



# Swift Challenger SE

*Our new long-term test 'van takes to the road*



*Collecting the test 'van from Knowepark Caravans.*

IT was the last week in June when I headed for Knowepark Caravans to return the Coachman Amara test 'van and collect our new test 'van, the Swift Challenger SE.

Late last year we voted the Challenger SE our Tourer of the Year 2013, and it would now get a chance to live up to that billing!

At Knowepark I managed to get both 'vans side by side, which made it simple to switch all the gear from the Amara into the Challenger - a good job, because it was raining cats and dogs!

I was duly given the rundown on the Challenger by the competent Knowepark staff. On the journey back to Glenrothes I got the first feel of the towing element, which performed perfectly.

I had my first weekend in the 'van on Kingdom Caravan Park where I store my test 'vans. Everything worked a treat. There was a small hiccup on starting the Alde heating, but a quick phone call to Knowepark soon cleared that one up.

I was more than happy that the 'van was now ready for the road, and the next weekend I hitched up and headed for Slatebarns Caravan Park at Roslin, just south of Edinburgh.

I was soon pitched up and everything was working a treat, when there was a knock on the door - it was the couple from the neighbouring pitch who were in with a 10-year-old Challenger, wondering if they could have a squint at the new 'van!

As it turned out, they were subscribers to the magazine and we had a fair old chat. They were mightily impressed with the 'van - the lady did say she preferred her L-shaped layout, but she was impressed by the furnishings and fabrics.

I was beginning to get the feel of the 'van and everything was working a treat. The weather had taken a turn for the better so no heating was required, but the supply of hot water from the Alde system was impressive, especially from the shower point of view.



*My pitch at Slatebarns Caravan Park.*



*Dometic fridge.*

At last I was back to a Dometic fridge, which I feel is far superior to its Thetford rival - at least the shelves stay where they should be, and it just seems better all round.

The cooker unit worked well and the electric plate on the hob is certainly an added bonus. The microwave came into play over the weekend, and again there were no hitches in that department.

I was also impressed by the amount of room in the front locker, which I find great for all these bits and pieces.

The bathroom/toilet area is not as spacious as some of the Challenger's competitors, but the layout is well designed which makes it very functional - and, of course, the heated towel rail from the Alde heating is a great bonus.

The wardrobe area is adequate, but I feel a couple of good-sized drawers would just make all the difference.

All in all, everything worked a treat over the three days, and I am certain I will enjoy testing this 'van further over the summer months.



*Heated towel rail.*



*Kitchen area is nice and spacious.*



*Side dinette.*

