

Looking towards the compact yet airy lounge



CLUB CLASS

Rob McCabe spends time in a four-berth caravan with plenty of pedigree



Solid-looking exterior

Nothing lasts forever, but the Clubman is having a right good go. This proud range from Lancashire manufacturer Lunar has a heritage that goes right back to the 1970s, with a tradition of offering practicality and luxury to those caravanners who spend more time touring and rallying than they do in their own houses.

It's an opulent set of caravans these days, with price tags to match – the fixed-single-beds and end-washroom Clubman SB we're testing here costs more than £26k on the road. Let's take a closer look at what that kind of outlay gets you.

BUILD QUALITY

The Clubman bodyshell is a handsome one, comprising big single-section aluminium sides and full-height front and rear panels. The over-engineered corner steadies are good to see – one of the first signs that this is one lavishly-equipped caravan.



Above: kitchen is well appointed

Left: comfortable fixed single beds

TECHNICAL RATINGS



79%

BUILD QUALITY

91%

TOWING

83%

DAYTIME

80%

NIGHT-TIME

89%

KITCHEN

89%

WASHROOM

94%

LIGHTING

86%

VERDICT



Price as tested
£26,224 OTR



Beds
Front: 6ft 11in x 5ft double; rear: 6ft 2in x 2ft 6in two fixed singles

Heating

Alde wet central heating

Fridge/freezer

Dometic slimline fridge-freezer

Toilet

Thetford



MRO
1,320kg (25.98cwt)

MTPLM

1,475kg (29.03cwt)

User payload

155kg (3.05cwt)

Overall length

24ft (7.31m)

Overall width

7ft 8in (2.33m)

Overall height

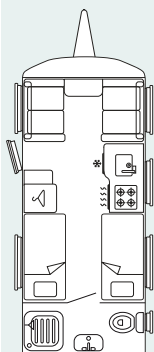
8ft 9in (2.66m)

Max internal height

6ft 5in (1.95m)



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Figures from manufacturer's literature

*Based on standard new-for-old cover, cover limit of £28,500 (caravan and equipment), £500 contents cover and £100 voluntary excess. Includes 4+ years no claims discount (not protected). This includes security discounts of 15% for Al-Ko ATC, 15% for Al-Ko Diamond Standard wheel lock(s) and 10% for alarm with tilt sensor. Legal protection is an optional extra charged at £8.75 for the year. Subject to underwriting – a copy of the policy cover wording, including benefits, limitations and exclusions that apply, is available on request. Caravan and Motorhome Club is a trading name of The Caravan Club Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for general insurance and credit activities. The Caravan Club Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Inside, all the furniture looks great; the glossy locker doors are all perfectly aligned. Opening said doors on our test model revealed a couple of disappointments, though: one of the removable shelves in a lounge locker had detached itself from its unconvincing-looking plastic guide, and the tangle of wires leading to the courtesy light inside the wardrobe was most unsightly.

TOWING

Lunar has always traded heavily on its 'lightweight' ethos; and while the four-berth SB can't exactly be considered a contender for Slimmer of the Year, its MTPLM of 1,475kg is still pretty commendable for a luxury tourer and puts it on the radar of a wide choice of big estate cars and SUVs. All the heavy stuff on board is placed either over or just in front of the axle for optimum weight distribution when hitched up, and the Al-Ko ATC button on the A-frame is always a reassuring sight.

DAYTIME

The lounge is a bit on the short side, to accommodate the fixed beds and a decent-sized washroom further back, but that's a familiar enough sight on a new, single-axle caravan. However, what this one loses in stature it more than makes up for in quality. It's great to see a chunky bulkhead to lean into on the edge of the sofa nearest the entrance door, with generous bolsters that are as plump and comfy as all the rest of the upholstery. You can seat four snugly enough, but I don't think you'd want this space to be any smaller!

Storage is immense for what is, to all intents and purposes, a couple's caravan. Wide-opening front hatches give supremely easy access to all four bed and seat lockers and, as well as an exterior-access hatch to one of the beds, there's a totally sealed wet locker on the nearside front

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wall – home to a weatherproofed mains socket for use in the awning. Other outside goodies include a gas barbecue point and, over on the other side, a shower attachment.

