



The washroom is excellent for its size



The Verona's U-shaped lounge

Feast your eyes on this

The National Feast of Lanterns at Newark in Nottinghamshire provided IAIN GEDDES with an ideal testground for the latest version of the Bailey Pegasus Verona

I HAD a stroke of luck when I rolled up at the latest National Feast of Lanterns (NFOL) with a Bailey Pegasus Verona in tow.

You see I was pitched next door to freelance caravan journalist Doug King and his wife Brenda who were at the Club's annual national meet with their own Pegasus, which is an earlier model.

Okay, what's lucky about that? Well, it gave me the chance to compare how the Pegasus has evolved over a relatively short period of time.

We quickly noticed the new Verona sported sweeping two-tone blue graphics while the windows seemed to be larger and the contrasting dark gas locker cover had reverted back to a more traditional white version. Meanwhile, the core construction of the caravan remains the same Alu-Tech system.

Our Verona was supplied without the optional front chest of drawers and this helped keep down the noseweight to 75kg to match my towcar. It also left a U-shaped front lounge, which I prefer, though I know it's not to everyone's taste.

As we were green-field camping we took out most of the

drop-in carpets. I'm glad this feature is now the norm because I find fitted carpets difficult to keep clean when rallying.

Although a little misunderstood by some, I'm also warming to Bailey's continuing inclusion of a removable on-board water tank, though the venerable Aquaroll remains the main water source. The internal tank enables you to have spare capacity if the main store runs out at an inconvenient time, such as at night when mine did, as well as its winter camping benefits.

The Verona's layout remains a firm favourite and I'm sure it's used as a luxury two-berth unit by many campers. The interior trimming and finish is improved in this latest model and the purple-detailed Vivaldi upholstery on our test 'van gave a pleasing, homely feel. If purple's not for you, there's an optional Gershwin trim with turquoise detailing that changes the interior look considerably.

The kitchen has everything you'd expect with a nice extra detail from Dometic – the fridge-freezer has the option of

removing the freezer box, which turns it into a 122-litre larder fridge. The kitchen workspace is well lit with well-placed downlighters sitting just in front of the contrasting upper cupboard doors.

When cooking in the kitchen the microwave is located behind you in a position that may be a little high for some people, but if it were lower down there would be nowhere for your television.

The washroom is excellent for its size with a roomy shower cubicle, Belfast-style sink, Thetford C250 cassette toilet and storage space.

Storage within the unit is generally very good and sufficient for a family of four. I think it would also be generous for a couple on a long tour, though the wardrobe is quite small.

The new Pegasus range now has a refreshed look with the added benefits of the firmly-established Alu-Tech bodyshell. I think it's even more eye-catching than the earlier Pegasus model – it certainly caught the attention of ralliers at NFOL, not to mention Doug and Brenda King.

Verdict: A good caravan equally at home on the rally field or a fully-serviced pitch.

Main picture: The Bailey Pegasus Verona next to the earlier model

at a glance

Bailey Pegasus Verona

Price as tested £17,440

Club Care insurance £271

Berths Four

Bed sizes Front double 2.08m x 1.6m; fixed double 1.93m x 1.37m

Kitchen Four-burner gas hob; grill; oven; microwave

Electrics Three interior and one exterior 230V sockets; 12V socket with TV aerial point

Gas Space for two 10kg cylinders

Length x width x height 7.25m x 2.28m x 2.63m

Mass in running order 1,322kg

Maximum technically permissible laden mass 1,490kg

User payload 168kg

BE licence required Very limited choice of vehicles with B licence

Warranty Ten year body integrity; three years on most parts

Manufacturer Bailey

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