Light work surfaces and wood tone creates an airy interior

Lights in the Clubman are low-wattage LEDs

Lots of bolster and throw cushions make the lounge comfortable. Seats are long enough to stretch out on. Styling is plush and colours are fresh



Lunar has put all switches together at the entrance



Recessed sink and drainer limits work surface in the kitchen



New heated towel rail is a nice touch and comes as standard



Kitchen area is well equipped with a Thetford 112-litre fridge, microwave, separate oven and grill and three-burner hob with electric hotplate

LUNAR Clubman SE

Price.....	£17,895
Berths.....	4
Length.....	7.32m
Height.....	2.65m
Width.....	2.28m
Internal length.....	5.79m
Internal height.....	1.96m
Awning size.....	1008cm
MiRO.....	1299kg
MTPLM.....	1490kg
User payload.....	191kg



Super pitch connection means there is no need to use an aquaroll if your pitch has a water point



New LED spotlights draw less power than halogen spotlamps and don't heat up when in use



Alde system uses fluid-filled radiators to give even heat without the dryness of warm-air systems



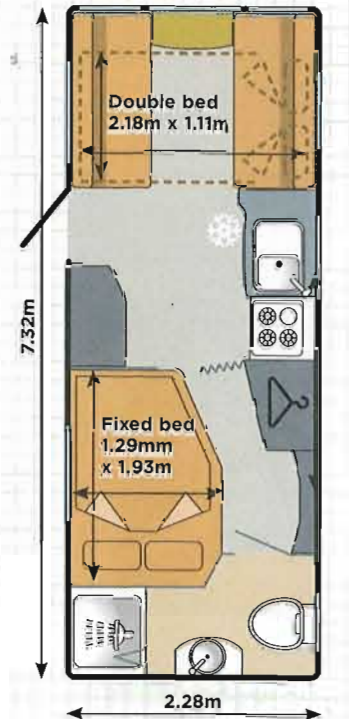
New graphics, stainless steel grab handles and redesigned rear panel help create a good-looking exterior



Alde heater frees storage space under sideboard, though some space is lost to the wheel arch



The fixed bed is large enough for six-footers and access to the washroom around the bed is good



- STANDARD EQUIPMENT**
- External** Al-Ko chassis. Al-Ko stabiliser. Al-Ko ATC trailer control. Buttonless handbrake. Alloy wheels. Spare wheel. Shock absorbers. Super-pitch connection point. Two-piece entrance door with flyscreen, blind and bin. Awning light.
 - Heating** Alde wet central heating system.
 - Lounge** Flyscreens and blinds on all windows. Drop-in carpets. Heki rooflight. Directional TV aerial. Radio/CD/MP3 player and speakers.
 - Kitchen** Thetford 112-litre fridge. Three-burner gas hob and electric hot plate. Separate oven and grill. Microwave. Extractor fan.
 - Washroom** Thetford C250 toilet with electric flush and wheeled waste tank. Separate shower. Heated towel rail.
 - Security** CRIS identity number etched to all windows and chassis. Concealed security data chips. High-security entrance lock. Phantom Tracker with 12-month subscription.
 - Warranty** 3 years parts. 6 years body.
- OPTIONS**
- Alternative upholstery (£165).
 - Leather upholstery (£1095).