

THE CARAVAN CLUB

December 2011

WIN

an Adria Sport 573 DF
motorhome worth
more than £40,000
see p43 for
details

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WONDERFUL WICKLOW

A two-site holiday treat awaits members
planning a tour of the Republic of Ireland

THE
CARAVAN
CLUB

Caravan Design and Lightweight Leisure Trailer Awards results • Winter caravanning tips for beginners

Class 5

CARAVANS
750kg and under



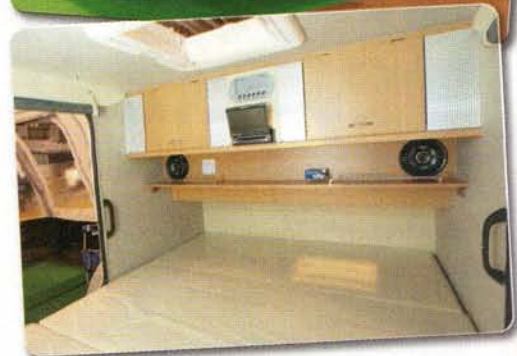
Third place:

Turtle 1500

Price: £5,995

This sleek teardrop design will certainly make it an attractive proposition to the fashionista caravanner looking to spend a night or two away at a summer festival.

Turtle 1500's double bed takes up the majority of the floorspace, but open the tailgate and you'll reveal a two-ring gas stove, 240V coolbox and water tank with tap. A single mains socket is standard issue, while an entertainment system and awning are available on the optional extras list.



New releases

John Thynne seeks out new caravans at the October show in Birmingham

OCTOBER'S MOTORHOME & Caravan Show gave manufacturers of all sizes the chance to show off their latest products – and visitors were in for a treat. Where caravans were concerned, there were some inspirational models on display, from the stunning, bullet-shaped IH Monopod to a wheelchair-friendly caravan with wide access door from Adria. Small was certainly beautiful in Birmingham, with trailer tents and caravans such as the Turtle 1500 from Teardrop Trailers and East Neuk's Fifer Pod showing that you don't need a great deal of space or money to enjoy a touring break. What's more, neither of these vehicles needs a big towcar to pull it – great news economically and environmentally. Next month: motorhomes!



Pennine

A first for trailer tent specialist The Pennine Group is this neat, two-berth 'folding compact caravan' – the Artemis. It's easier to tow than a conventional caravan, while still offering the likes of an oven, central heating and external shower point. The Lancashire-based company says the metamorphosis from trailer to solid-walled home-from-home takes just two minutes. Boasting a towing length of 11ft 6in, towing height of just 5ft and an MTPLM of 1,100kg, the Artemis costs £14,995 plus delivery.

Teardrop Trailers

Exhibited for the first time at a major show was the eye-catching Turtle 1500 from East Sussex company Teardrop Trailers. The teardrop concept isn't new in the caravanning world but visitors to the NEC were astonished by what could be done in such a small space. The interior is taken up by a double bed that will comfortably accommodate those over 6ft tall and once the awning (£350 extra) is fitted, even those with a touch of claustrophobia will be at home. The rear locker on the Turtle opens up to reveal a sink with shower extension and coolbox, while a small stove is included in the £5,995 on-the-road asking price.



Trigano

Two very different small caravan concepts from European giant Trigano were showing at the NEC. First up was the Camclair XL trailer tent (above). For towing purposes the trailer is just 10ft 6in long but once the tent has been erected on site, you have what can only be described as a huge living space measuring a total of 12ft 10in x 19ft 4in. There's even a kitchen area (cooking facilities come at an additional cost) with wardrobe. The XL costs just £2,800 plus delivery, while a slightly smaller S version will set you back £2,600. Alternatively, you could opt for the Silver 420 caravan with pop-up roof (inset), being displayed by Welsh company OBI Camping & Leisure at the NEC. Thanks to a double dinette, it comes with two double-bed options and costs £16,849 on the road.



Airstream

We reported on Airstream & Company's Series 2 International 684 in the August issue, but we had the opportunity to see the caravan in its aluminium glory at the NEC. Of particular interest was the 2.5m-wide incarnation that sported a second entrance door (£1,730 extra) at the rear offside next to the fixed double bed. Such beauty comes at a price, however – the four-berth 684 costs over £57,000 on the road.



Cam

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Carli

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