Inside, there are *three* dedicated TV viewing stations, all with satellite connection

points – one by the front window, one by the nearside dresser and, of course, one in the bedroom (where a wall bracket is already in place). Two of the reading lights in the lounge have a slot for a USB lead, and there are another two USB points in the kitchen. All well and good... but I bet most users would trade one of those in the lounge for one in the USB-free bedroom.

The built-in stereo (not present on this early production example) includes DAB radio, which is a very welcome feature. There's an extra pair of (unbranded) speakers in the bedroom to go



Clockwise from left: supremely comfortable seating; dedicated mirror light; great washroom space



with those in the lounge, although you can switch off and on only at the unit itself.

The new touchscreen control unit above the door is easy to use and offers a lot of useful, at-a-glance info, including date, time and interior/exterior temperatures. It also controls the tracking system, which is included as standard. Alongside it is where you'll find the familiar control panel for the highly-civilised Alde central heating and hot water system.

NIGHT-TIME

There's not much Lunar's designers could have done to add more appeal to the excellent en-suite bedroom, which shuts off from the rest of the caravan via a sliding concertina blind. The beds themselves are a commendable 6ft 2in long and offer a superb blend of comfort and support (although that's obviously so far as I'm concerned – as with any bed, you need to kick off your own shoes and have a right good bounce on it).

As well as the wide-opening sunroof, each occupant has a window and a reading light, while the generous shelving will easily accommodate your coffee mugs and phones. In addition to the TV point, there's a mains socket at floor level, although this would have been better placed nearer the washroom door to give hair straighteners/hairdryers a fighting chance of making it to the big mirror therein.

Up front, just a word about the published size of this bed in the Technical panel – it assumes wraparound seating, which isn't even

the standard configuration (it's a £149 option). But even with the front chest in place, occasional overnighting guests will be happy with a pleasantly comfortable, albeit compact, double bed. Mind you, perhaps they'll be less chuffed at having to use the shower block for any middle-of-the-night visits – the position of the washroom right at the back of the hosts' bedroom pretty much puts it out of bounds.

KITCHEN

This is a pleasing mix of good looks and practicality. Work surface is generous even without considering the little extension that folds away when not in use, and so too is storage – a big, pull-out wire rack is a clever use of space. The new Thetford cooker is very smart – lift up the chunky glass lid and you'll see a dual-fuel hob with a posh-looking cast-iron pan support. As you'd expect there's the ever-useful fitted microwave, too.

If you spend a fair amount of time in the kitchen when you're away in the caravan, you'll very quickly get to like using this one.

WASHROOM

You want for nothing in here. Its attractiveness is understated, it's just about spacious enough to serve as a dressing room and it's well-lit. Two big cupboards mean plenty of storage, while the tile-effect-lined shower cubicle has good provision for lotions and potions and a hanging rail for wet towels and waterproofs. There's also a heated towel rail/radiator.

LIGHTING

This is one of those caravans in which there is no escape from a lighting source. Even if you go outside, you'll encounter a services light on the offside wall to supplement the regular awning light. A flush-fitting lamp shines a sharp beam into the gas locker... and even the grab handles glow in the dark for that bit of bling.

Indoors, there's a floor-level night light in the kitchen area, backlighting for the shelving unit near the door and the aforementioned courtesy light in the wardrobe. Mood lighting (dimnable in the lounge) runs above and below the lockers in the lounge and bedroom, and along the pelmet above the front window. There's a lot of it!

The sunroof surround hosts six flush-fitting lamps that, between them, give even more light to the lounge and kitchen. In the washroom, there's a dedicated light for the shower and for the long mirror above the vanity unit.

VERDICT

The good-looking SB has a specification list as long as your steady winder, and all the individual areas on board have a lot going for them. A bit more attention to detail when finishing off would have seen it score even higher marks.



With thanks to

Vehicle supplied for testing by **Lunar Caravans Ltd**, Sherdley Road, Lostock Hall, Preston, Lancs Pr5 5JF. Contact: lunarcaravans.com